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

Orlando: living alone and household vehicle availability among older adults

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Study area: Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties, FL. 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 **11,419 ±1,120** people 65+ in the Orlando study area live alone in a household with no vehicle (based on 486 sample records): 3.58% ±0.35 of all people 65+.
- **59.52% ±4.64** of people 65+ in a household with no vehicle live alone, compared with 18.01% ±0.73 of those with a vehicle.
- Among people 65+ who live alone, 17.44% ±1.47 have no household vehicle, compared with 3.06% ±0.47 of those who live with others. Adjusted for age: 16.53% ±1.41 vs 3.07% ±0.47, a difference of 13.46 ±1.49 points (ratio 5.39 ±0.93). The difference remains after Holm adjustment and is unchanged under the alternative age standard.
- An estimated 4,717 ±627 people 65+ live alone, have no household vehicle and report serious walking difficulty: 41.31% ±4.03 of the living-alone, no-vehicle group.
- 34.94% ±3.63 of people 65+ in a household with no vehicle report independent living difficulty, compared with 12.65% ±0.61 of those with a vehicle.
- Version 1.0 context: 19,184 ±1,549 people 65+ in the study area live in a household with no vehicle (6.01% ±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	4,161 ±643 (n=154)	2.14% ±0.33	46.80% ±6.70	4.56% ±0.57
75–84	4,165 ±640 (n=183)	4.52% ±0.68	69.53% ±6.88	6.50% ±0.84
85+	**3,093 ±564 (n=149)**	**9.54% ±1.73**	**71.88% ±7.02**	**13.27% ±2.08**

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

Characteristic	Category	No household vehicle	With a household vehicle
Sex	Male	29.03% ±3.51	45.20% ±0.27
Sex	Female	70.97% ±3.51	54.80% ±0.27
Living arrangement	Lives alone	59.52% ±4.64	18.01% ±0.73
Living arrangement	Lives with others	40.48% ±4.64	81.99% ±0.73
Poverty	Below 100% of poverty threshold	33.55% ±4.04	10.20% ±0.64
Poverty	100–149% of poverty threshold	21.23% ±3.66	8.50% ±0.59
Poverty	150% or more of poverty threshold	45.22% ±3.92	81.31% ±0.89
Tenure	Owner	42.89% ±4.54	82.56% ±0.81
Tenure	Renter or occupied without paying rent	57.11% ±4.54	17.44% ±0.81
Tenure detail	of which rented	55.10% ±4.50	16.57% ±0.79
Tenure detail	of which occupied without payment of rent	— (sample too small)	0.87% ±0.21
Serious walking difficulty	With	39.52% ±3.52	19.95% ±0.96
Serious walking difficulty	Without	60.48% ±3.52	80.05% ±0.96
Independent living difficulty	With	34.94% ±3.63	12.65% ±0.61
Independent living difficulty	**Without**	**65.06% ±3.63**	**87.35% ±0.61**

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/orlando/. Version 1.0 study-area page: https://seniormedrides.com/research/senior-transportation-access/orlando/. Rides and providers in the area: https://seniormedrides.com/orlando-fl/.