

Persons with Mobility Impairments and Caregivers: Factors that aid community mobility

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Research Team:

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Study Purpose

■ Explore and describe

- Accessibility issues of Persons with Mobility Impairments (PMI) and caregivers living in the urban communities in north and central Florida.

STUDY DESIGN



Source: <http://www.lareau.org/disgraph4.html>
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Method

■ Data Collection

- Ethnography
- Course
- Individual Interviews, Focus Groups, Field Observations

■ Data Analysis

- Thematic Analysis
- NVivo 2.0
- Open and Axial Coding

Sample

- Total N=18
 - Snowball
 - Participants
 - Age
 - Ethnicity

Research Questions

1. What activities do persons with mobility impairments participate in within the community?
2. What are some of the difficulties persons with mobility impairments face with community mobility?

Research Questions

3. What strategies do persons with mobility impairments employ to manage the obstacles with accessibility and community mobility?

Activities of Persons with Mobility Impairments

- Going to work
- Attending church
- Going on vacation or recreation
- Participating in community service
- Traveling

Difficulties

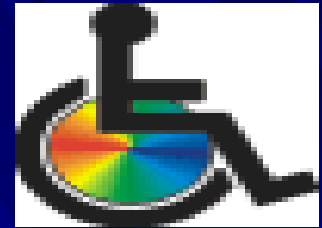
■ Barriers

- Structural

- Intrapersonal

- Interpersonal

Barriers



■ Structural

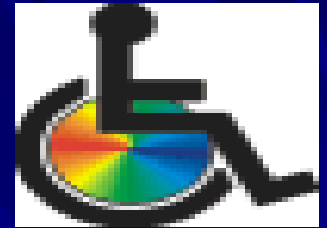
- Transportation difficulties
- Bus service and parking
- Indoor access
- Outdoor access

Cobbled Stoned Area in Downtown Gainesville



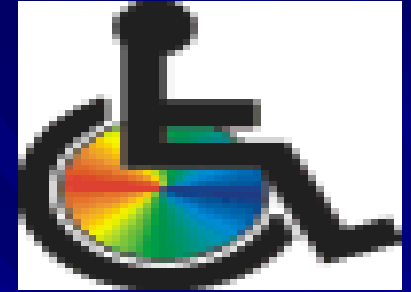
<http://www.downtowngainesville.com/photo%20gallery/pages/004.htm>

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“The cobblestone is very uncomfortable like it doesn’t feel very stable...my chair is not equipped to handle it real well. When somebody’s pushing me, I feel like I am on Mr. Toad’s Wild Ride!”

Barriers



■ Intrapersonal

- Cost-Benefit/Risk-Reward dialogue
- Physical aptitude
- Positive attitude

Barriers

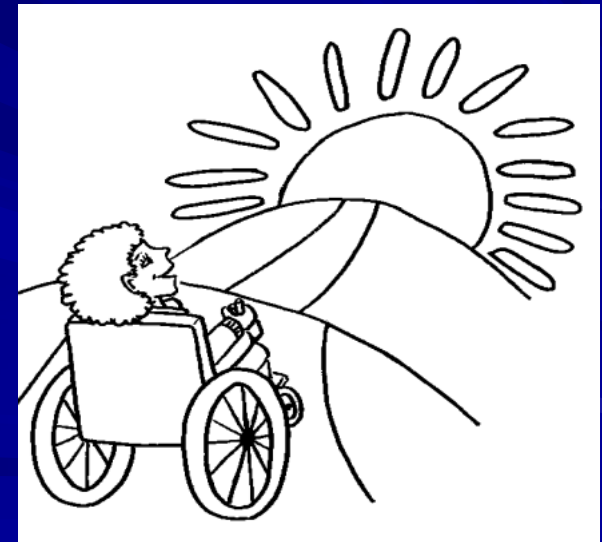
■ Interpersonal

- Invasion of space
- Treated as less than
- Lack of knowledge

“I think it is like the pregnancy phenomena, you have a disability or if you are pregnant, people feel real comfortable with saying very bizarre stuff to you.”

Strategies that help

- Planning ahead
- Self-reliance, or "just doing it"
- Positive attitude
- Routine
- Enlist help from others
- Fulfill lifelong dream
- New activities
- Educate public



Strategies

“I had a friend...and he was in a wheelchair and he used to call it crowd surfing...and it’s kind of what helped me break down into the realization that it’s OK to need help.”

Strategies-Caregivers

- Being observant
- Using physical aids
- Having a flexible attitude
- Finding friendly services

Caregiver:

“ When she plans to do a thing, it is very different than when I plan to do a thing....she thinks through every step of every motion.”

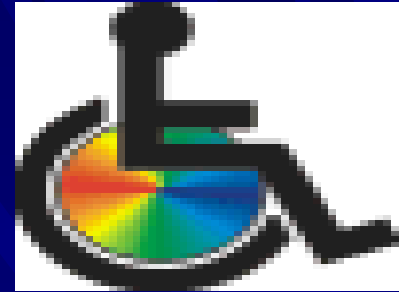
Person with Disability:

“a day just normal living, going to the grocery store and so forth, there’s nothing that you’re going to do that is not a challenge”

Community Improvements

- Educating others
- Reducing policy barriers
- Improving consistent public transportation
- Advocating

Take home message!



Extra steps
Planning for daily life
Challenges

Policy Goals
PLANNING



Thank you!
QUESTIONS?

Have a great day!
Go GATORS!



Source: www.ufl.edu