

« Traffic Safety



U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590

LI TERATURE REVIEW EXAMINES RESEARCH ON OLDER WOMEN'S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

Monthy 15 percent of the Wirled States population is comprised of people age 8.0 or date. As the bully borron generation ages, that percentage will review demandably - in 23 percent by the year 2000. Most of these individuals expect to be delivery in their makerly. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NRTSA) and the National Safety Council sportmann and internate review of research to scammes transportation and mobility review of older scenario.

On a percontage basis, older women drive fewer miles, and stoo driving earlier than men. They also have a lower fatality rate and, on a per mile driven basis, are involved in fewer crashes than older men. Because women live longer than men. there are more older women driving than older men. In the case of the contract of the contrac

While women he longer than men, they are more likely to suffer born disabilities. Man right affect their driving abilities. Among older people, general disabilities may be due to physical attiments, but difficulties in complete unks such as using the lelephone, balancing a checkbook, or operating a motior vehicle may be due more to cognitive implamment. About two percent of personn 65 years and solder.

Economic Factors Play a Role



## Percentage of women who currently drive by age and household income

Mobility is closely tied to quality of life. Driving one's own vehicle was found to be associated with higher levels of life satisfaction, less loneliness, and better perceived control for both men an

Alternative Transportation Declining

As older women choose to give up driving based on varying degrees of physical and cognitive disability from aging and health problems, the need increases for alternative transportation. The 1990

Nationelide Personal Transportation Survey indicated, however, that the use of alternative transportation, including transit and welking, is decreasing, while trips in private automobiles are on the rise.

The review cites three main reasons for the declines in the use of public transportation:

- the increase in suburbanization in America
  overly-restrictive rules for paraframili use that limit requests
  fear of crime or other victimization

## Recommendations for Future Data Needs

The authors conclude that there is a need for additional information about how transportation issues affect older Americans, both men and women. Some areas highlighted in this literature review were to:

- identify the differences in transportation problems of somes of various accioeconomic status, race, and regions of the country examine differences in production density "-raral, when, and suburban areas considered in the country of the reason and produces and produces of the country of the reason and principles and principles and produces of the country of the reason and principles and density statistics and density statistics and density density of the country of the reason and the resistance of the reason and the resistance of the resistan

For a copy of Literature Review of the Status of Research on the Transportation and Mobility Needs of Older Women (47 gas plus appendix) prepared by the University of Ioss College of Medicine, write to the Office of Research and Traffic Records, NRTS-X1, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590, fax (202) 366-7096, or download from www.nhsa.dot.gov/people/injury/old

Exsie Wagner was the contract manager. Percentage of Person-trips by Mode, 1983 and 1990

	1983			1990		
	65	75	85	65	75	85
Private Vehicle	86.7	83.0	78.7	91.0	88.0	81.0
Public Transit	2.7	1.7	4.0	1.0	1.8	3.2
Walk	9.8	12.0	13.0	6.0	8.0	10.5

