Findings from a Capability-based Travel Survey Among the Youngold Living in Sweden's Large Metropolitan Regions

Steven M. Schmidt [Sweden]¹, Anders Wretstrand [Sweden]¹, Jean Ryan ²

Lund University¹, .²

The objective of this study was to conduct an empirical investigation of disparities in mobility opportunities among the young-old living in Sweden's large metropolitan regions. By drawing on Amartya Sen's Capability Approach, this study aimed to identify which resources and characteristics among those aged 65-79 are associated with fewer mobility opportunities relative to peers. By focusing on mobility opportunities or capabilities (instead of proxies for capability), the disparities reflecting equity concerns could be more clearly depicted. The research material comprised 1,149 interviews with representative samples living in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö's large metropolitan regions. Links were identified between social resources, holding a driving license, access to public transport, income, health condition and chronological age and capabilities. These results call for a greater focus on capabilities in travel surveys and a more fine-grained approach to policymaking by accounting for intersectionality effects. In this way, more targeted and holistic policy measures – combining different aspects of everyday life – can be developed.