

Pedestrian mobility in the city of Lusaka

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Background

There are very few mobility studies carried out in Zambia and even fewer studies on experiences of pedestrians. This is despite walking taking up almost 70% of the modal share. The safety of pedestrians is often ignored as they are blamed for traffic incidents in contexts where there is limited provision of pedestrian infrastructure. The study sought to highlight both anthropogenic, climatic and structural hazards pedestrians faced in the city of Lusaka.

Aim

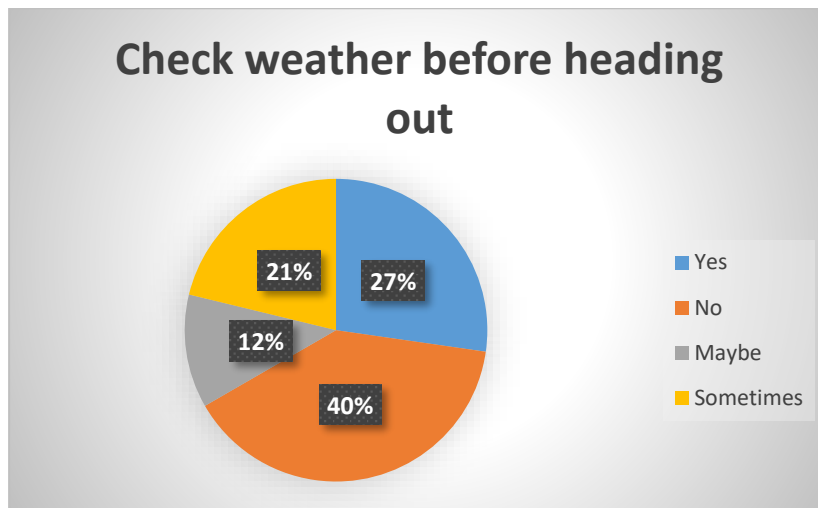
What are the main constraints that affect the mobility of pedestrians in the city?

Method

The data used for this paper is taken from two small surveys of pedestrians in the city. Using the purposive sampling pedestrians were approached and asked for consent to be interviewed. The routes used by respondents were also recorded and some have been physically assessed whilst other were assessed using GIS to ascertain the state of the infrastructure along the routes.

Results

The study found that pedestrians not only faced adverse conditions as they walked due to the absence of infrastructure but they also faced challenges from fellow human beings who made the walking experience feel unsafe. In instances where pedestrian infrastructure is available it is not continuous and often obstructed making it difficult for people with disabilities to move freely. The weather was also a hindrance as some respondents opted out of making their journeys if it was too hot or raining. The study found that pedestrians are often forced to use longer routes if the shorter route is considered unsafe.



Conclusions

- Walking is important as a mode of transport as well as a type of exercise for well being.
- Walking experiences of many pedestrians in Lusaka tends to be unpleasant due to several factors within their immediate environments.
- Pedestrian infrastructure is not planned for in the city
- Pedestrians are facing harsher climatic conditions which negatively impact their walking experiences.