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

Tampa: living alone and household vehicle availability among older adults

Version 1.0 fact sheet · Aging Without a Car · SeniorMedRides.com · Publication date: November 17, 2026

Study area: Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco 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 **28,820 ±1,735** people 65+ in the Tampa study area live alone in a household with no vehicle (based on 1,483 sample records): 4.81% ±0.29 of all people 65+.
- **69.76% ±2.40** of people 65+ in a household with no vehicle live alone, compared with 24.53% ±0.52 of those with a vehicle.
- Among people 65+ who live alone, 17.40% ±0.92 have no household vehicle, compared with 2.88% ±0.25 of those who live with others. Adjusted for age: 15.63% ±0.86 vs 2.91% ±0.26, a difference of 12.72 ±0.93 points (ratio 5.37 ±0.59). The difference remains after Holm adjustment and is unchanged under the alternative age standard.
- An estimated 13,492 ±1,248 people 65+ live alone, have no household vehicle and report serious walking difficulty: 46.81% ±3.11 of the living-alone, no-vehicle group.
- 34.04% ±2.26 of people 65+ in a household with no vehicle report independent living difficulty, compared with 11.38% ±0.39 of those with a vehicle.
- Version 1.0 context: 41,311 ±1,913 people 65+ in the study area live in a household with no vehicle (6.90% ±0.32 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	9,482 ±950 (n=518)	2.78% ±0.28	60.78% ±3.91	4.57% ±0.33
75–84	8,762 ±960 (n=450)	4.60% ±0.50	69.01% ±4.13	6.66% ±0.55
85+	**10,576 ±994 (n=515)**	**15.78% ±1.33**	**81.27% ±3.37**	**19.42% ±1.46**

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

Characteristic	Category	No household vehicle	With a household vehicle
Sex	Male	33.16% ±2.12	45.90% ±0.16
Sex	Female	66.84% ±2.12	54.10% ±0.16
Living arrangement	Lives alone	69.76% ±2.40	24.53% ±0.52
Living arrangement	Lives with others	30.24% ±2.40	75.47% ±0.52
Poverty	Below 100% of poverty threshold	31.38% ±2.38	10.74% ±0.52
Poverty	100–149% of poverty threshold	17.72% ±1.59	8.21% ±0.40
Poverty	150% or more of poverty threshold	50.89% ±2.20	81.06% ±0.58
Tenure	Owner	46.77% ±2.71	85.83% ±0.56
Tenure	Renter or occupied without paying rent	53.23% ±2.71	14.17% ±0.56
Tenure detail	of which rented	50.84% ±2.63	13.02% ±0.53
Tenure detail	of which occupied without payment of rent	2.39% ±0.66	1.15% ±0.14
Serious walking difficulty	With	42.97% ±2.36	19.44% ±0.48
Serious walking difficulty	Without	57.03% ±2.36	80.56% ±0.48
Independent living difficulty	With	34.04% ±2.26	11.38% ±0.39
Independent living difficulty	**Without**	**65.96% ±2.26**	**88.62% ±0.39**

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

- On the age-standardized share of all people 65+ who live alone in a household with no vehicle, the Tampa study area is **higher than the other seven combined** (+0.75 ±0.30 points; Holm-adjusted p <0.001). Unchanged under the alternative age standard S2 (S2 Holm-adjusted p <0.001).
- 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

SeniorMedRides.com. (2026). *Aging Without a Car, Version 1.0: Tampa fact sheet*. https://seniormedrides.com/research/aging-without-a-car/tampa/ https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.24235541

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