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Virginie Dejoux, Aline Alauzet, Jimmy Armoogum

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The mobility of people with travel disabilities: impact of personal characteristics on reporting difficulties

Context

In a context of demographic and social changes, such as the ageing of population and the disappearance of local services, the number of persons who find it difficult to move around unassisted outside their home increases. **About 10 % of the population have difficulties when they are making trips.**

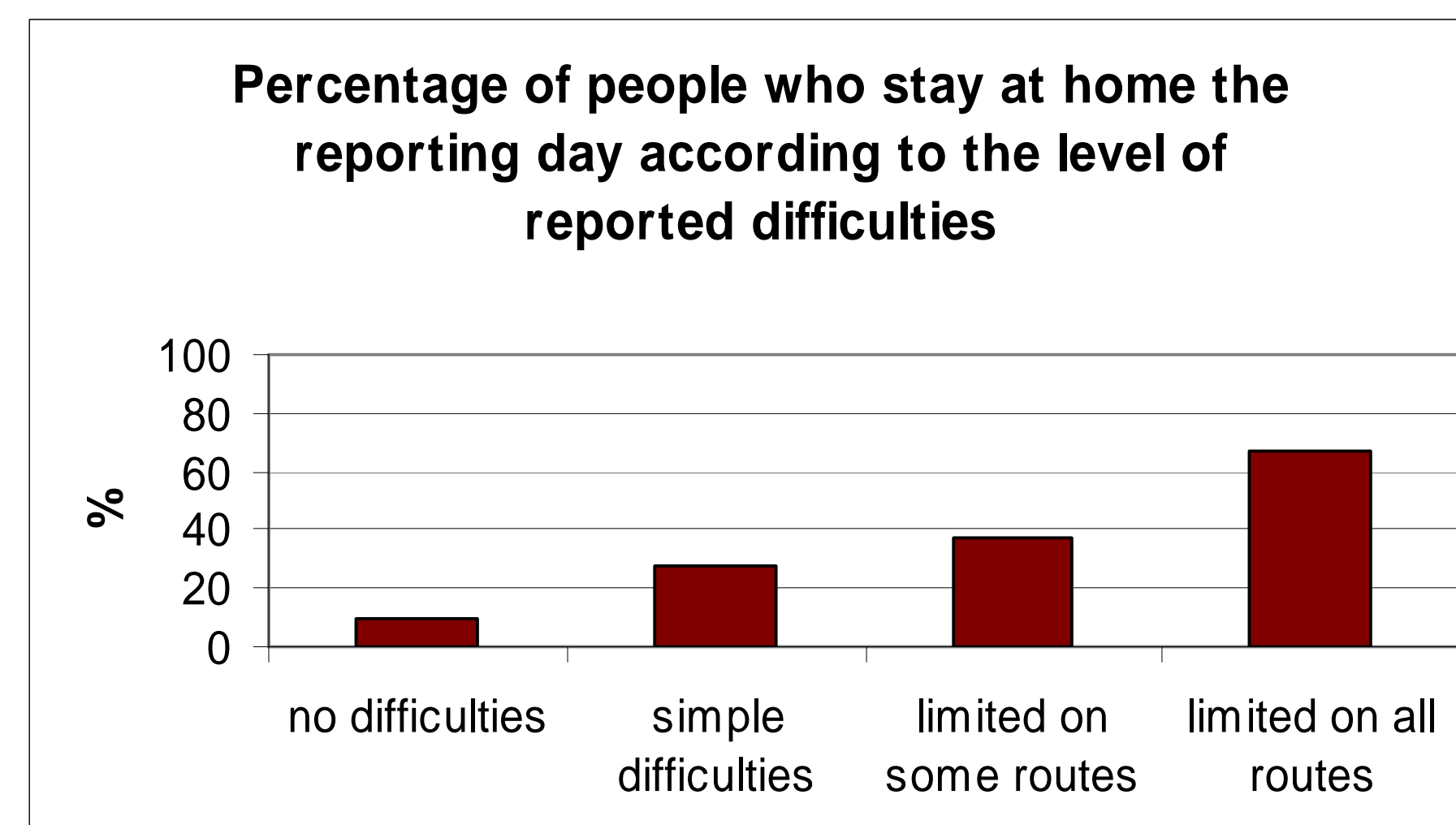
Objectives

The goal of this research is to discover which individuals find themselves in disability situations and to identify their travel behaviors.

Methodology

• **Data :** This research is based on **the HID data** (Handicaps-Incapacités-Dépendance, Disability-Activity limitations-Dependency). This survey was conducted in France in 1999, by the French national institute of statistics. The respondent sample size of the survey was about 17 000 households.

• **Population selection:** A disability situation arises from a reduction in the ability to carry out day-to-day activities caused by the interaction between personal factors (impairments, activity limitations and other personal characteristics) and environmental factors. So we have identified the persons who are in disability situations when they travel according to the difficulties they report.



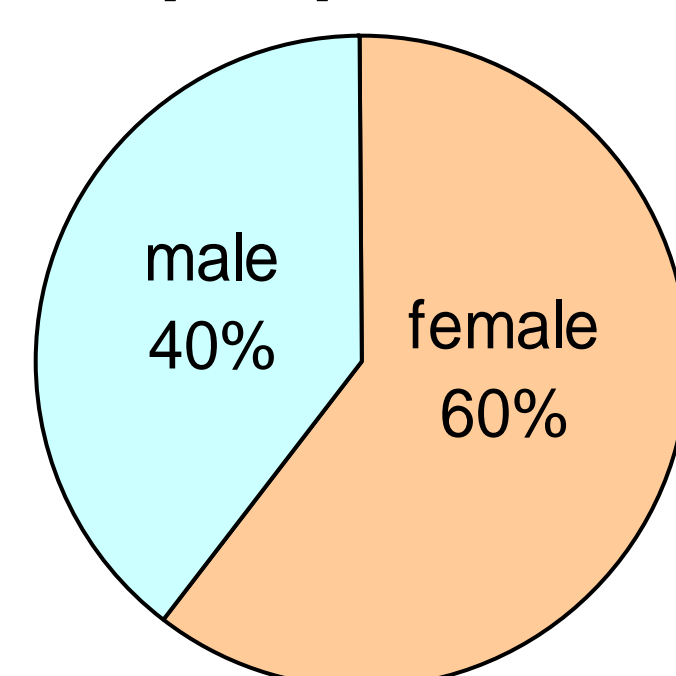
Greater immobility

The more the level of difficulties is high the more the share of people staying at home is high

Gender influences the disability situation

60.4% of the individuals in a disability situation for their mobility are women, while women account for only 50.6% of the individuals who experienced no difficulties.

Gender of people with difficulties



Fewer trips for people affected

Persons in a disability travel less than persons who report no difficulties

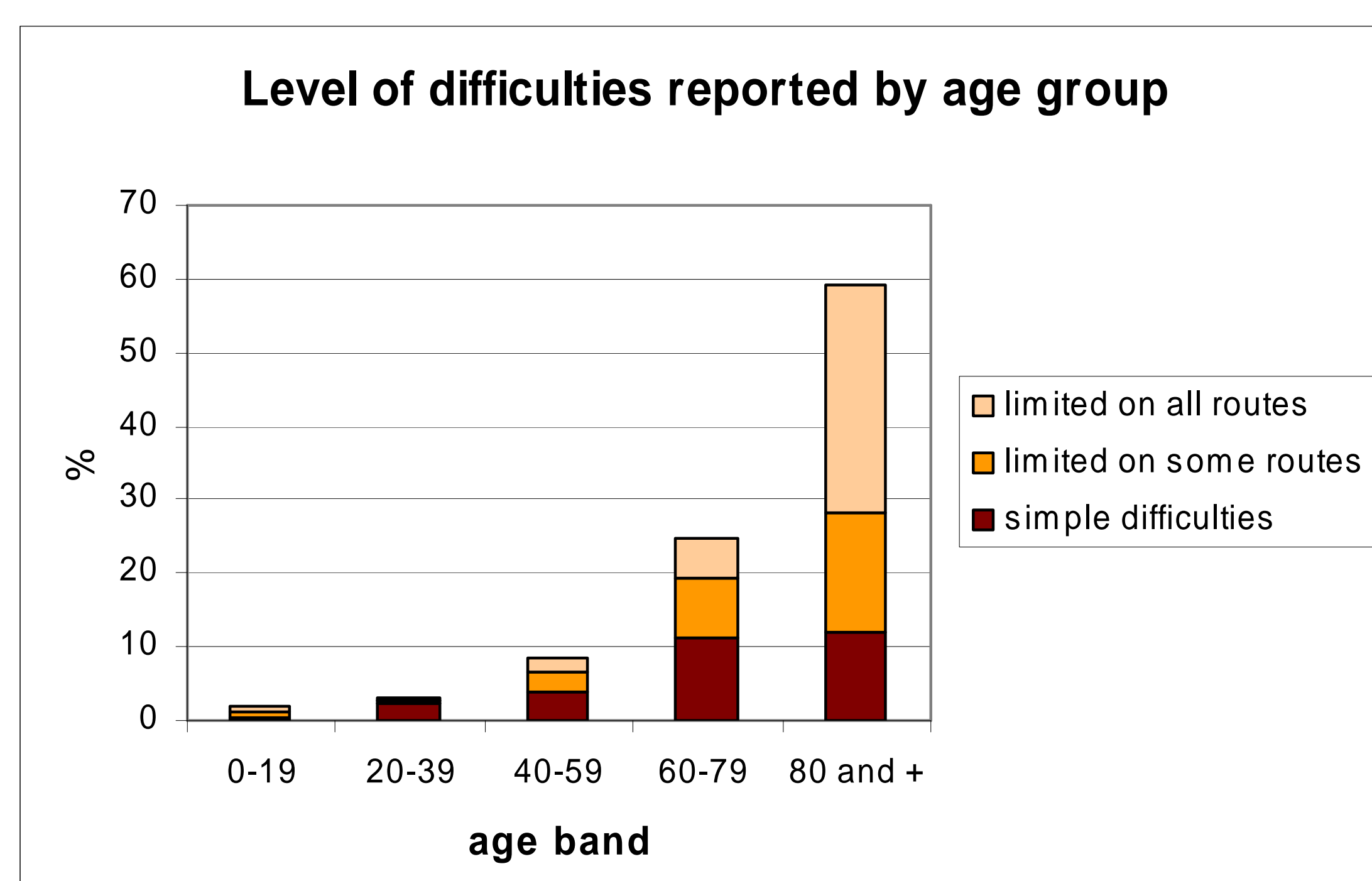
Level of difficulties	No difficulties	Simple difficulties	limited on some routes	limited on all routes
Average number of trips per person per day	1,3	1,0	0,8	0,4

Difficulties increase with age

The percentage of persons reporting travel difficulties increases with age.

While in the youngest age groups (under 60 year-olds) less than 9 % of individuals report difficulties, the figure for the 60-79 year-olds is 24.9% and for the over 80 year-olds, 59.2%.

Also, over the age of 60, a non-negligible percentage of the population experienced the most severe difficulties.

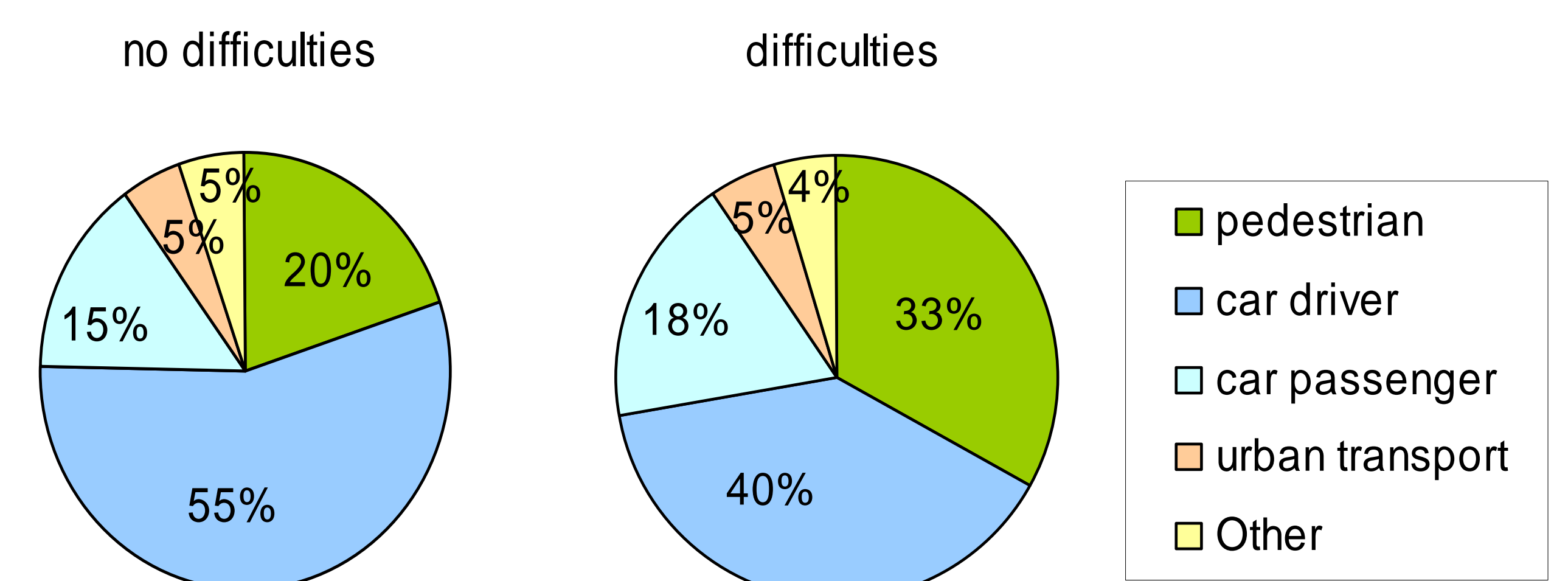


Different transport modes used by persons with and without travel difficulties

First, persons with difficulties seem to travel more on foot or in a wheel chair that those without: 33% of the trips made by persons with difficulties compared with 20% for persons without.

Furthermore, even though cars accounted for a smaller percentage of all the trips made by persons with difficulties, the percentage of their trips in which they were car passengers was higher.

Breakdown of the main transport modes used by people with and without travel difficulties



Conclusion

As disability situations are nowadays defined as a conflict between personal factors and environmental factors, the HID survey has allowed us to enumerate and characterize persons in disability situations during their journeys based on their responses to the question about their travel difficulties.

A number of socio-demographic characteristics affect travel difficulties, in particular older people.

Finally, persons in a disability situation travel less and use different modes than persons who report no difficulties.

