



# ANALYSIS BRIEF

## TRAVEL IN LA COUNTY



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In 2009, the State of California purchased samples of the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) to obtain information on everyday travel from nearly 45,000 people aged 5 and older living in 21,225 households across the State.

This brief presents some of the basic travel measures for people traveling in LA County summarized from the 2009 CA-NHTS. It is hoped that these data will help communities better understand travel behavior in the county; develop benchmarks for performance measures; and advance other metrics related to safety, sustainability, and livability, among others.

Table 1 and Table 2 present the mode of travel for trips originating in LA County.

Table 1 shows the distribution of mode within each mileage category. Of all trips less than one mile in length, 36.2 percent were private vehicle trips—21.4 percent shared ride and 14.7 percent drive alone. For trips less than one mile in length, 59.1 percent were by walking, and another 2.1 percent each were added by bicycling and transit.

For trips 1-2 miles in length over three-quarters were by private vehicle (75.8 percent composed of 44.6 percent shared ride and 31.3 percent drive alone) and 17.1 percent were by walk. Trips of this length (1-2 miles) are easy to accomplish by bicycle, and 3.1 percent of all trips in this category were by bike.

Table 1 Distribution by Mode within Trip Length Categories in LA County.

Means of Travel	Distance not Reported	Less than 1 mile	1-2 miles	2-3 miles	3 miles and greater	Distribution by Mode
Private Vehicle	57.0%	36.2%	75.8%	87.7%	91.8%	74.8%
Shared Ride	40.1%	21.4%	44.6%	50.0%	47.6%	41.1%
Drive Alone	16.9%	14.7%	31.3%	37.7%	44.3%	33.8%
Walk	8.4%	59.1%	17.1%	6.6%	1.3%	17.6%
Any Transit	28.2%	2.1%	2.6%	4.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Bike	1.5%	2.1%	3.1%	1.1%	0.7%	1.4%
Other	5.0%	0.6%	1.4%	0.6%	1.2%	1.2%
All	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

1) Any Transit includes public and private buses, subway, Metrolink and Amtrak, shuttle bus, ferries, and dial-a-ride

Table 2 shows the trip length (mileage category) of different modes of travel in LA County. Table 2 shows that altogether in LA County, 23.2 percent of reported trips were less than 1 mile in length and

12.4 percent were 1-2 miles in length—together well over one-third of trips originating in LA county are less than 2 miles in length.

Of all walk trips, over three quarters were less than one mile and of all bike trips reported just over one-third were less than one mile. Overall 11.2 percent of reported vehicle trips were less than one mile in length—10.1 percent of single occupant and 12.1 percent of shared ride.

Walk trips longer than one mile are fewer—only 12.1 percent of all walks are between 1 and 2 miles in length. For bicycle trips, 27 percent are between 1 and 2 miles in length. Vehicle trips fall close to the distribution of all trips—12.6 percent are between 1 and 2 miles in length.

Table 2 Distribution by Trip Length within Mode Categories in LA County

Means of Travel	Distance not Reported	Less than 1 mile	1-2 miles	2-3 miles	3 miles and greater	All
Private Vehicle	3.7%	11.2%	12.6%	13.6%	59.0%	100.0%
Shared Ride	4.6%	12.1%	13.5%	14.1%	55.7%	100.0%
Drive Alone	2.4%	10.1%	11.5%	13.0%	63.1%	100.0%
Walk	2.3%	77.7%	12.1%	4.4%	3.6%	100.0%
Any Transit	26.7%	9.8%	6.4%	9.3%	47.8%	100.0%
Bike	5.0%	33.9%	27.0%	9.2%	24.9%	100.0%
Other/No Report	20.1%	10.9%	14.7%	5.9%	48.4%	100.0%
Percent of Trips by Distance	4.7%	23.2%	12.4%	11.6%	48.2%	100.1%

Table 3 shows the estimate of trips and miles by major travel mode for LA County. The data show that on average the people of Los Angeles County travel about 3.5 trips per capita per day (including those who travel and those who don't) for a total of 1,285 trips per year that originate in LA county. These trips add up to nearly 80 trillion miles of travel—8,682 for every man, woman, and child aged 5 and older.

The CA-NHTS made a special effort to obtain full reports of walking activity; including walking for exercise and walking the dog (see “Measuring Trends in Walking” at <http://www.travelbehavior.us>). As a result of this added effort, walking represents nearly 18 percent of all trips originating in LA County but just 2 percent of all person miles of travel. LA County has a higher walk trip rate than the state as whole — 226 walks trips per capita in LA County compared to 184 for the state as a whole (see “Walking and Biking in California”, Sept 2012 McGuckin/UC-Davis for Caltrans).

Table 3 – Travel Summary Statistics for Los Angeles County

Means of Travel	Annual Estimate of Trips	Annual Estimate of Miles	Miles per Trip <sup>3)</sup>	Trips per Person 5 and older <sup>4)</sup>	Miles per Person 5 and older
Private Vehicle	8,839,200,000	71,873,599,392	8.1	961	7,817
Shared Ride	4,851,700,000	37,591,431,511	7.7	528	4,088
Drive Alone	3,987,500,000	34,282,167,881	8.6	434	3,728
Walk	2,079,600,000	1,407,231,515	0.7	226	153
Any Transit <sup>1)</sup>	588,260,000	3,090,433,028	5.3	64	336
Bike <sup>2)</sup>	168,580,000	378,754,795	2.2	18	41
Other	137,590,000	3,083,850,977	22.4	15	335
All	11,813,230,000	79,833,869,706	6.8	1,285	8,682

1) Any Transit includes public and private buses, subway, Metrolink and Amtrak, shuttle bus, ferries, and dial-a-ride

2) Only 281 bike trips had miles reported in the survey, so these estimates should be used with caution

3) This estimate is simply miles divided by trips. Mean distance estimated from the trip weights will be slightly different.

4) Trips and Miles are reported for the year--including weekends and holidays--and for all persons aged 5 and older, including those who traveled by the designated mode and those who didn't

The analysis presented here is from the 2009 National Household Travel Survey and the California supplement (add-on). The data are a rich source of information about travel in California and are available for safety analysis, travel demand estimation, and policy development.

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