

THURSDAY, JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> 2023

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# Factors explaining frequent immobility in France

## Immobility as a matter of public concern?

### Staying at home for a day or more

- A fundamental right...
- Questioned as “soft refusal” by transport statisticians...
- Still raises issues of social exclusion...
- Renewed by lock-downs imposed on us during the pandemic...

A new question introduced in 2008  
French National Transport Survey,  
reproduced in 2019  
(~ 14 000 households) :

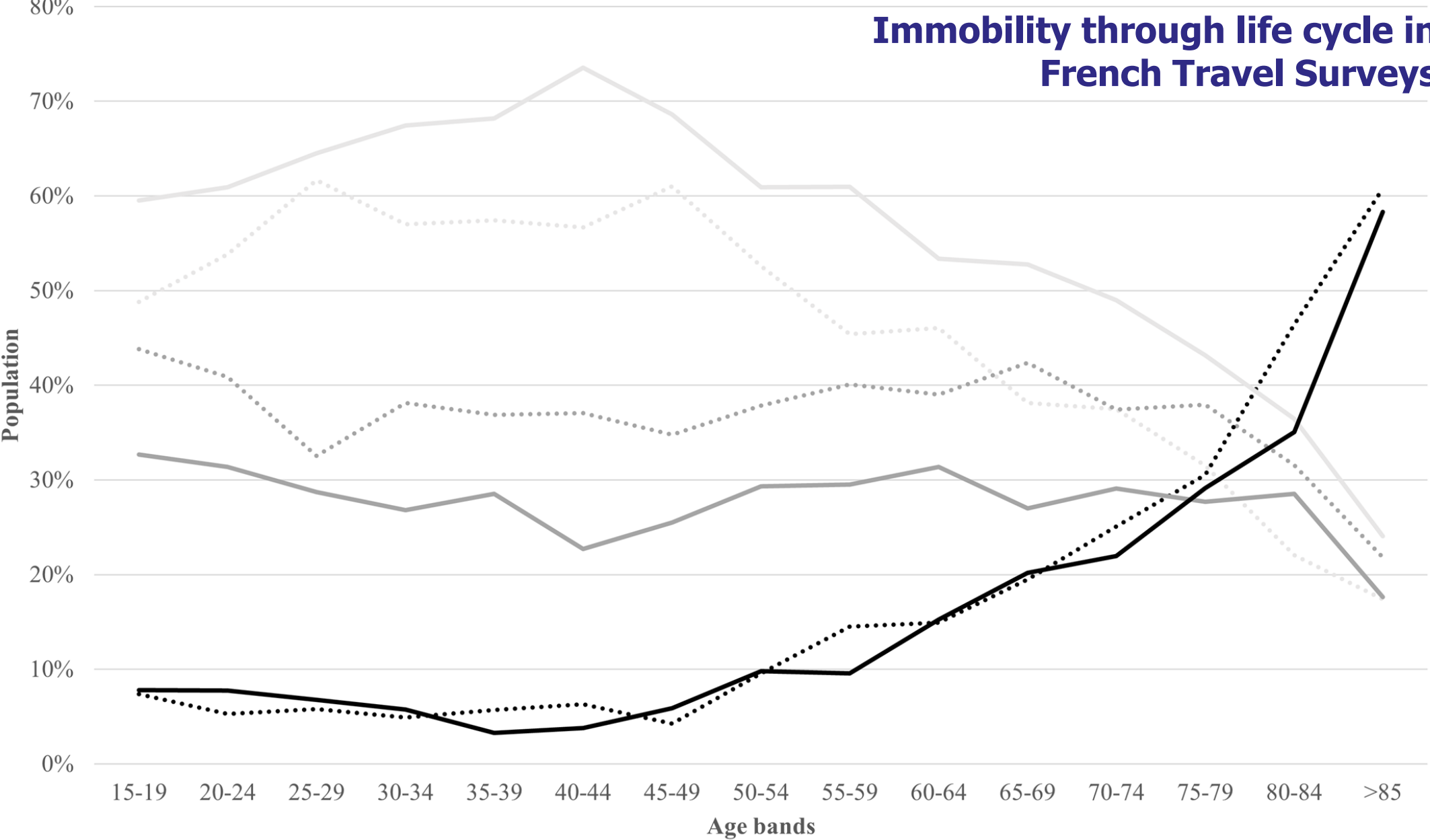
“For a week, are there days when you didn’t leave home (or your garden)?

- Yesterday
- The day before yesterday
- Day – 3
- ...
- Day – 7
- I went out everyday”



A focus on people staying home more than 4 days a week (not necessarily consecutive), population aged 15 or more

# Immobility through life cycle in French Travel Surveys

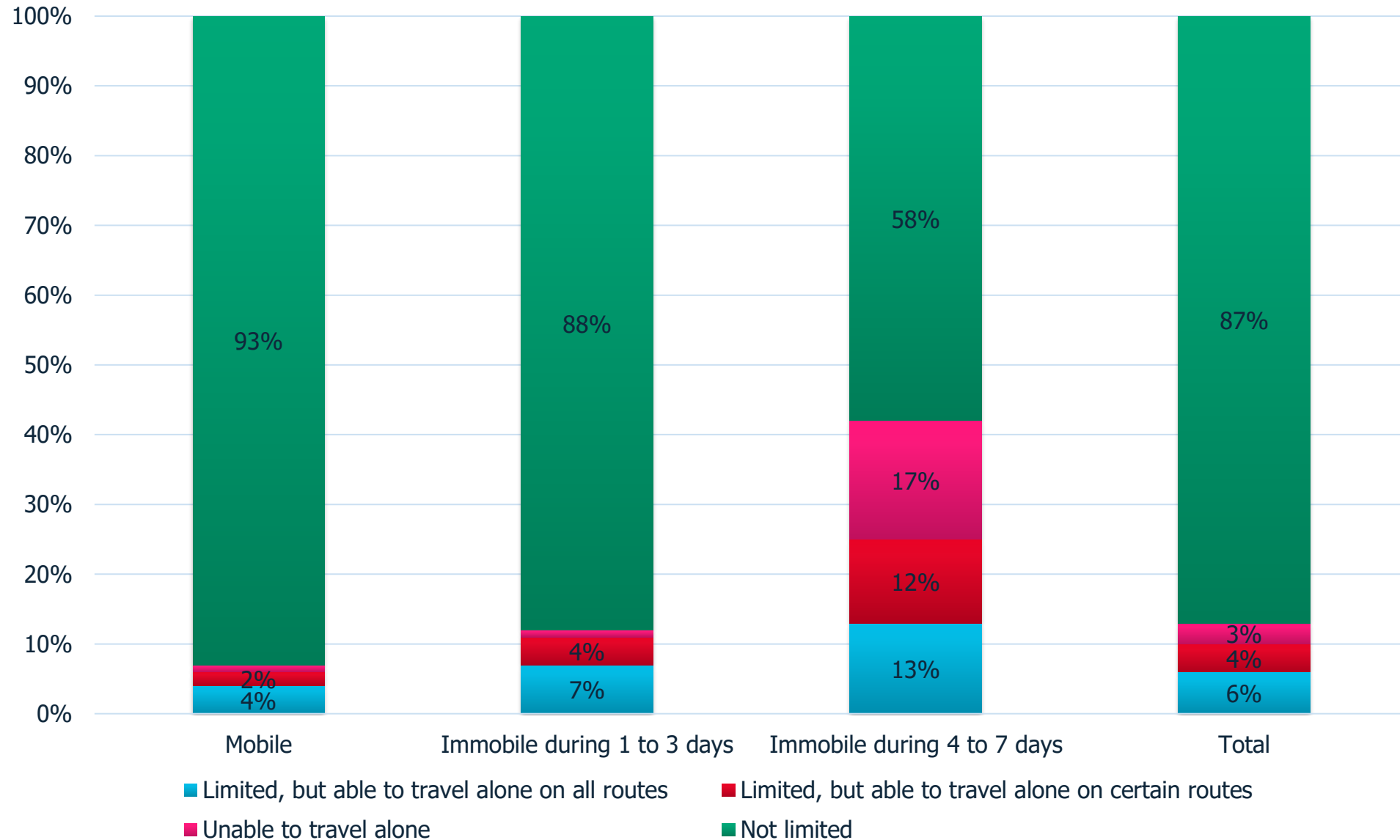


..... % Mobile everyday (2008)      ..... % Immobile during 1 to 3 days (2008)      ..... % Immobile during 4 to 7 days (2008)  
 ——— % Mobile everyday (2019)      ——— % Immobile during 1 to 3 days (2019)      ——— % Immobile during 4 to 7 days (2019)

Sources: French Travel Surveys

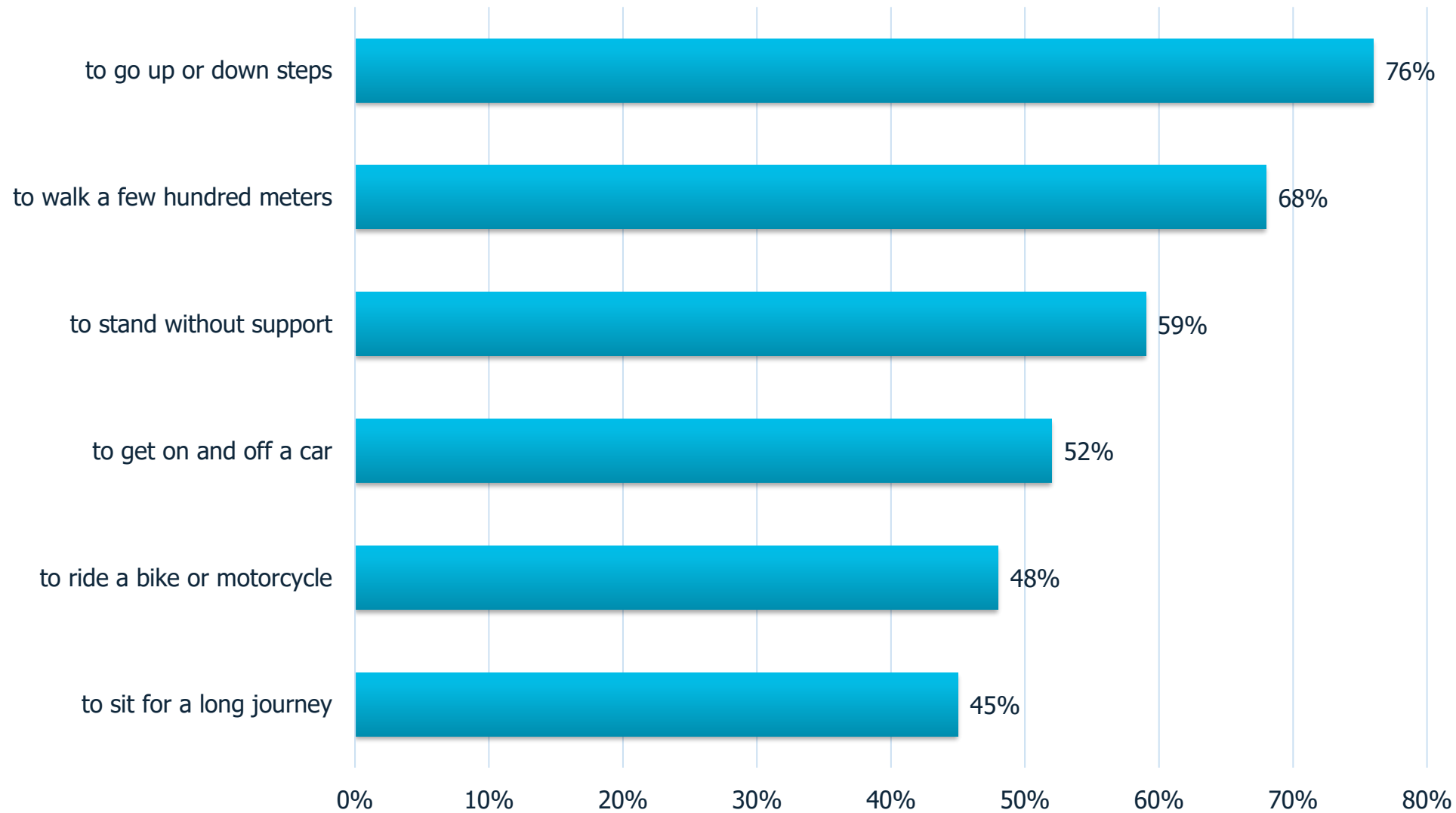


# Travel limitations of the population aged over 15



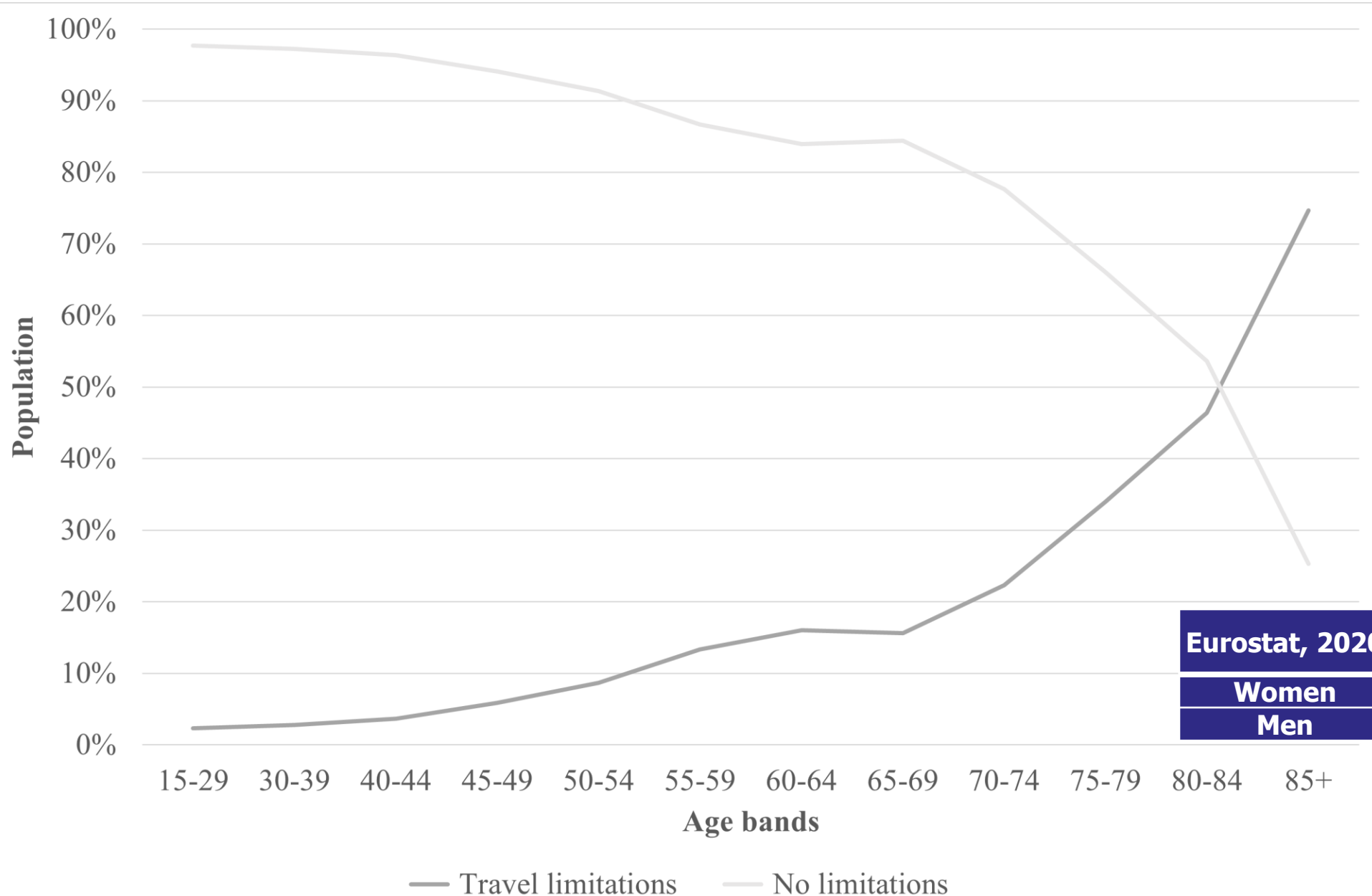
Source: 2018-2019 French Travel Survey

## Most frequent circumstances under which travel limitations occur



Source: 2018-2019 French Travel Survey, population aged over 15, declaring 4 to 7 days of immobility within a week

## Travel limitations are strongly correlated with age



**Eurostat, 2020**

**Women**

**Men**

**Healthy life years at birth**

65,3

63,6

**Life expectancy**

85,3

79,2

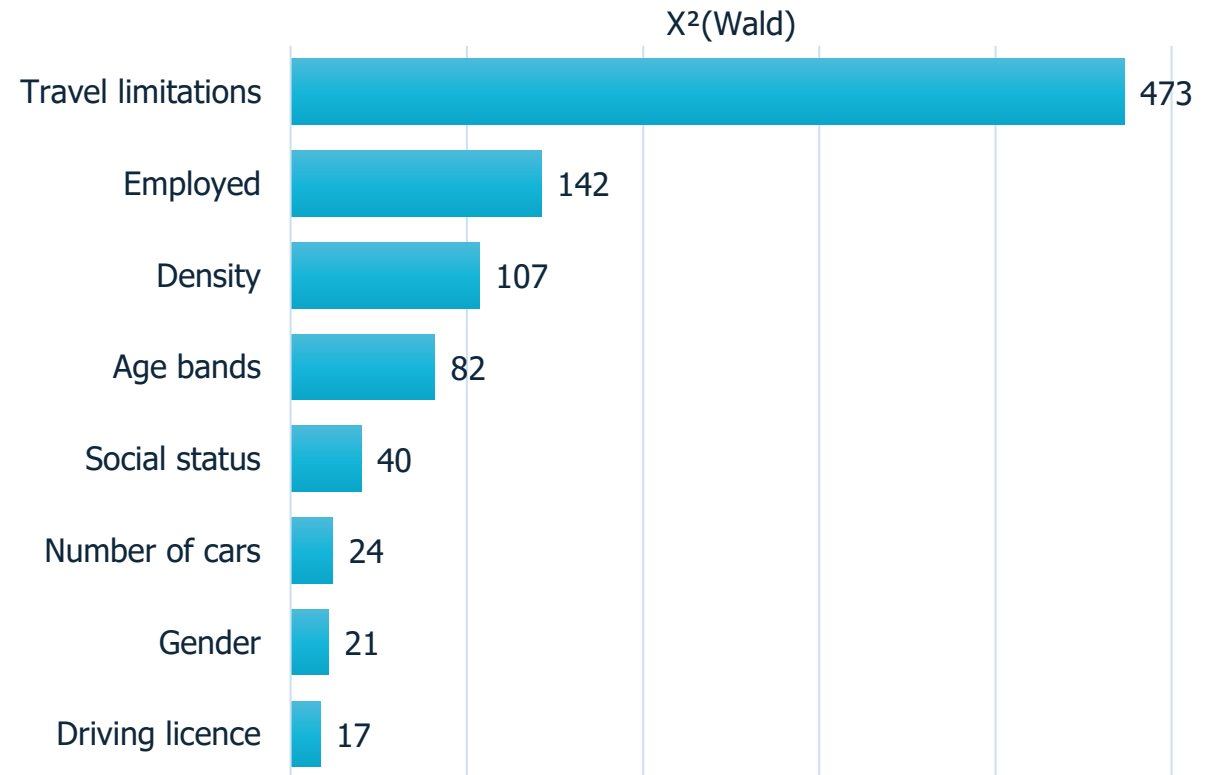
Source: 2018-2019 French Travel Survey

# Capturing structural effects on frequent immobility through a logit model

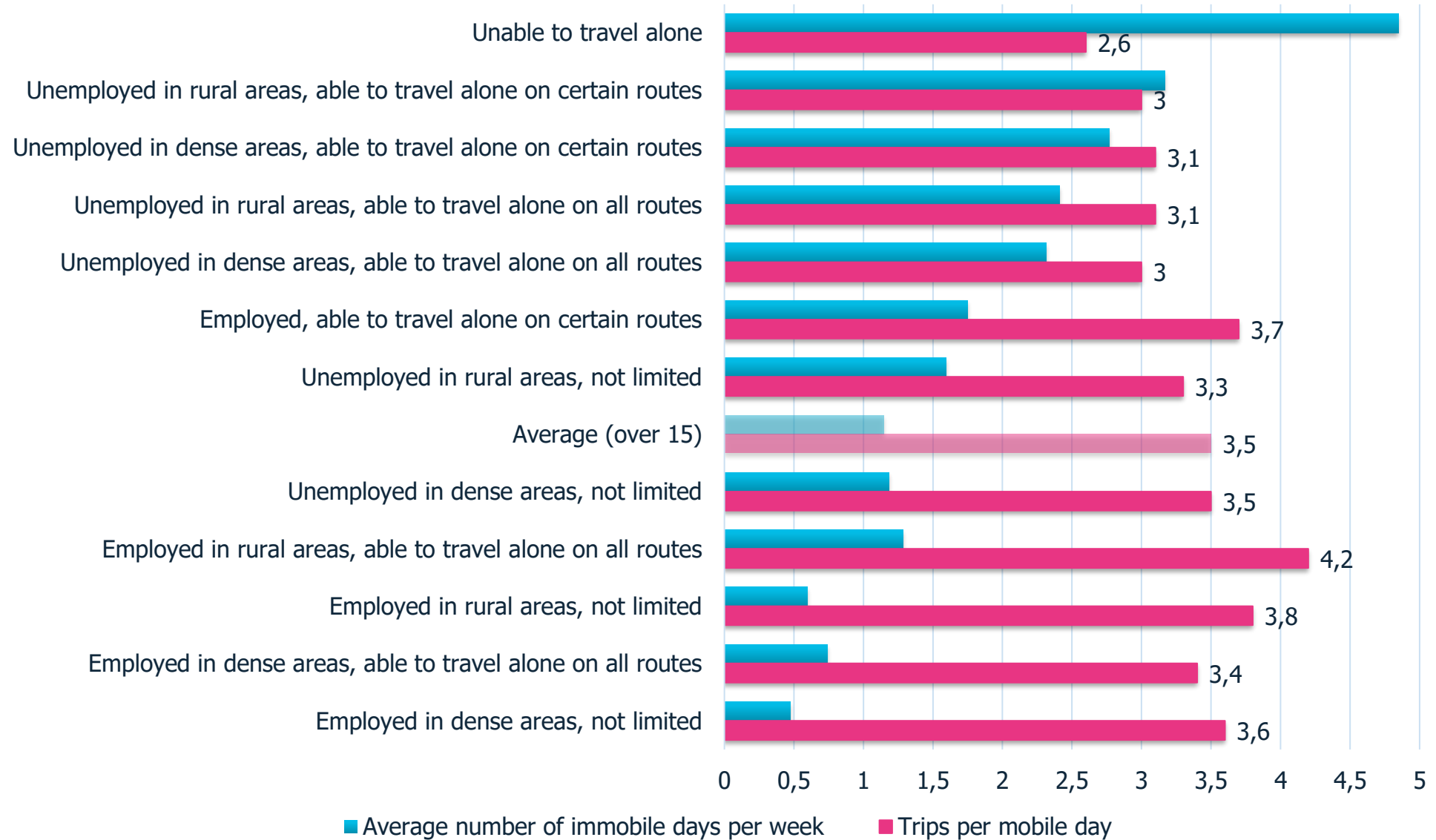
Variables selected based on their Chi-square contribution to the full model

- At individual level: age-band, gender, active (yes/no), employed (yes/no), socio-professional status in 8 classes, driving license, car ownership, travel limitations, disability;
- At household level: composition, size, number of active persons, number of cars, number of persons facing travel limitations, income (per consumer unit), residential profile (within 2020 urban areas), density.

## Factors influencing frequent immobility (4 to 7 days a week)

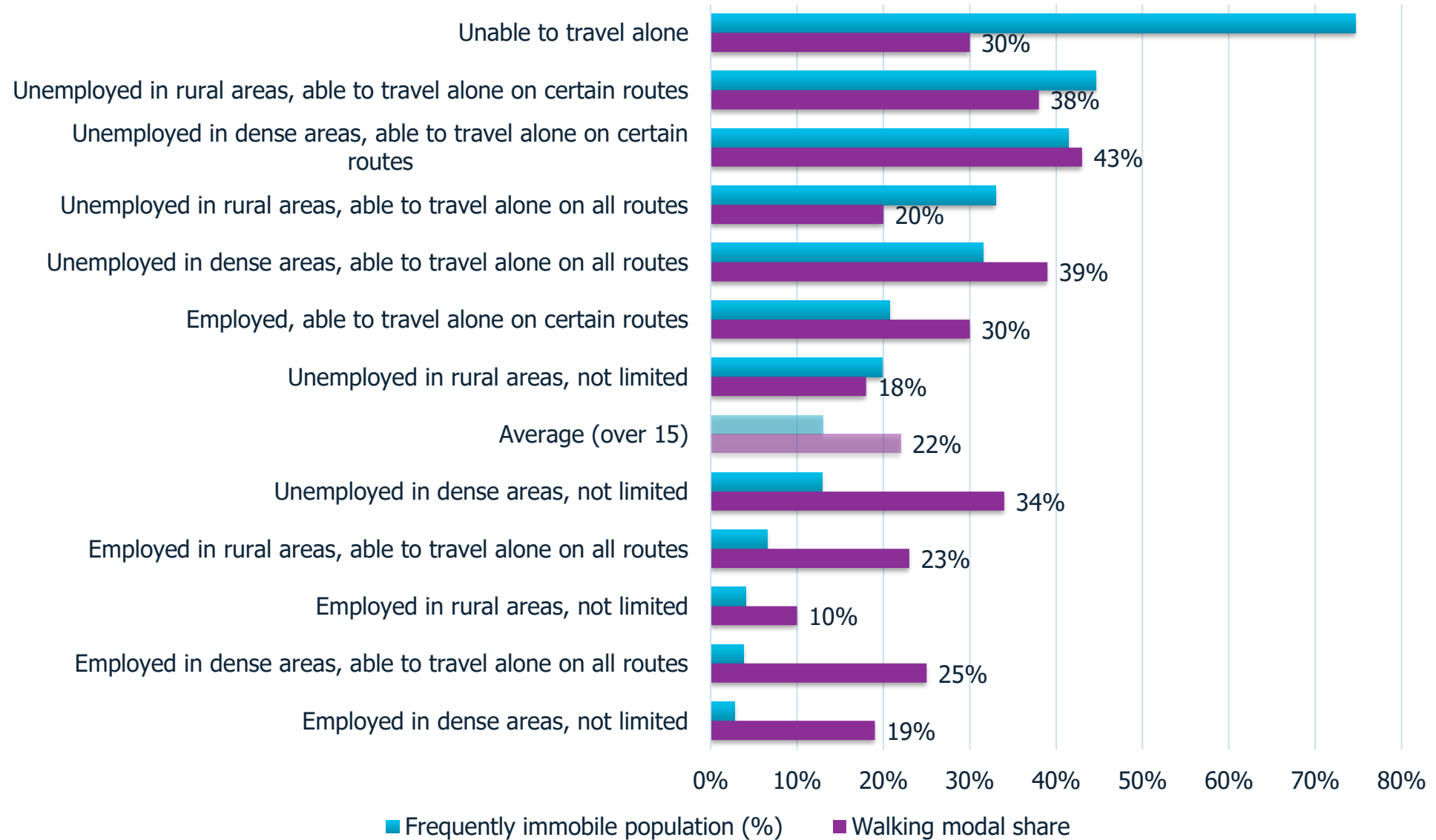


# Travel characteristics of different groups





# Walking characteristics of different groups



# Conclusion

## Further research questions

- Dealing with multicollinearity : disability vs travel limitations?
- Introducing circumstances in which travel limitations occur?
- Focus on population targets : older adults vs employed?
- Projecting immobility by 2070 through an age-cohort model based on both 2007-08 and 2018-2019 survey?

## What are the links between immobility and social isolation/loneliness?

- In 2022, 11% of the French population over 15 rarely or never meets (IRL) anyone belonging to one's social network (family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, civil society organizations) – back to pre-Covid figures, after a jump to 24% in 2021
- 20% declares a feeling of loneliness

## What can be done about it?

- Public space as social infrastructure?

# Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation 2023

The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community



## SOLITUDES 2022 REGARDS SUR LES FRAGILITÉS RELATIONNELLES



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Variables	Levels of variables	Odds Ratio	Significance level (Chi2)
Residential density	<b>Cities</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	
	Towns & semi-dense areas	1.6	***
	Rural areas	2.0	***
	Very rural areas	2.8	***
Age bands	<b>[15-25[</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	
	[25-35[	1.9	***
	[35-55[	2.4	***
	[55-65[	2.3	***
	[65-75[	2.7	***
	[75 or more[	3.9	***
Gender	<b>Men</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	
	Women	1.3	***
Travel limitations	Limited, but able to travel alone on <u>all</u> routes	2.0	***
	Limited, but able to travel alone on <u>certain</u> routes	3.2	***
	Unable to travel alone	11.3	***
	<b>Not limited</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	
Employed	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	
	No	4.4	***
Social status	Farm operators	5.2	***
	Craftsmen, merchants, employers (>=10 employees)	1.9	***
	Executives, liberal professions	1.2	ns
	<b>Intermediate occupations</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	
	Employees	1.5	**
	Workers	1.8	**
	Retired	1.4	*
	Other without professional activity	1.8	**
Number of cars	0	1.6	***
	1	1.2	**
	<b>2 or more</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	
Driving license	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	
	No	1,4	***

# Driving characteristics of different groups

