

Puget Sound Regional Household Travel Survey 2021 Results

Special Needs Transportation Committee

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Presentation Outline



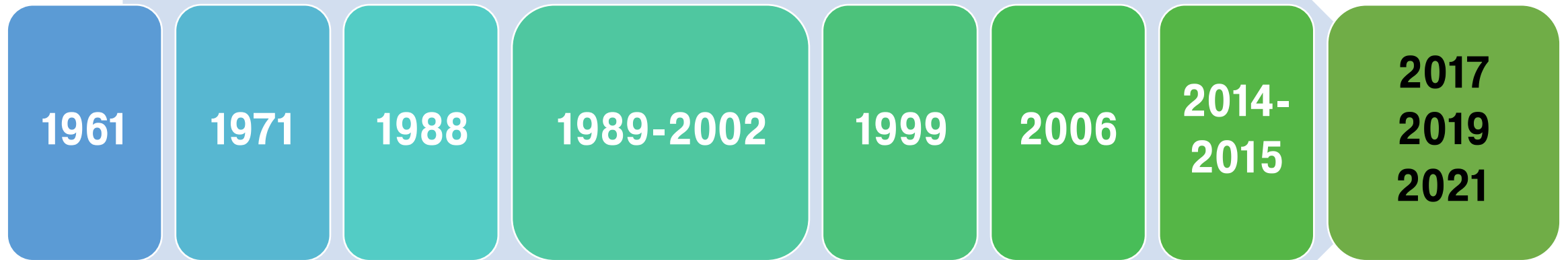
Topics covered today include:

- Brief intro to the Household Travel Survey (HTS) Program
- Highlights from the 2021 survey
- Discussion of your data needs

Puget Sound Regional Travel Studies



More frequent snapshots allows for more timely analysis and monitoring of trends. Data can be combined.



Webpage: <https://www.psrc.org/household-travel-survey-program>

Multi-year HTS Programs



Goal: The surveys seek to capture quality, regionally representative data for residents' activity and travel behavior on a typical weekday.

- 6-year program, 3 waves (2017, 2019, 2021): COMPLETED
- 8-year program, 4 waves (2023, 2025, 2027, 2029): STARTED

Travel choices in 2017/2019 and 2021



Research Questions Explored

- How did travel behavior change overall for regional adults from 2017/2019 to 2021?
- What were the travel behaviors for some special needs related groups in 2021?
 - *These only partially and imperfectly describe the populations you serve most likely. We do not currently have data on disability or LEP populations.*
 - Older adults
 - People in Lower Income Households
 - People in Households with no vehicle
 - People of Color

Does the data suggest that some groups were traveling less because of COVID-19 conditions?

Considering adding a question about disability and illness in 2023



Data on disability is not available in the 2021 survey or previous surveys

Do you have a disability or illness that affects your ability to travel?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Source: Draft question from San Francisco Bay Area Travel Survey

Is this question worded similarly to how your agencies ask about disability?

How can we be consistent and useful?

Send an e-mail to Jean or me, if you'd like to talk more.

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Overall Regional Travel Shifts for Adults and People by Race and Ethnicity 2017/2019 to 2021

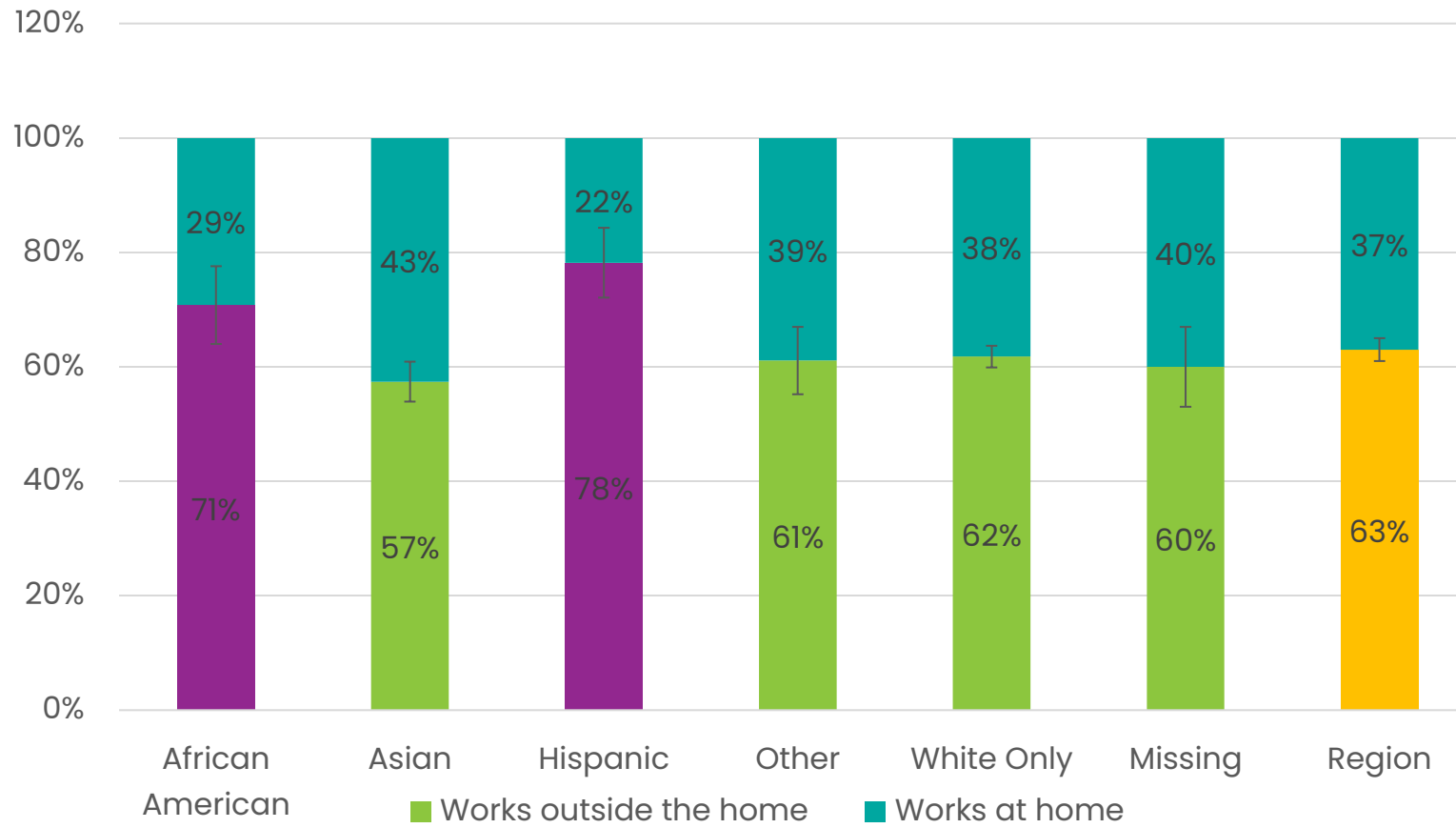
How much did people commute to work?
How many trips did they take?
Why did they travel?
What modes did they use to get places?

Work location (2021 survey)

Most workers worked outside the home always.



Workplace Travel by Race/Ethnicity, Spring 2021



- **Jump in teleworkers**
- **Most workers 63% worked outside of home in 2021, as compared to 84% in 2017/2019**
- Greater proportion of African American and Hispanic workers worked outside the home than regional average

Definition of A Trip



What is a trip?

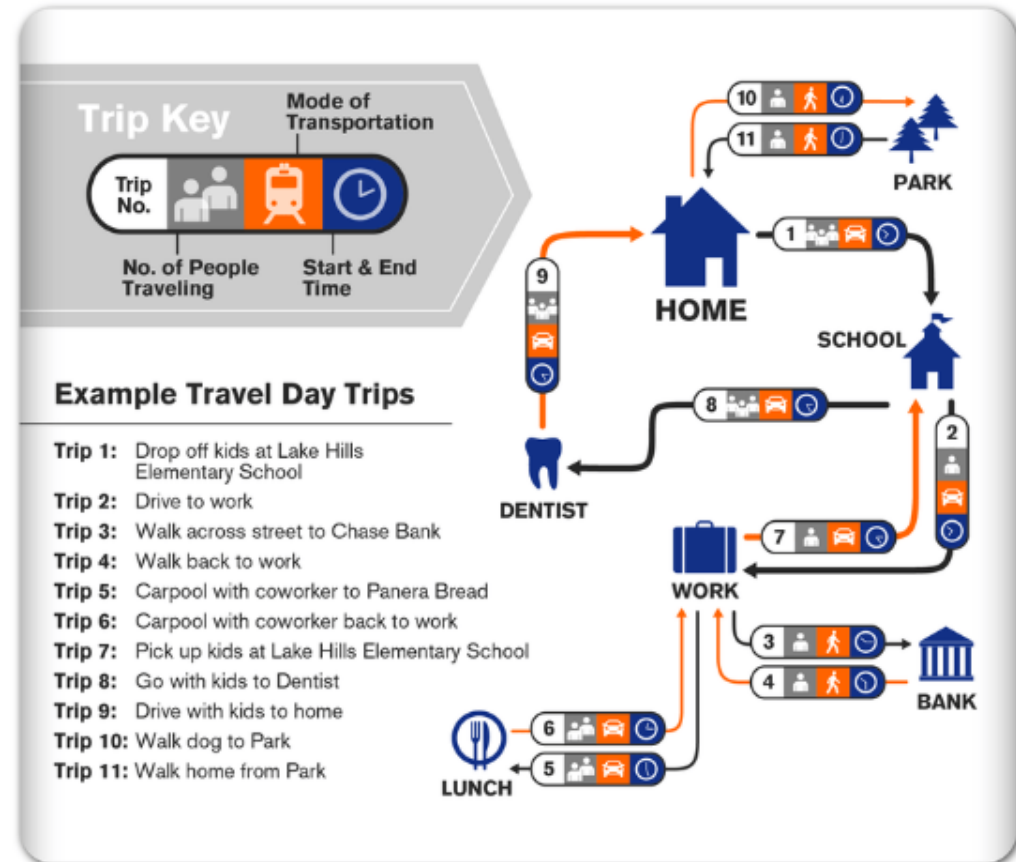
Anytime you traveled for 5 or more minutes and stopped at a new location, that equals 1 trip. Even if you stopped briefly for gas, at an ATM, or to drop a child off at school, each stop equals 1 trip.

What are some example trips?

- Drive to work
- Ride the bus to the bank
- Bike to the grocery store
- Get a ride to the movies
- Walk to school

What if I went out, but didn't make a stop (e.g., walked the dog or went for a bike ride)?

Please report 2 trips. The place that was farthest from where you began (such as the place that you turned around on a bike ride) is the "destination."



The number of trips per adult went down about 10%.



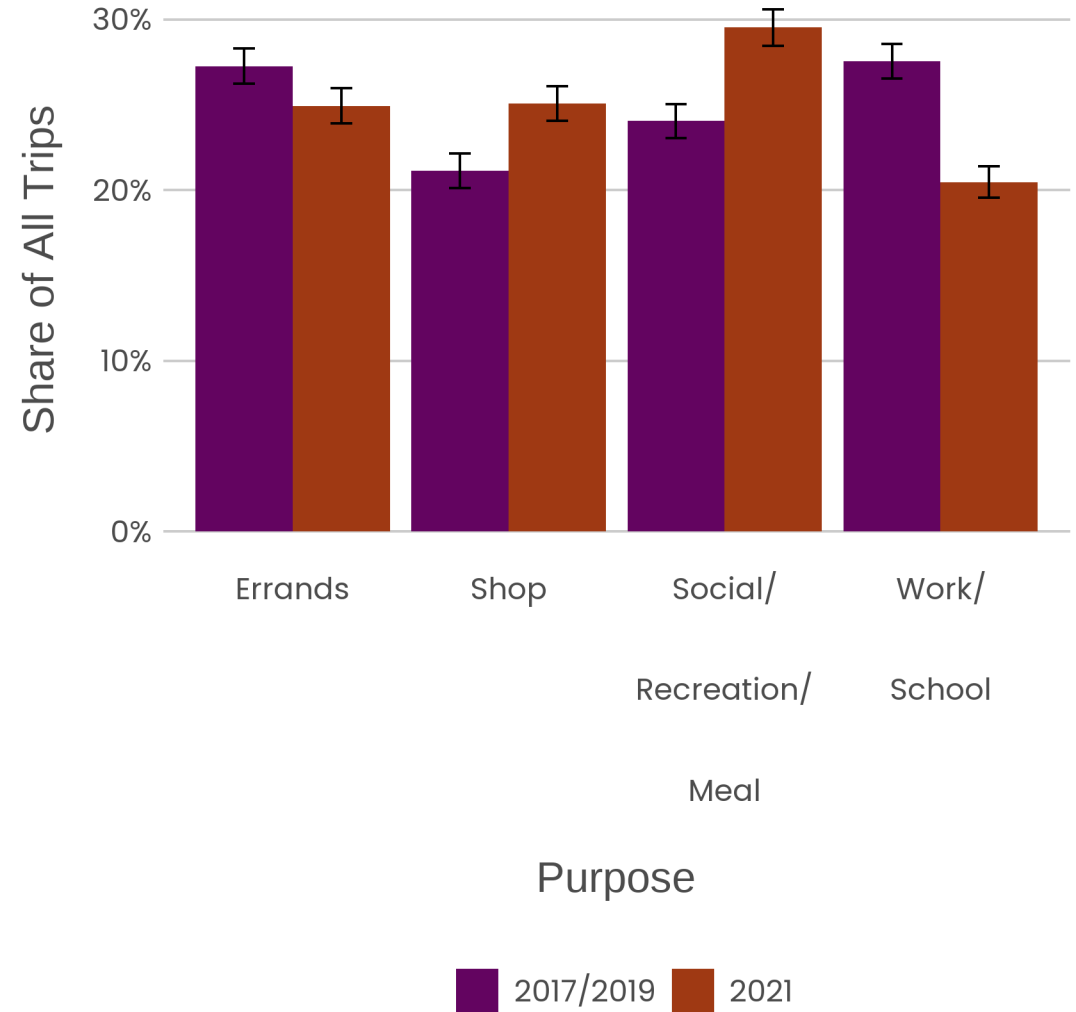
Trips per Adult went down from 4.4 trips per day to 4.1 trips per day from 2017/2019 to 2021.
Trip purposes and modes shifted.

Trips by Purpose for Adults



2017/2019 vs 2021

- The percent of trips made for work and school went down. The percent of trips made for social/recreation and shopping purposes went up.



Mode Question on the Survey



What is the main way you traveled on your trip?

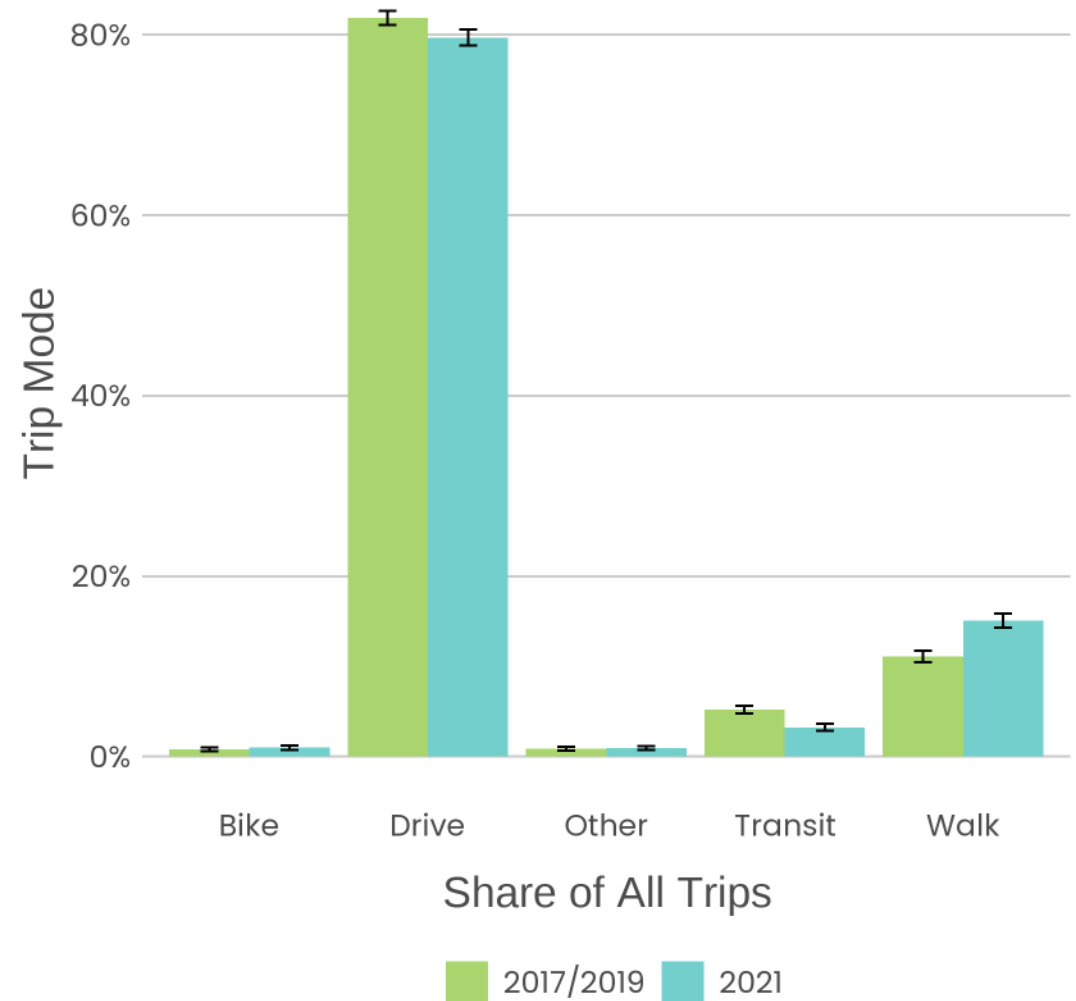
- Household vehicle
- Other vehicle
- Vanpool
- Bicycle or e-bike
- Walked, jogged, or used a wheelchair
- Bus (public transit)
- Private bus or shuttle
- Paratransit
- School bus
- Commuter rail (Sounder, Amtrak)
- Urban rail (Link light rail, monorail, streetcar)
- Ferry or water taxi
- Taxi (e.g., Yellow Cab)
- Other hired service (Uber, Lyft, or other smartphone-app car service)
- Airplane or helicopter
- Scooter or e-scooter (e.g., Lime, Bird, Razor)
- Other (e.g., skateboard, kayak, motor home)

Driving is the most used mode. Walking increased, Transit decreased.



2017/2019 vs 2021

- Driving is still by the most used mode with about 80% of trips
- Walking went up during 2021, as compared to 2017/2019. Transit went down.

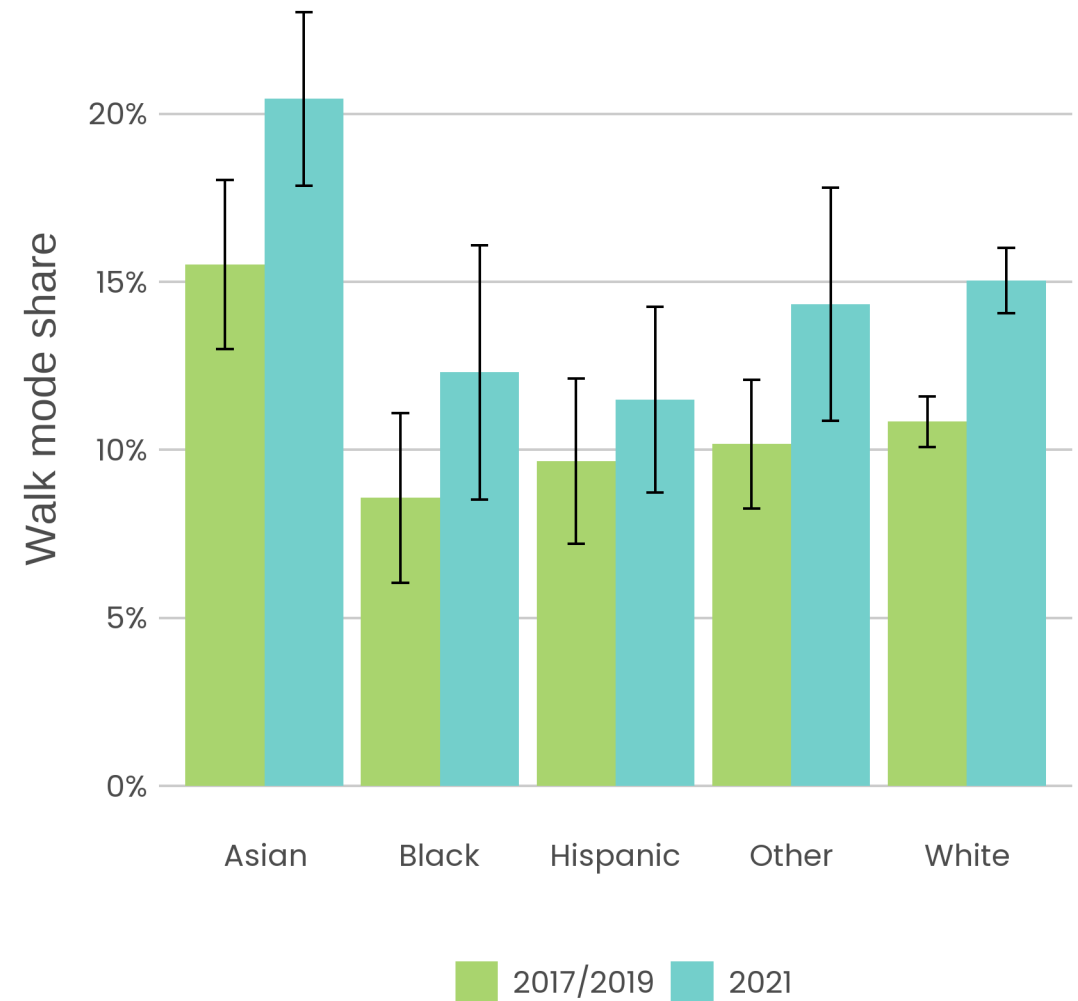


Walk mode shares went up for people of all races and ethnicities



2017/2019 vs 2021

- Walk mode share went up for people of all race and ethnicities.
- Asian people may have walked more as a share of trips than other groups. Sample sizes make the comparison less useful. More investigation is needed.

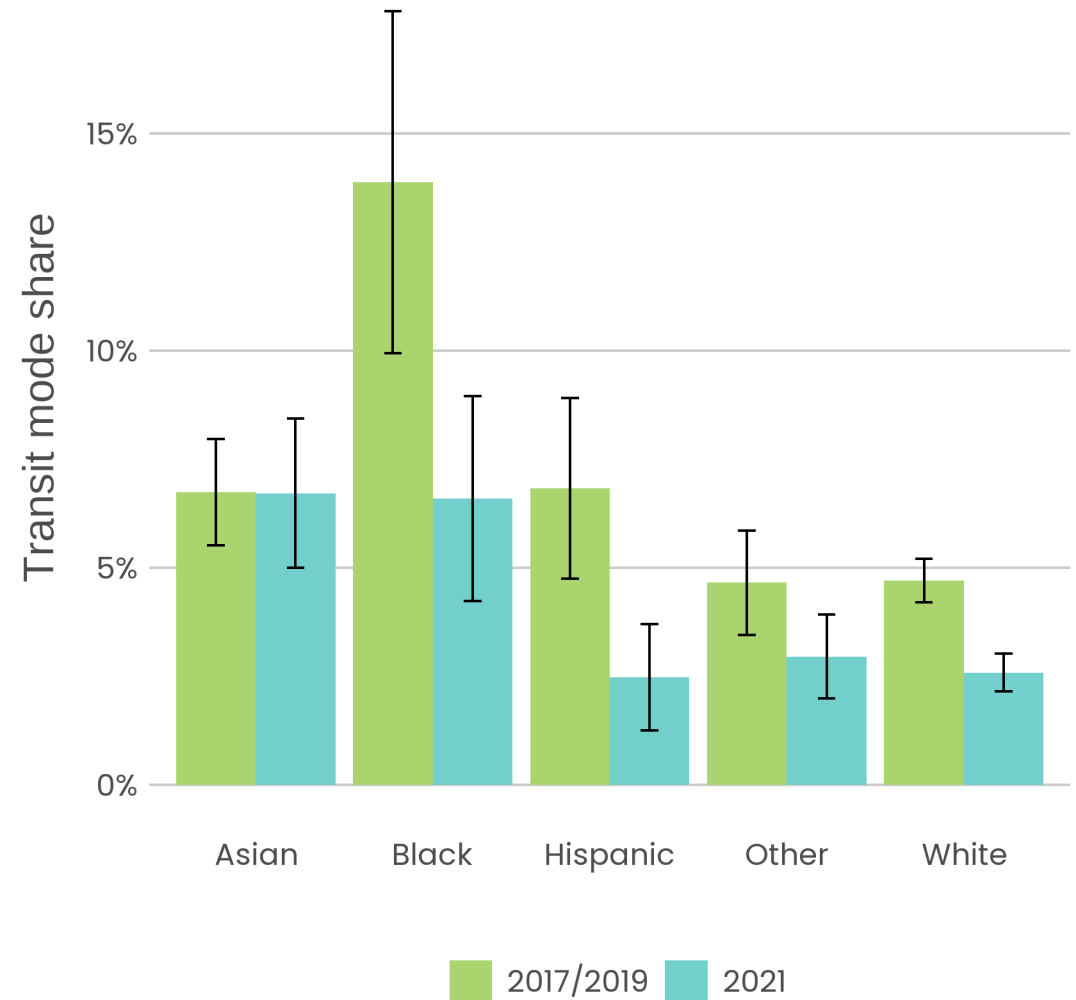


Transit share decreases varied across racial groups.



2017/2019 vs 2021

- Black or African-American, Hispanic, and White adults had lower transit shares in 2021 than in 2017/2019.
- Asian adults used transit on about the same share of trips. Asian and Black people had the highest transit share in 2021, with shares around 6%.
- Low sample sizes make the magnitude of the difference difficult to measure.





Older People's Travel in 2017/2019 and 2021

Older people traveled average similar number of trips and median trip lengths as compared to younger adults. This held constant in 2017/2019 and 2021.

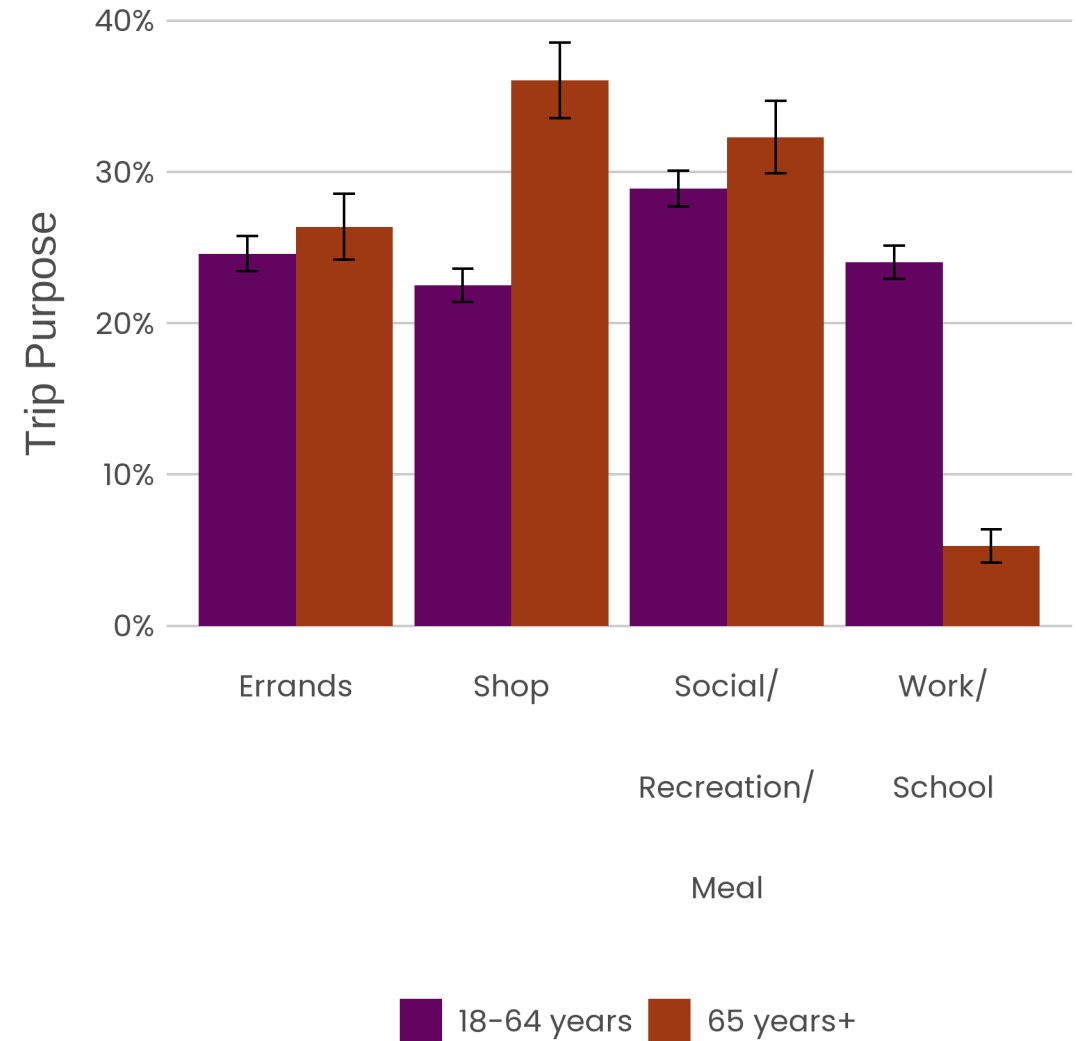
Averages can obscure individual experiences.

2021 Percent of Trips by Purpose by Age Group



2021

- In 2021, for people over 65, the top purpose for making trips was shopping and social/recreation. They made a much lower share of trips for work or school purposes than younger adults.
- People over 65 may have been more likely to shop in brick-and-mortar stores than online.
- Similar to before COVID-19



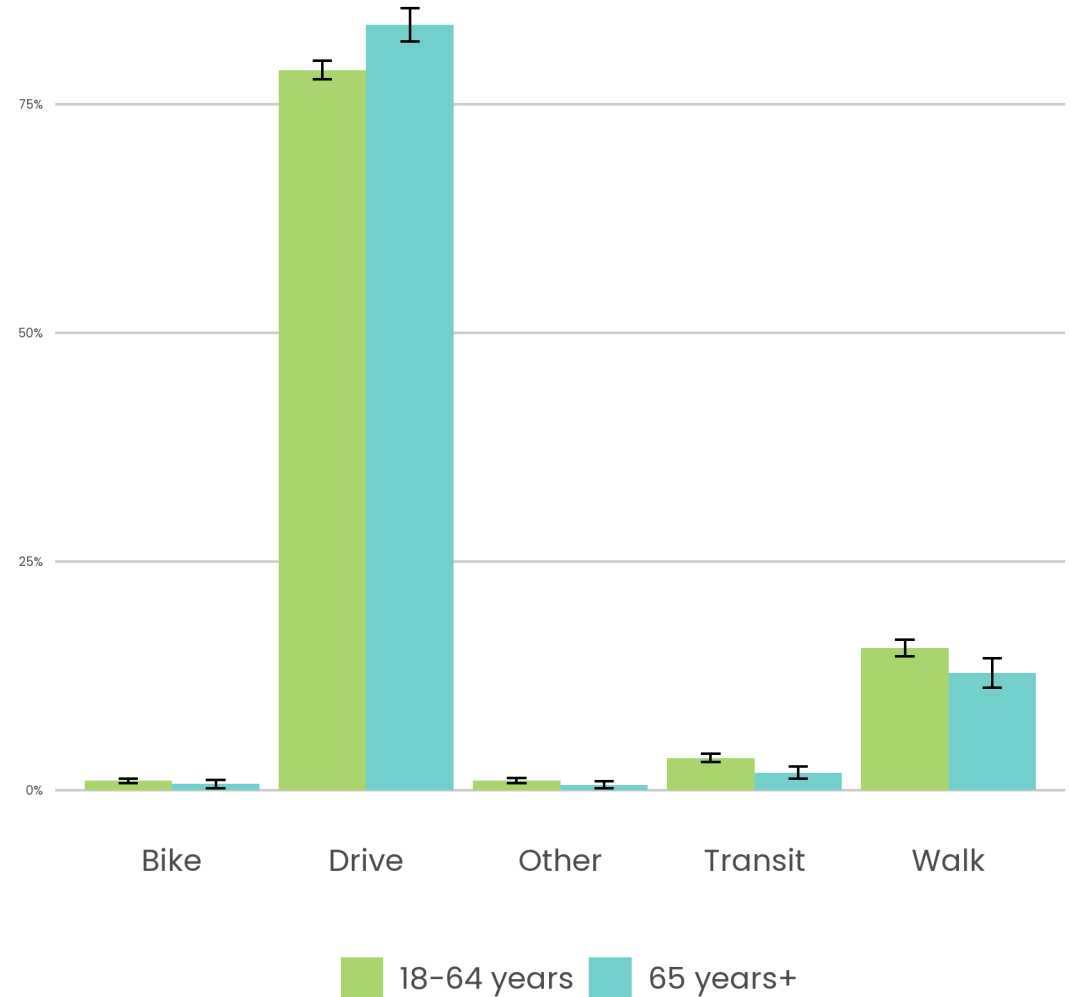
In 2021, People over 65 drove more, and walked and used transit less than younger adults.



2021

People over 65 drove slightly more than younger adults, and used transit and walked less.

Why do we think results would turn out this way in 2021?

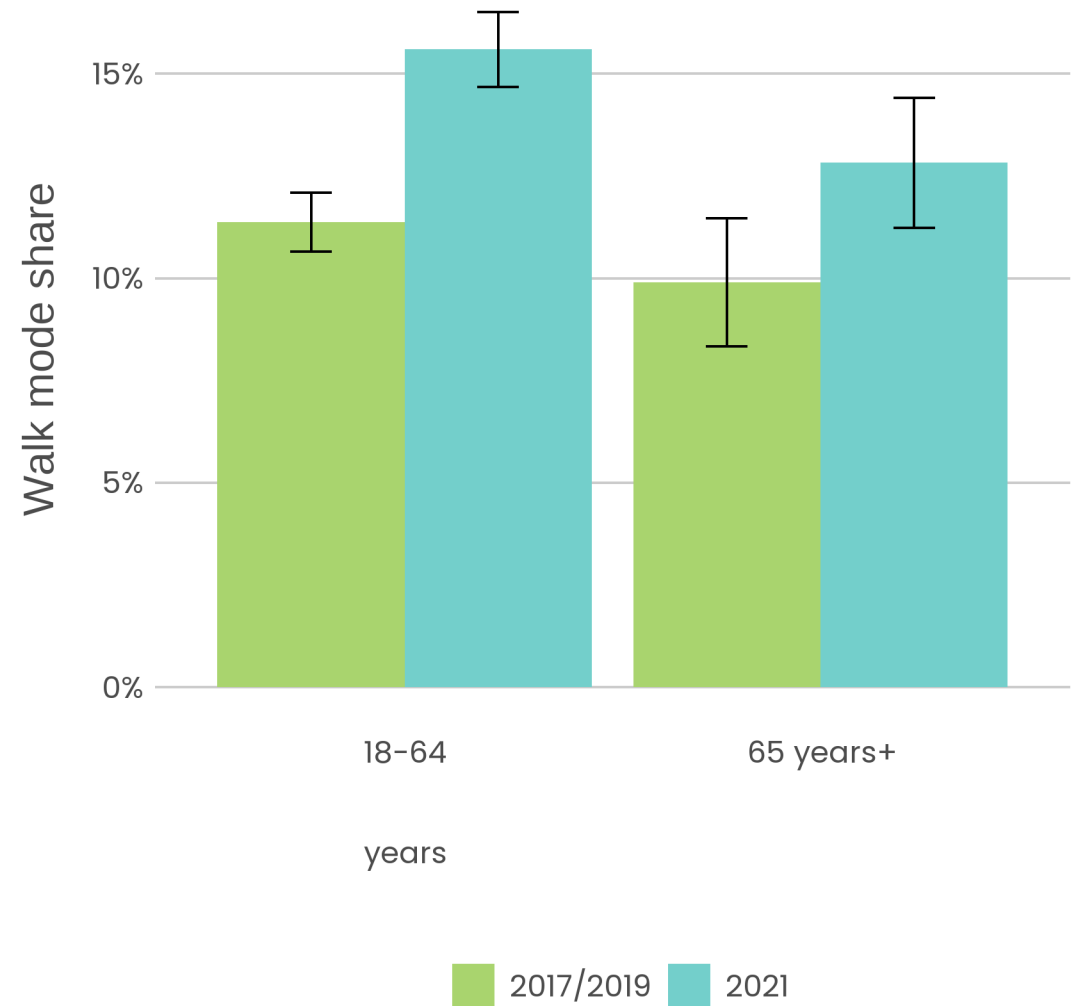


Walk Mode Share by Age Group



2017/2019 vs 2021

- Walking mode shares went up for adults under 65 and over 65.
- Overall walking mode shares are probably slightly lower for adults over 65.

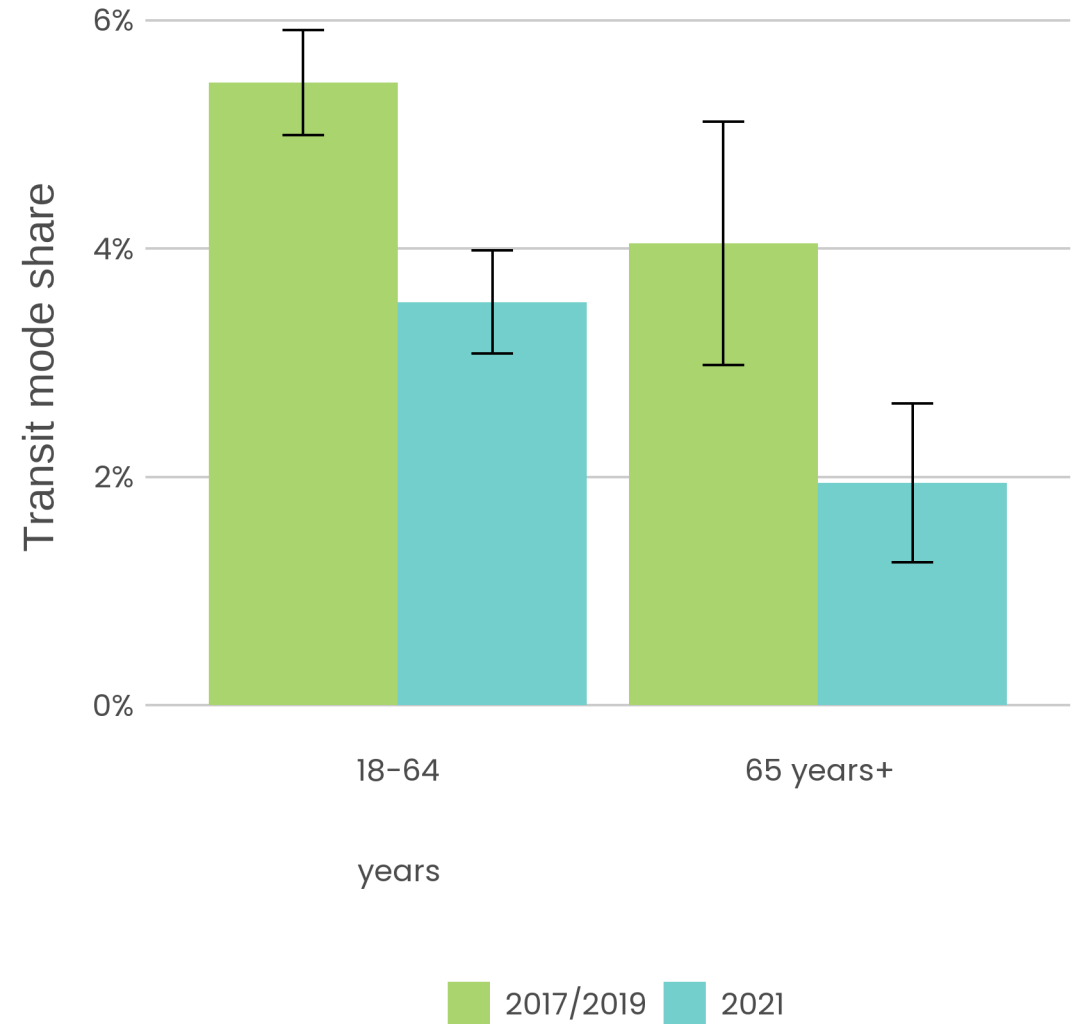


Transit Mode Share by Age Group



2017/2019 vs 2021

- Transit mode shares went down for adults under 65 and over 65.
- Overall transit mode shares are slightly lower for adults over 65.
- The transit shares for adults over 65 years was less than 2% in 2021.
- Latest data from ORCA cards show all populations are using transit more in 2022.





Travel by People in Lower Income Households and People in Households with No Vehicles in 2017/2019 and 2021

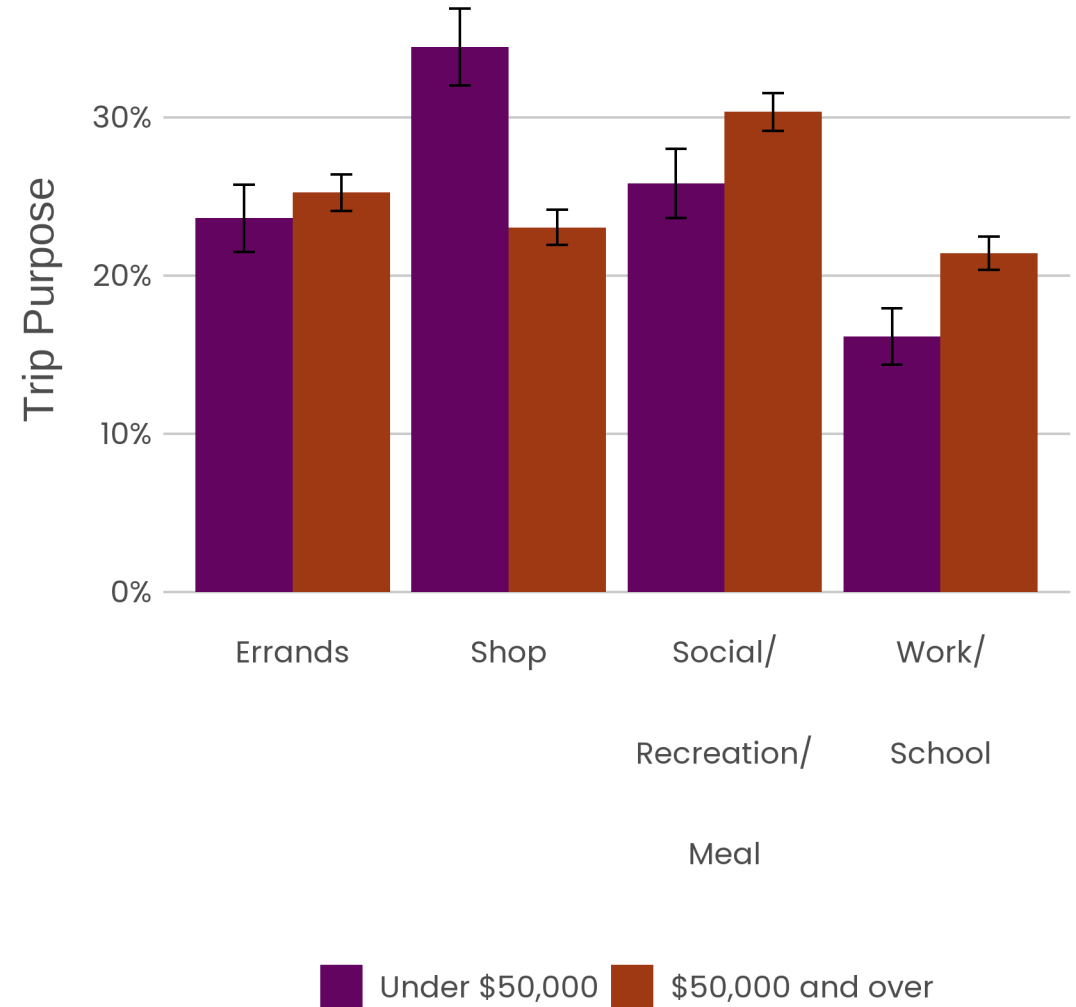
People who live in households with lower incomes and/or have no vehicles make slightly fewer trips and have shorter trips.

People in lower income households make different kinds of trips.



2021

- People who live in households with incomes less than \$50,000 go shopping on about 1/3rd of their trips, a much higher share than people in higher income households.
- People who live in households with incomes less than \$50,000 were slightly less likely to go to work and school.

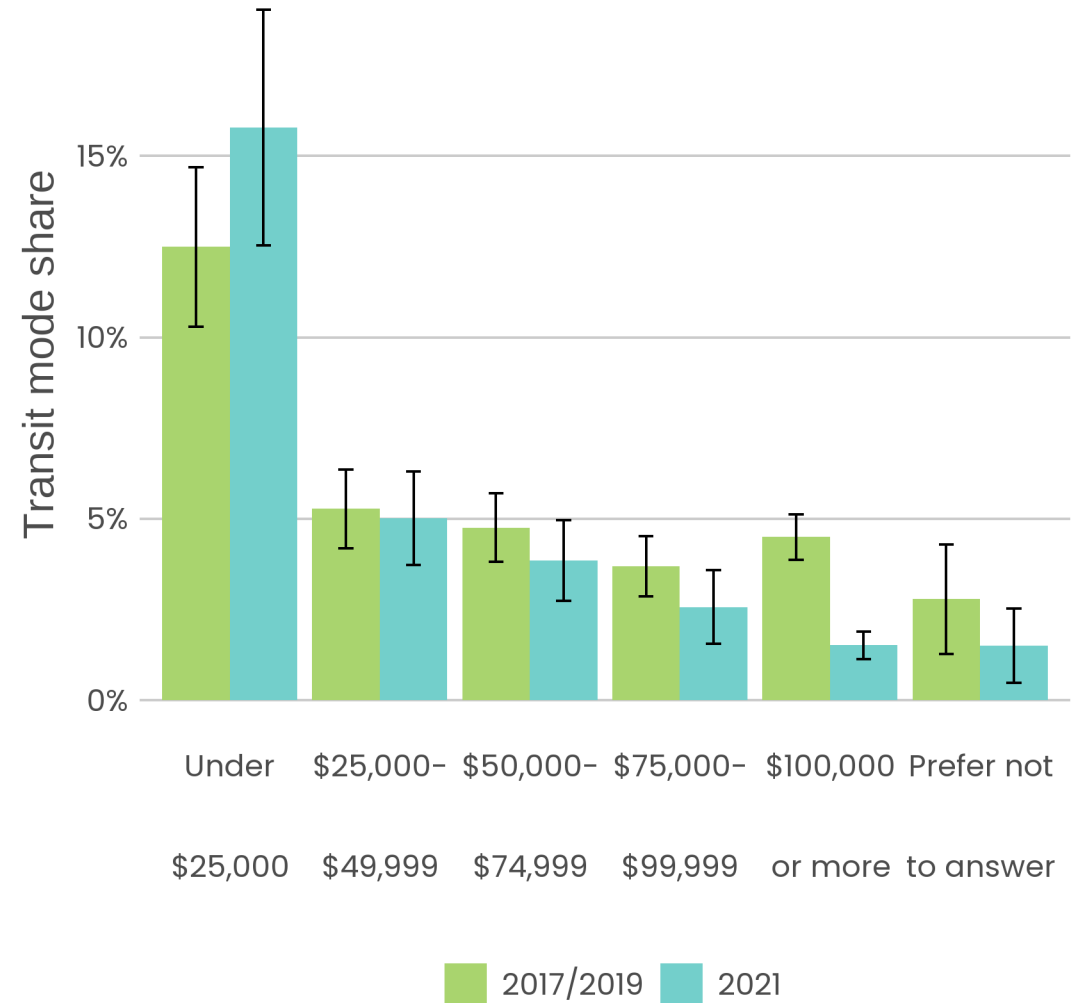


Lower income households kept using transit in 2021.



2017/2019 vs 2021

- Transit share is much higher for people living in low-income households.
- The median income regionally is in the \$75K-\$100K bucket.
- People in lower income households continued to use transit in similar shares.
- People in households making more than 100K drastically reduced transit use.

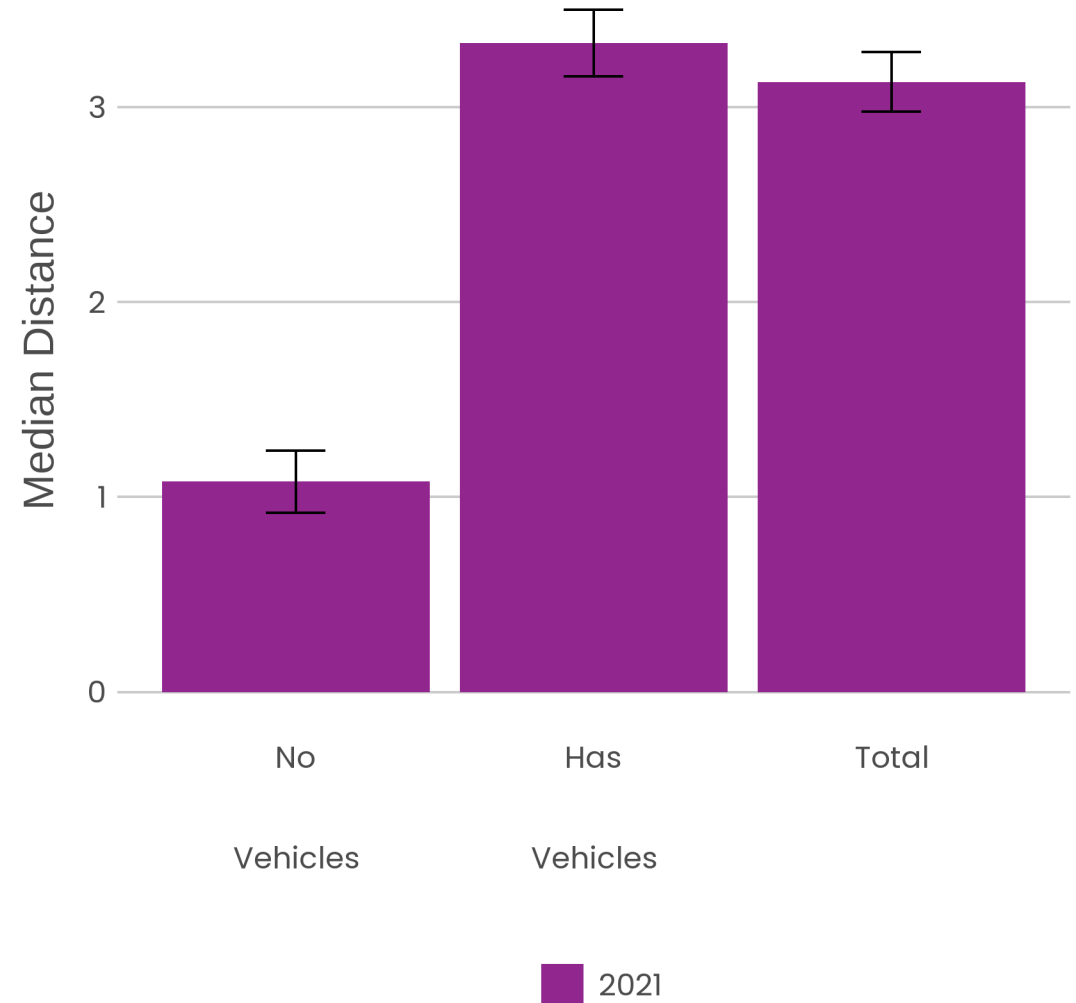


People with no vehicles take much shorter trips.



2021

- The median trip distance for people have no vehicles in their household is around 1 mile, as compared to 3.5 miles for people with vehicles in their household.
- The distance did not change much for either group from 2017/2019 to 2021.
- People with no vehicles tend to live in denser locations where activities are closer to them. It is possible there are farther away locations that people without vehicles cannot access.





- Regionally, in 2021, around 65% of workers always worked outside the home.
- In 2021, walking went up, and transit went down as compared to before. Driving was the most used mode at around 80% of trips.
- For people over 65, the top purposes for making trips was shopping and social/recreation. People over 65 made about the same number and length of trips as people less than 65. They drive on most of their trips.
- People in households with lower incomes and without vehicles make fewer trips and have shorter trips. They were much more likely to use transit in 2021.

What do you want to know about the people you serve?



- Our survey asks residents about the travel of their household members on a typical weekday.
- What data gaps do you have?
- What types of information would be helpful to you?

Contact info



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