

# Objective neighbourhood attributes as correlates of neighbourhood satisfaction and the mediating role of neighbourhood perceptions in older adults from culturally and physically diverse urban environments

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## BACKGROUND & AIMS

Neighbourhood satisfaction is beneficial to older adults' health. Understanding associations between objective neighbourhood attributes and neighbourhood satisfaction is important to provide optimal neighbourhood environments for older adults. In addition, neighbourhood satisfaction is influenced by perceived environmental attributes, which are deemed to be the mechanisms via which the objective neighbourhood environment influences neighbourhood satisfaction.

We pooled comparable data from studies conducted in Hong Kong (China) and Ghent (Belgium) to examine associations of objective neighbourhood physical attributes related to destination accessibility, access to public transport and green space with older adults' neighbourhood satisfaction. We also investigated the extent to which these associations were explained by perceived environmental attributes.

## METHODS

Participants were recruited from communities stratified by walkability and socio-economic status.

**Neighbourhood satisfaction** was determined using 5 items assessing satisfaction with:

- walking facilities
- public transit stops
- access to commercial destinations
- social networks
- the neighbourhood being a good place to live for older adults

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) were used to assess **objective environmental attributes** within 1-km distance from participants' homes:

- dwelling density
- service/amenity density
- park number

- transit stop density
- distance to nearest park
- recreation facility density
- distance to transit stop
- street intersection density



Items from the Neighborhood Environment Walkability Scale (NEWS) were used to assess **perceived neighbourhood attributes**:

- dwelling density
- access to services
- distance to commercial facilities
- aesthetics
- distance to nearest park
- distance to recreational facilities
- distance to nearest transit stop
- street connectivity



## FINDINGS

### OBJECTIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT

#### GREATER ...

- dwelling density
- service/amenity density
- commercial facility density
- park number
- recreation facility density
- transit stop density
- street intersection density

#### SMALLER ...

- distance to nearest park
- distance to nearest transit stop



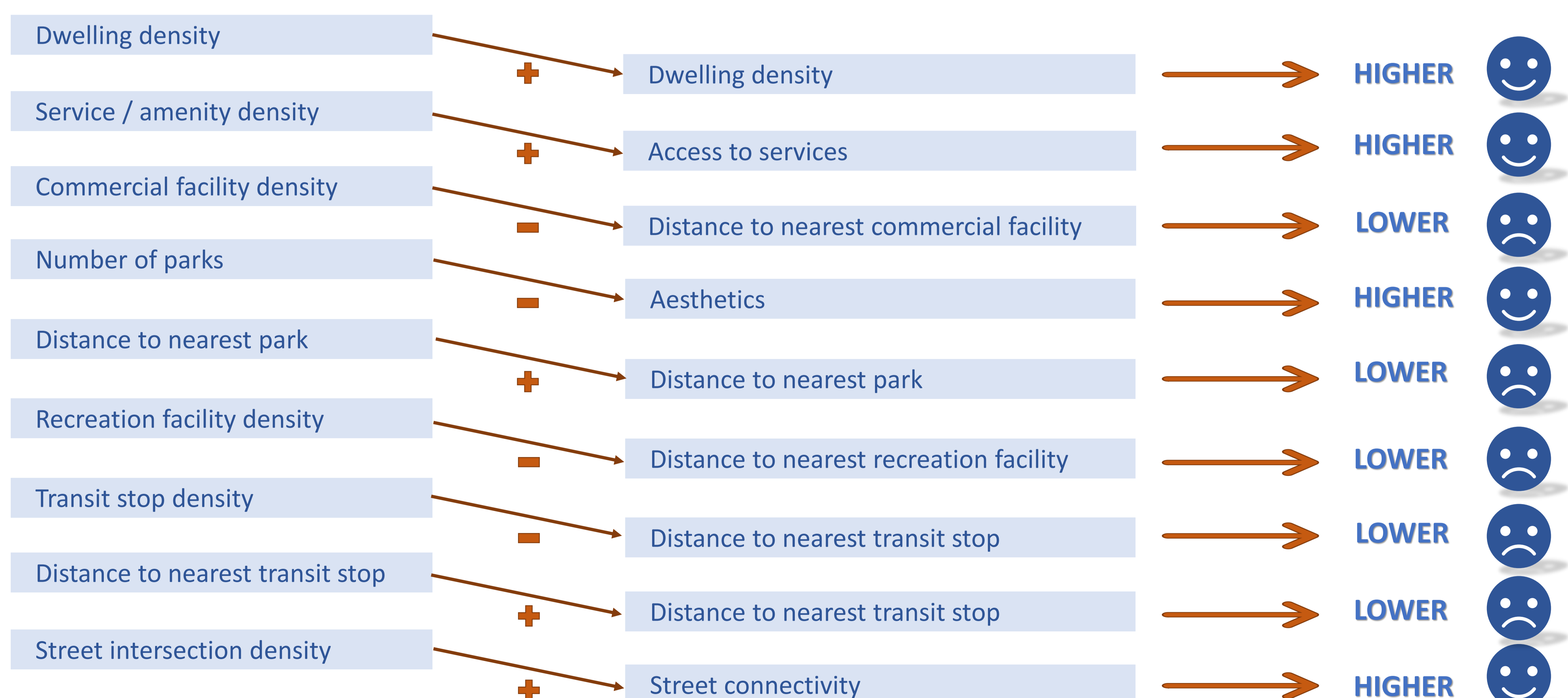
### HIGHER NEIGHBOURHOOD SATISFACTION



### OBJECTIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT

### PERCEIVED NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT

### NEIGHBOURHOOD SATISFACTION



## CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

As higher levels of neighbourhood satisfaction have been associated with better health in older adults, this study suggests that city planners should provide good access to various destinations, parks and public transport for older adults within their neighbourhood.

