



Challenges of Driving Cessation in Persons with Dementia Living in Urban and Non-Urban Settings

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Introduction

- Remaining mobile after driving cessation is critical for sustaining the quality of life for persons with dementia (PWD)
- PWD residing in rural communities are particularly disadvantaged during the transition to non-driving



Study Objectives

- This study explored the meanings that PWD ascribe to driving cessation

Methods

- In-depth, semi-structured interviews with PWD
- Explored in detail the personal and lived experience
- Data was examined using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)

Results

- 7 current drivers & 3 former drivers with dementia
- Average age: 66 years old
- 6 female participants, and 4 were married
- 4 lived in small community or rural settings
- Average duration of driving: 46 years

Themes from Interviews

•Challenges of Non-Urban Communities

- “there is a taxi here, but I don’t know if it’s fully operational or not... It’s not like in the city, you could go on the bus or something, but here we don’t have that. You are sort of on your own.”

•Benefits of Non-Urban Communities

- “you’d be surprised how many people stop on the way... do you want a ride? ... That’s part of small towns. You look out for other people....”

•Challenges of Urban Communities

- “Perhaps they should have somebody who rides the bus give some tours on the bus. Somebody help [show] where their bus stop is. Because I tell you, you don’t have a clue where your bus is or even how to ask”

•Family and Friend Supports

- “I mean it’s such a small community, everybody’s got good friends to take them around. So, it’s not a really big deal.”

Discussion

- PWD in non-urban settings identified positive aspects such as being in walking proximity to stores and services.
- PWD in urban and non-urban settings identified limitations in transportation alternatives
- PWD in urban and non-urban settings relied heavily on family members or friends to drive them.

Implications

- Need to develop transportation solutions in both urban and non-urban settings that decrease reliance on informal supports