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

Stockton: living alone and household vehicle availability among older adults

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Study area: San Joaquin County, CA. 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 **3,480 ±423** people 65+ in the Stockton study area live alone in a household with no vehicle (based on 211 sample records): 3.36% ±0.40 of all people 65+.
- **57.16% ±5.98** of people 65+ in a household with no vehicle live alone, compared with 18.82% ±1.09 of those with a vehicle.
- Among people 65+ who live alone, 15.94% ±1.90 have no household vehicle, compared with 3.19% ±0.67 of those who live with others. Adjusted for age: 14.02% ±1.77 vs 3.29% ±0.69, a difference of 10.73 ±1.83 points (ratio 4.26 ±1.02). The difference remains after Holm adjustment and is unchanged under the alternative age standard.
- An estimated 1,727 ±353 people 65+ live alone, have no household vehicle and report serious walking difficulty: 49.63% ±7.12 of the living-alone, no-vehicle group.
- 47.83% ±6.53 of people 65+ in a household with no vehicle report independent living difficulty, compared with 16.44% ±0.94 of those with a vehicle.
- Version 1.0 context: 6,088 ±704 people 65+ in the study area live in a household with no vehicle (5.88% ±0.68 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	1,027 ±275 (n=62)	1.65% ±0.44	46.24% ±10.78	3.56% ±0.65
75–84	1,170 ±269 (n=70)	3.87% ±0.88	55.58% ±10.51	6.97% ±1.44
85+	**1,283 ±288 (n=79)**	**11.54% ±2.54**	**72.81% ±11.11**	**15.85% ±3.29**

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

Characteristic	Category	No household vehicle	With a household vehicle
Sex	Male	32.65% ±3.68	44.92% ±0.40
Sex	Female	67.35% ±3.68	55.08% ±0.40
Living arrangement	Lives alone	57.16% ±5.98	18.82% ±1.09
Living arrangement	Lives with others	42.84% ±5.98	81.18% ±1.09
Poverty	Below 100% of poverty threshold	34.12% ±6.25	9.36% ±0.87
Poverty	100–149% of poverty threshold	18.04% ±5.28	7.55% ±0.91
Poverty	150% or more of poverty threshold	47.85% ±6.48	83.09% ±1.14
Tenure	Owner	37.96% ±6.08	81.51% ±1.42
Tenure	Renter or occupied without paying rent	62.04% ±6.08	18.49% ±1.42
Tenure detail	of which rented	58.13% ±6.03	16.60% ±1.31
Tenure detail	of which occupied without payment of rent	— (sample too small)	1.89% ±0.45
Serious walking difficulty	With	41.80% ±5.31	23.50% ±1.14
Serious walking difficulty	Without	58.20% ±5.31	76.50% ±1.14
Independent living difficulty	With	47.83% ±6.53	16.44% ±0.94
Independent living difficulty	**Without**	**52.17% ±6.53**	**83.56% ±0.94**

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