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

Salt Lake City: living alone and household vehicle availability among older adults

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Study area: Salt Lake and Davis counties, UT. 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 **7,030 ±818** people 65+ in the Salt Lake City study area live alone in a household with no vehicle (based on 293 sample records): 3.93% ±0.46 of all people 65+.
- **65.89% ±5.57** of people 65+ in a household with no vehicle live alone, compared with 20.03% ±0.76 of those with a vehicle.
- Among people 65+ who live alone, 17.25% ±1.90 have no household vehicle, compared with 2.63% ±0.57 of those who live with others. Adjusted for age: 15.95% ±1.99 vs 2.90% ±0.65, a difference of 13.05 ±2.05 points (ratio 5.50 ±1.41). The difference remains after Holm adjustment and is unchanged under the alternative age standard.
- An estimated 3,758 ±703 people 65+ live alone, have no household vehicle and report serious walking difficulty: 53.46% ±6.25 of the living-alone, no-vehicle group.
- 43.87% ±5.74 of people 65+ in a household with no vehicle report independent living difficulty, compared with 8.94% ±0.60 of those with a vehicle.
- Version 1.0 context: 10,669 ±1,143 people 65+ in the study area live in a household with no vehicle (5.96% ±0.63 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	2,852 ±628 (n=110)	2.55% ±0.56	63.36% ±9.06	4.03% ±0.64
75–84	1,940 ±439 (n=79)	3.83% ±0.87	61.70% ±11.30	6.21% ±1.29
85+	**2,238 ±392 (n=104)**	**13.37% ±2.13**	**74.01% ±9.04**	**18.07% ±3.11**

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

Characteristic	Category	No household vehicle	With a household vehicle
Sex	Male	36.03% ±4.15	47.07% ±0.34
Sex	Female	63.97% ±4.15	52.93% ±0.34
Living arrangement	Lives alone	65.89% ±5.57	20.03% ±0.76
Living arrangement	Lives with others	34.11% ±5.57	79.97% ±0.76
Poverty	Below 100% of poverty threshold	25.56% ±4.78	5.81% ±0.64
Poverty	100–149% of poverty threshold	16.08% ±5.36	5.96% ±0.63
Poverty	150% or more of poverty threshold	58.36% ±6.02	88.23% ±0.81
Tenure	Owner	40.11% ±5.30	89.47% ±0.95
Tenure	Renter or occupied without paying rent	59.89% ±5.30	10.53% ±0.95
Tenure detail	of which rented	57.41% ±5.64	9.69% ±0.92
Tenure detail	of which occupied without payment of rent	— (sample too small)	0.84% ±0.20
Serious walking difficulty	With	43.19% ±5.80	14.79% ±0.84
Serious walking difficulty	Without	56.81% ±5.80	85.21% ±0.84
Independent living difficulty	With	43.87% ±5.74	8.94% ±0.60
Independent living difficulty	**Without**	**56.13% ±5.74**	**91.06% ±0.60**

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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How to cite

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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/salt-lake-city/. Version 1.0 study-area page: https://seniormedrides.com/research/senior-transportation-access/salt-lake-city/. Rides and providers in the area: https://seniormedrides.com/salt-lake-city-ut/.