

# Living near busy road could raise your odds for eczema

February 15 2023, by Cara Murez

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How close a person lives to a major road could have an impact on their

eczema risk.

New research suggests that folks who live farther from one are less likely to develop the skin condition.

A 13-year medical chart review focused on patients in Denver, from infants to age 18.

Those with eczema were compared to an equal-sized control group of patients without the condition. In all, the study included more than 14,000 children.

The researchers calculated the [distance](#) from their homes to a road with annual traffic of more than 10,000 vehicles a day.

The risk of eczema ([atopic dermatitis](#)) dropped 21% for every 10-fold increase in distance from a major road, the study found.

"In the end, we found children who lived 1,000 meters [0.6 miles] or more from a major road had 27% lower odds of atopic dermatitis compared to [children](#) who lived within 500 meters of a major [road](#)," said lead author Dr. Michael Nevid, a fellow at National Jewish Health in Denver, who pursued this research after learning about a similar study in Asia.

"This is an early association study, so more work needs to be done to examine the [pathophysiological mechanisms](#) involved in the association," Nevid said in a news release from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

The findings were published in a February online supplement to *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*. They are also scheduled to be presented during a meeting in San Antonio of the American Academy

of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, Feb. 24 to 27.

**More information:** The National Eczema Association has more on [eczema and the environment](#).

Michael Nevid et al, Association of Atopic Dermatitis with Proximity to Major Roads, *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* (2023). [DOI: 10.1016/j.jaci.2022.12.604](#)

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