Transportation Needs and Assessment of Diverse Older Adults, Younger Adults with Disabilities and Caregivers

September 1, 2021
The survey questionnaire was developed by NADTC staff in partnership with V&L Research and Consulting and the National Advisory Committee on Transportation Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Survey data was collected between February 23 and April 19, 2021.

The survey encompasses racial, ethnic and cultural diversity and includes Tribal elders and people with disabilities, new immigrant groups, those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), non-English speakers, and LGBTQ+ individuals.
V & L Research conducted quantitative surveys of three target groups, including:

**Older Adults**
- Online: n=784
- Telephone n=422
- Total= 1,206

**Younger Adults with Disabilities**
- Online: n=524
- Telephone n=100
- Total= 624

**Caregivers**
- Online: n=605
Detailed Findings
The 2,435 older adults, younger adults with disabilities and caregivers who responded to the survey came from all 50 states and the District of Columbia and included African Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, Native Americans and individuals who identified as LGBTQ+. 
All Respondents by Race/Ethnicity

- African American: 26% (n=633)
- AAPI: 22% (n=528)
- Hispanic: 29% (n=710)
- Native American: 7% (n=181)
- Other: 16% (n=383)
Immigrants, Refugees and/or Foreign-Born Respondents by Race/Ethnicity and Respondent Categories

- **Younger Adults w/Disabilities**
  - n=133
  - 23% African American
  - 23% AAPI
  - 41% Hispanic
  - 11% Native American
  - 2% Other

- **Older Adults**
  - n=362
  - 56% African American
  - 7% AAPI
  - 27% Hispanic
  - 2% Native American
  - 9% Other

- **Caregiver**
  - n=326
  - 24% African American
  - 2% AAPI
  - 44% Hispanic
  - 2% Native American
  - 14% Other
LGBTQ+ Respondents by Race/Ethnicity and Respondent Categories

- **Younger Adults w/Disabilities**: n=115
  - African American: 25%
  - AAPI: 6%
  - Hispanic: 6%
  - Native American: 6%
  - Other: 21%

- **Older Adults**: n=70
  - African American: 20%
  - AAPI: 6%
  - Hispanic: 6%
  - Native American: 10%
  - Other: 30%

- **Caregivers**: n=127
  - African American: 20%
  - AAPI: 17%
  - Hispanic: 5%
  - Native American: 17%
  - Other: 41%
Both diverse older adults and younger adults with disabilities need transportation to get to medical/dental appointments, the supermarket/store, the pharmacy and to visit with family/friends.
Overall, 81% of diverse older adults drive compared to 53% younger adults with disabilities.

Driving rates are similar across racial/ethnic groups.
Most diverse caregivers are relatives or friends of the care recipient, and most provide transportation.
Caregiver Relationships

- Parent: 32% African American, 30% AAPI, 28% Hispanic, 28% Native American, 39% Other
- Friend: 25% African American, 19% AAPI, 23% Hispanic, 24% Native American, 6% Other
- Partner/spouse: 9% African American, 12% AAPI, 18% Hispanic, 16% Native American, 17% Other
- Daughter/son: 12% African American, 13% AAPI, 13% Hispanic, 13% Native American, 6% Other
- Grandparent: 14% African American, 10% AAPI, 13% Hispanic, 10% Native American, 13% Other
- Other: 7% African American, 6% AAPI, 3% Hispanic, 6% Native American, 13% Other

Legend:
- Orange: African American
- Light Blue: AAPI
- Red: Hispanic
- Purple: Native American
- Green: Other
The use of public transportation by diverse younger adults with disabilities and older adults declined by about half due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Top 10 Transportation Methods Used by Younger Adults with Disabilities: Before and Since COVID-19

- Walk: Before COVID-19 = 76%, Since COVID-19 = 59%
- Ride with family/friends: Before COVID-19 = 81%, Since COVID-19 = 60%
- Bike/scooter share: Before COVID-19 = 42%, Since COVID-19 = 39%
- Public transportation: Before COVID-19 = 60%, Since COVID-19 = 32%
- Ride with volunteer: Before COVID-19 = 42%, Since COVID-19 = 33%
- Ride motorcycle: Before COVID-19 = 41%, Since COVID-19 = 32%
- Ride motorbike, scooter, moped: Before COVID-19 = 42%, Since COVID-19 = 40%
- Bike/electric bike: Before COVID-19 = 53%, Since COVID-19 = 39%
- Rideshare service, Uber/Lyft: Before COVID-19 = 53%, Since COVID-19 = 37%
- Specialized transportation services: Before COVID-19 = 49%, Since COVID-19 = 31%
### Top 10 Transportation Methods Used by Older Adults: Before and Since COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Before COVID-19</th>
<th>Since COVID-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ride w/family/friends</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike/scooter share</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ride w/volunteer</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ride motorcycle</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ride motorbike, scooter, moped</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike/electric bike</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rideshare service, Uber/Lyft</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized transportation services</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diverse younger adults with disabilities more frequently rate the transportation in their household, neighborhood and community as “not good” or “poor”.
Diverse younger adults with disabilities and older adults say that not having transportation “often” or “sometimes” prevents them from doing the activities they need or like to do.
Diverse older adults and younger adults with disabilities, who don’t regularly have transportation, say they feel isolated.
Diverse older adults and younger adults with disabilities who don’t have good transportation options say it makes them feel dependent on others and frustrated.

### Dependent on Others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Younger Adults w/Disabilities</th>
<th>Older Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPI</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Frustrated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Younger Adults w/Disabilities</th>
<th>Older Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPI</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diverse younger adults with disabilities and older adults face numerous transportation barriers.
Biggest Transportation Barriers for Younger Adults with Disabilities

- Not Enough Public Transit: African American 53%, AAPI 71%, Hispanic 82%, Native American 47%, Other 47%
- Concerns About Wait Time: African American 35%, AAPI 50%, Hispanic 50%, Native American 58%, Other 58%
- No Friends or Family Who Drive Regularly: African American 53%, AAPI 73%, Hispanic 73%, Native American 82%, Other 89%
- Transportation Too Expensive: African American 53%, AAPI 59%, Hispanic 53%, Native American 53%, Other 53%
- Concerns About COVID-19: African American 29%, AAPI 45%, Hispanic 45%, Native American 59%, Other 59%

Not Enough Public Transit
Concerns About Wait Time
No Friends or Family Who Drive Regularly
Transportation Too Expensive
Concerns About COVID-19

African American | AAPI | Hispanic | Native American | Other
Biggest Transportation Barriers for Older Adults

- **Not Enough Public Transit:**
  - African American: 60%
  - AAPI: 45%
  - Hispanic: 56%
  - Native American: 56%
  - Other: 71%

- **Community Doesn't Have Enough or Any Options:**
  - African American: 39%
  - AAPI: 50%
  - Hispanic: 50%
  - Native American: 44%
  - Other: 45%

- **No Friends or Family Who Drive Regularly:**
  - African American: 50%
  - AAPI: 50%
  - Hispanic: 81%
  - Native American: 71%
  - Other: 86%

- **Transportation Too Expensive:**
  - African American: 55%
  - AAPI: 30%
  - Hispanic: 43%
  - Native American: 36%
  - Other: 56%

- **Concerns About COVID-19:**
  - African American: 61%
  - AAPI: 55%
  - Hispanic: 56%
  - Native American: 63%
  - Other: 71%
Diverse older adults and younger adults with disabilities most often turn to family, friends and neighbors for information about transportation.
Among the top changes both diverse older adults and younger adults with disabilities want to see in the future are more free and less expensive rides and better public transportation.
Top 10 Transportation Options that Diverse Older Adults and Younger Adults with Disabilities Would Like to See in their Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Younger Adults w/Disabilities</th>
<th>Older Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less expensive or free transportation</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better public transportation</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation that will pick me up</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Options that are easy for older adults/people with disabilities</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safer transportation options</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More dependable options</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation that can be arranged without a reservation</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More flexible services (longer hours/weekends)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More information about services</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe, comfortable place to wait (bus shelter/bench)</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions and Next Steps

The survey serves as the first step in a comprehensive environmental scan. Activities are planned in 2021-2022 to explore more deeply the transportation needs and concerns identified by the 2,435 diverse individuals who responded to the survey, including:

• Obtaining insights and recommendations for action from attendees today.

• Holding a series of focus groups with older adults, younger adults with disabilities and caregivers from historically marginalized and underserved communities across the United States.

• Convening regional meetings with transportation, aging and disability professionals and other stakeholders.
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