LOCAL STUDY AREA / ACS 2020–2024 5-YEAR PUMS

Boise PUMA region: living alone and household vehicle availability among older adults

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Study area: the six 2020 PUMAs covering Ada and Canyon counties, ID (these PUMAs also include parts of Gem, Owyhee, Payette and Washington counties). Data: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2020–2024 5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), analyzed by SeniorMedRides.com.

Key numbers

- An estimated **3,851 ±523** people 65+ in the Boise PUMA region study area live alone in a household with no vehicle (based on 178 sample records): 2.92% ±0.40 of all people 65+.
- **70.07% ±7.69** of people 65+ in a household with no vehicle live alone, compared with 21.56% ±1.29 of those with a vehicle.
- Among people 65+ who live alone, 12.37% ±1.77 have no household vehicle, compared with 1.63% ±0.50 of those who live with others. Adjusted for age: 11.51% ±1.65 vs 1.75% ±0.53, a difference of 9.77 ±1.78 points (ratio 6.58 ±2.45). The difference remains after Holm adjustment and is unchanged under the alternative age standard.
- An estimated 1,956 ±387 people 65+ live alone, have no household vehicle and report serious walking difficulty: 50.79% ±7.41 of the living-alone, no-vehicle group.
- 42.41% ±6.67 of people 65+ in a household with no vehicle report independent living difficulty, compared with 8.44% ±0.71 of those with a vehicle.
- Version 1.0 context: 5,496 ±649 people 65+ in the study area live in a household with no vehicle (4.16% ±0.49 of all people 65+), reused as published in Version 1.0 of the Senior Transportation Access Report (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.24210261).

These estimates do not directly measure missed medical appointments, transportation demand, wheelchair use, or unmet transportation needs. Independent living difficulty is a self-reported difficulty doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping; it is not a record of missed appointments. Figures are ACS 2020–2024 5-year estimates: period averages for 2020–2024, not single-year values. They cover people 65+ living in housing units; nursing homes and other group quarters are excluded. ± is the 90% margin of error.

By age

Age	People living alone with no vehicle	Share of all people in the age group	Share of no-vehicle older adults in the age group who live alone	No-vehicle share, all people in the age group (Version 1.0)
65–74	1,211 ±292 (n=60)	1.48% ±0.36	60.49% ±10.51	2.45% ±0.53
75–84	1,432 ±353 (n=60)	3.62% ±0.88	70.82% ±14.13	5.11% ±1.15
85+	**1,208 ±367 (n=58)**	**11.26% ±3.16**	**82.07% ±10.87**	**13.72% ±3.22**

Profile: people 65+ with no household vehicle and with a vehicle

Characteristic	Category	No household vehicle	With a household vehicle
Sex	Male	33.52% ±6.18	47.50% ±0.39
Sex	Female	66.48% ±6.18	52.50% ±0.39
Living arrangement	Lives alone	70.07% ±7.69	21.56% ±1.29
Living arrangement	Lives with others	29.93% ±7.69	78.44% ±1.29
Poverty	Below 100% of poverty threshold	27.58% ±5.62	7.14% ±0.74
Poverty	100–149% of poverty threshold	15.88% ±4.64 (indicative only; do not quote on its own)	6.35% ±0.72
Poverty	150% or more of poverty threshold	56.53% ±6.31	86.51% ±0.99
Tenure	Owner	45.67% ±7.20	88.64% ±1.05
Tenure	Renter or occupied without paying rent	54.33% ±7.20	11.36% ±1.05
Tenure detail	of which rented	49.44% ±7.68	10.13% ±0.97
Tenure detail	of which occupied without payment of rent	— (sample too small)	1.24% ±0.33
Serious walking difficulty	With	47.69% ±6.46	15.28% ±0.89
Serious walking difficulty	Without	52.31% ±6.46	84.72% ±0.89
Independent living difficulty	With	42.41% ±6.67	8.44% ±0.71
Independent living difficulty	**Without**	**57.59% ±6.67**	**91.56% ±0.71**

Shares of each group, in percent; ± is the 90% margin of error. Descriptive only. "— (sample too small)" marks a cell based on fewer than 30 sample records (or a CV above 50%), which is not shown; "indicative only" marks a cell based on 30–49 sample records or a CV above 30%, which should not be quoted on its own.

How this study area compares with the other seven combined

- Each study area is compared only with the other seven areas combined, using the age-standardized share of all people 65+ who live alone in a household with no vehicle; p-values are Holm-adjusted across the 8 comparisons at a 10% familywise level (more lenient than the common 5%). Study areas are not ranked. All eight comparisons, with their sensitivity notes, are in Table 6 of the full report.

Terms and limits

- **No household vehicle:** no car, van or truck (1 ton or less) kept at home for use by household members (ACS item VEH = 0). It describes household vehicle availability. It does not show whether a person drives, and it is not a measure of transportation access.
- **Living alone:** the only person in the household (NP = 1), for people 65+ in housing units. Living alone is measured from the household roster; the survey does not record whether relatives or friends live nearby or help with rides.
- **Serious walking difficulty:** the ACS ambulatory difficulty item (serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs), self- or proxy-reported; a functional-difficulty measure, not a clinical diagnosis.
- **Independent living difficulty:** a self-reported difficulty doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping; it is not a record of missed appointments.
- These estimates do not directly measure missed medical appointments, transportation demand, wheelchair use, or unmet transportation needs. A household without a vehicle may still get rides from family, friends, transit or paratransit.
- Differences between groups are associations, not causes. Study-area figures describe the area as a whole and should not be applied to individual people or to places outside the study-area definition. Figures are ACS 2020–2024 5-year estimates: period averages for 2020–2024, not single-year values.

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Source data: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2020–2024 5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). The Census Bureau has not reviewed, endorsed or certified this analysis or its findings.

Full report: https://seniormedrides.com/research/aging-without-a-car/. This page: https://seniormedrides.com/research/aging-without-a-car/boise-puma-region/. Version 1.0 study-area page: https://seniormedrides.com/research/senior-transportation-access/boise-puma-region/. Rides and providers in the area: https://seniormedrides.com/boise-id/.