

Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.



Helping leaders in aging succeed!

The **Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. (GWAAR)** is an area agency on aging whose staff provide information, training, and technical assistance — combined with leadership, quality assurance, and advocacy initiatives — to 70 county and 11 tribal aging offices in Wisconsin (all except Dane and Milwaukee Counties).

Transportation options are important to all of us as we get older.

The Aging Network provides thousands of rides in some of the most remote areas of the state and among those who face significant barriers to better health.

Men outlive their driving ability by 7 years, women by 10 years.¹

Age in Community Health starts in the home and community. As we age, we want to stay in our communities, but driving expectancy is significantly less than life expectancy. Lack of transportation options will make it difficult for us to continue living at home, leading to premature institutionalization, a significant loss of independence, and substantial fiscal impacts.



Nearly 90% of people over age 65 want to stay in their home as long as possible.²

53%

In Wisconsin, 53% of non-drivers over the age of 65 stay isolated in their homes.³



Reduce Isolation Wisconsin is recognized for cutting-edge home- and community-based services as an alternative to higher-cost institutionalized care. Without transportation programs to support these services, people become trapped in their homes—leading to isolation and related health issues and poor health outcomes.

Reduce Costs to Medicaid/Medicare & Healthcare

Over 3.6 million people in the U.S. do not obtain medical care due to transportation barriers.⁴ Transportation options provide access to preventive and routine medical care, reducing the number of missed appointments for physicians' offices; clinics; and hospitals, reducing the need for more expensive emergent care as well as reduced costs to public and private benefits programs.

Return on Investment Medical Transportation

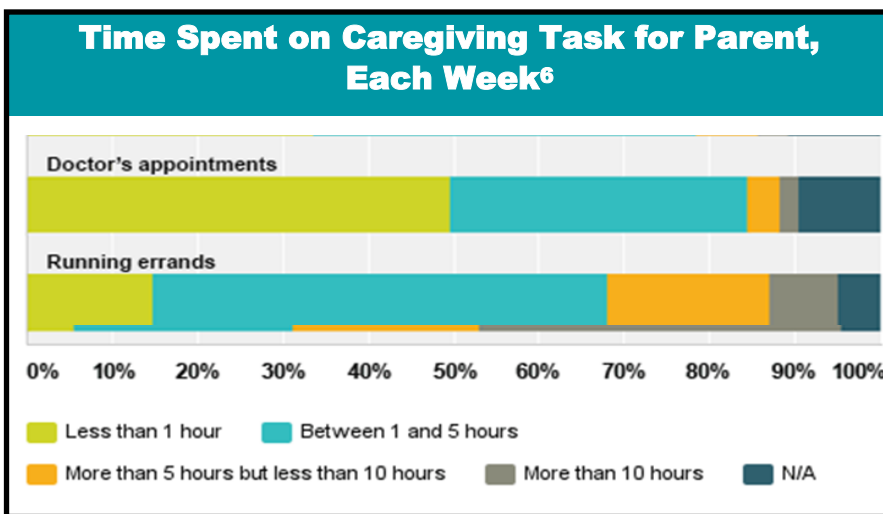
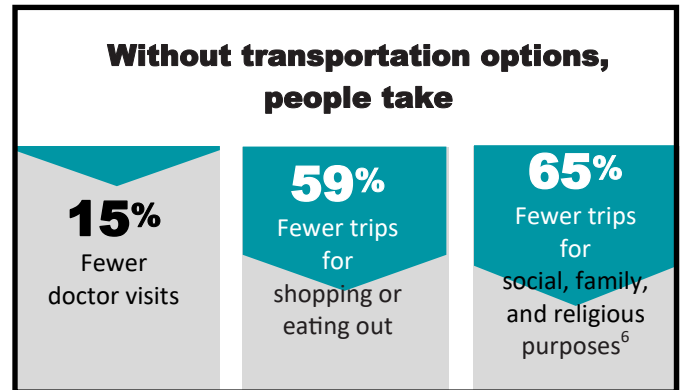


Every dollar invested in medical transportation results in an estimated savings of \$11 in reduced costs of emergency room visits.⁵



Transportation options are important to all of us.

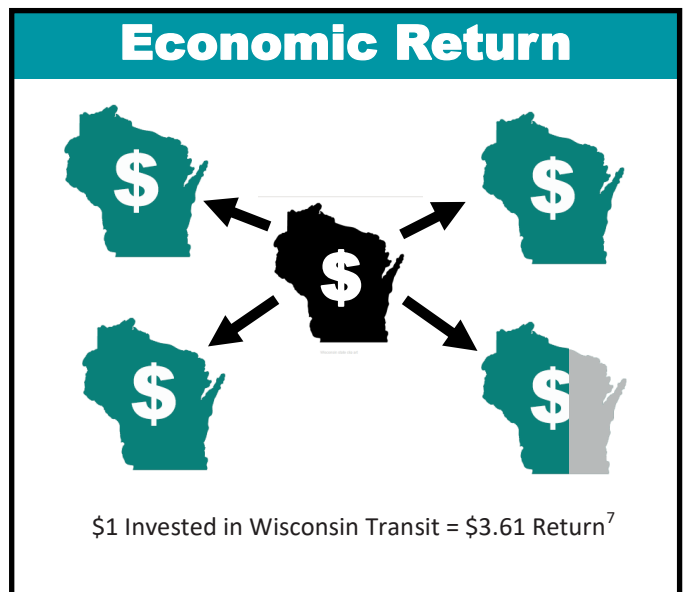
Remain Healthy and Engaged Older adults are an asset to our communities and should have an equal opportunity to contribute and participate. If no longer able to drive, we risk losing out on the potential of the older population if there are no transportation options for them to continue being engaged.



Support Family Caregivers

Family caregivers provide substantial unpaid support for aging family and community members. Specialized transportation services increase the ability of seniors and individuals with disabilities to get around and helps those caring for them.

Drive Economic Growth Investing in transportation infrastructure for all roadway users and incorporating livability principles strengthens communities and draws new residents, young talent, and other investors. These investments allow us to age in place and remain engaged in the community and economy and reduce disparities due to income or where we live.



1. Foley, D.J., Heimovitz, H. K., Guralnik, J. M. & Brock, D. B., (2002). Driving Life Expectancy of Persons Aged 70 Years and Older in the United States. American Journal of Public Health, 92(8), 1284-1289, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.92.8.1284>
2. Teresa A. Keenan, Ph.D., Home and Community Preferences of the 45+ Population (Washington, D.C.: AARP, 2010), 4.
3. NHTS 2001.
4. <http://www.t4america.org/docs/SeniorsMobilityCrisis.pdf>
5. Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Services: Return on Investment Study; March 2008, the Marketing Institute-Florida State University College of Business
6. <https://www.agingcare.com/Articles/state-of-caregiving-2015-report-177710.htm>
7. <http://wisconsindot.gov/Documents/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/transit/05-14-summm.pdf>



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