

More on travel patterns of disabled people in England...

Introduction

This is a short update on how people with mobility difficulties travel in England, following my previous paper *Less Travel, more Dependence?* ¹. Table 1 shows the total number of trips made by people with mobility difficulties each year, updated with figures for 2016 and 2017 from the National Travel Survey by the Department of Transport (Table NTS0709) ².

Table 1: Trips made per year by people with mobility difficulties 2007-2017

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	last 3 years average
car-van driver	271	280	292	271	268	276	223	218	229	244	245	239
car-van passenger	170	170	163	165	175	168	169	163	179	171	155	168
walk	133	119	143	119	122	110	95	105	105	108	125	113
bus	66	68	63	65	65	56	43	49	54	38	46	46
other private	20	27	16	17	16	21	19	17	21	17	22	20
taxi	18	21	17	16	17	17	23	18	16	16	19	17
bicycle	5	4	4	4	6	5	1	2	4	1	8	4
rail	4	6	7	6	5	3	7	4	5	5	10	7
other public	2	2	3	2	4	3	2	4	3	3	5	4
all modes	689	697	708	665	678	659	582	580	616	603	635	618

Owing to a methodological change, the number of walking trips has been revised by the DfT, resulting in an increase of around 10% compared to previously published figures in the time series.

Comparison of travel between those with, and without, a mobility difficulty

Table 2 compares how people with, and without, a mobility difficulty travel according to most recent figures. Because of the volatility of some of the smaller numbers, figures are the average for the most recent three years.

¹ <https://www.nfpplanning.com/news-and-events.html>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/nts07-car-ownership-and-access>

Table 2: comparison of trips made by people...(2015 -17 averages)

	...with mobility difficulty		...without mobility difficulty	
	trips	%	trips	%
car-van driver	239	38%	504	50%
car-van passenger	168	30%	134	13%
walk	113	16%	238	23%
bus	46	9%	59	6%
other private	20	3%	8	1%
taxi	17	3%	10	1%
rail	7	1%	26	3%
bicycle	4	1%	18	2%
other public	4	1%	16	2%
all modes	618	100%	1013	100%

Observations and Conclusions

Some key points from this data are:

- confirmation that people with a mobility difficulty travel less frequently than those without a mobility difficulty;
- the total number of trips made appears to have risen in recent years, after falling steadily to 2014 (there is a similar pattern for people who don't have a mobility difficulty);
- the only modes of travel which people who have a mobility difficulty use more frequently than those without a mobility difficulty are:
 - as a passenger in a car;
 - by taxi; and
 - by 'other private'.
- people with mobility difficulties make fewer trips than those without a mobility difficulty by all other modes. People with mobility difficulties make markedly fewer trips by rail, bicycle and 'other public' (includes London underground).

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