



## Vehicle travel and ownership among the U.S. older adults in the digital era

The US older population is rapidly growing and becoming more socioeconomically diverse due to the aging boomers (born between 1946 and 1964). All boomers will be 65 and over within a decade. Compared to older adults in the early 2000s, today's older adults (defined as 65 and older) and near-older adults (defined as 55-64) are generally healthier, wealthier, and retire later. However, the absolute number of low-income people, those who live alone, and people of color increases rapidly among older adults.

My dissertation examines three major interwoven questions related to vehicle ownership and travel of older adults. First, how do boomers' vehicle travel differ from the silent generation? The second and third questions concern the heterogeneity of vehicle ownership and travel for older people living in different locations and with different ICT usage patterns: How do income, age, and life stages relate to the joint decision of vehicle ownership and residential location among older adults? How do older adults of different ages and use ICT to supplement or replace daily travel? Answering these questions contributes to the current understanding of older adults' heterogeneous transportation needs. It also informs how federal and local governments and MPOs collaborate to address these diverse needs in their future agendas.

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