

NADTC Poll & Campaign

Access for All Advisory
Committee
National Capital Region



Transportation Needs and Assessment

Survey of Older Adults, People with Disabilities, and Caregivers



January 3, 2019



Why a national survey?

Research Method

KRC Research conducted national quantitative surveys of three audiences from October 19 to November 5, 2018, as follows:

Older Adults

- 20-minute survey conducted among **509 adults age 60 and older** as follows:
Online: n=309
Telephone: n=200
- 33% have a disability that limits physical activities, seeing, and/or hearing
- Sample weighted to be demographically representative of adults 60 years and older, based on data from the U.S. Census

Younger adults with disabilities

- 20-minute survey conducted among **513 adults age 18 to 59** living with one or more disabilities, as follows:
Online: n=413
Telephone: n=100
- Has a disability that limits physical activities, seeing, and/or hearing
- Sample weighted to be demographically representative of adults 18-59 with disabilities, based on data from the U.S. Census

Transportation Caregivers

- 20-minute survey of **627 caregivers age 18 to 84** that provide and/or arrange transportation for an adult family member or friend, conducted online, as follows:
Caregivers of older adults: n=390
Caregivers of younger adults living with a disability: n=237



Summary



1

Most older adults and younger adults with disabilities drive their own vehicles or ride with family or friends. Across age and disability, most anticipate a time when they will no longer be able to drive, and they believe finding alternative transportation will be difficult.

2

Caregivers play a pivotal role in helping older adults and individuals with disabilities meet their transportation needs—and most are happy to help, but find providing for or arranging rides to be extremely time consuming.

Safety and concern for a loved one is top-of-mind for caregivers.

In Their Words: Caregivers of Older Adults with Disabilities

*“Starting to **forget to turn headlights on, or look for oncoming traffic at intersections.**”*

*“She's **not confident of her reaction time.** She does not like to drive in bad weather or on busy streets.”*

*“**He cannot see clearly during the day and almost not at all if it gets dark suddenly. Overly cautious and poor reaction time.**”*

*“My biggest concern is that this person **doesn't realize how compromised their driving has become.**”*

More public transportation and affordable options are frequently mentioned as ways to help caregivers.

Caregivers

*“I do not live all that close so I would love to see **a service that would transfer her without my help** since taking time from work is stressful.”* – Caregiver of older adult with a disability

3

Those who give up driving face big barriers to getting around. They can no longer do the things they need and want to do. They face physical isolation, frustration, and feel dependent and trapped.

What it is like not to drive: People with disabilities in their own words

“I can't go to social events unless the person giving me a ride wants to go. I am stuck places until whoever drove me wants to leave. I don't get to pick where we go most times.”

– 34-year-old with a disability

“I'm unable to go anywhere by myself, such as doctor appointment, hair appointment, dentist, grocery shopping or personal shopping. It takes your independence away.”

– 59-year-old with a disability

What it is like not to drive: People with disabilities in their own words

*“I have had a few quick job chances come along that I was not able to secure because I could not get there right away. **Having a car means freedom.**” – 47-year-old with a disability*

*“I was not able to go to **my grandson’s high school baseball and football games and school plays.**”
– 63-year-old with a disability*

4

Most older adults and younger adults with disabilities who do not drive are not using public transportation.



5

Fewer people living in rural areas or small towns say their transportation alternatives are good.

More public transportation is frequently mentioned as a need in communities.

Older adults

*“An affordable transportation service for senior citizens and the handicapped that **live in the rural communities.**”*

– 60-year-old without a disability

“An effective public transportation system that runs frequently rather than occasionally.”

– 60-year-old without a disability

Younger adults with disabilities

*“I live in a very small town. We only have 1 company with 2 vans that pick people up. I live in the country and they don't come out this far. **We need help in rural areas.**”*

– 49-year-old with a disability

*“**Buses that run on the weekends.** There are no buses that go between local towns on the weekend, and the buses that do run in the town don't run on Sundays.”* – 51-year-old with a disability

6

Older adults and younger adults with disabilities who do not drive face many barriers, including access to affordable transportation alternatives.

Those who give up driving report feelings of isolation, dependence and loss of enjoyment.

Younger adult with disability, age 33

*“I have **lost independence, spontaneity, pride, sense of accomplishment.** I have to prearrange everything and rely on others to get me places, wait for me, drive me home.”*

Older adult with disability, age 75

*“I have to depend on my wife to get us around. **It can sometimes be a very helpless feeling.**”*

7

There is no single “go-to” information resource for alternative transportation options. Most turn to family and friends for help.

More information about public transportation is needed.

Older adult, aged 60

*“...If I get to where I am unable to drive myself, **reckon I would have to think about moving closer to town.** That is not an option at this time in my life nor would I want to.”*

Younger adult with disabilities, aged 32

*“There should be **more public transportation.** Maybe more information should be given to the public through social media or news.”*

Caregiver of an older adult with a disability

*“A **list of transportation services** would be handy along with any other information for the elderly.”*

8

The majority of older adults and younger adults with disabilities expect transportation options to stay the same or get worse. Many would be comfortable with various transportation options, including public transit, if it was readily available.

Every Ride Counts



**SIT BACK AND
RELAX.**

We'll get you there.

 WHEELCHAIR SEATING AREA.
SECUREMENTS ARE LOCATED
BELOW THESE SEAT

EVERY RIDE COUNTS