

Abstract presentation: **'Ageing and air transportation'**

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In 2000 the United States Census Bureau estimated that there were 420 million people over 65 in the world. By 2030 the Bureau projects there will be 830 million people worldwide. The desire of older adults to maintain their independence as they age, places great demands on the provision of adequate transportation.

Most of the research on elderly mobility has been devoted to an examination of the transportation needed to maintain the activities of daily living: Getting to the doctor, going shopping, visiting friends.

But living is more than just surviving. The new generation of older adults – the baby boomers -- not only want to maintain their mobility within their immediate environs, they also want to have the freedom to travel and to use air transportation. Today more attention is being given to accessible tourism.

While older adults will undoubtedly have the time and the money fly, they may not be willing to do if such transportation is onerous. This reluctance to fly would not only reduce their quality of life, but it would also deprive the air transportation industry of a lucrative market.

The objective of this presentation is to demonstrate to airport sponsors, aircraft manufacturers and air transportation providers how it is in their interest to cater to the air transportation needs of older adults. Increasing the participation of older adults in the air travel market potentially yields an additional \$600 million dollars a year for airports and \$3 billion a year for airlines in the United States alone.

This seminar on Ageing and Air Transportation will contribute to a better understanding of the implications of ageing on air transportation; and help define the issues that need to be addressed by government policy makers.

The basic components of this presentation will be to:

1. Examine the physiological, sensory and mental changes that accompany normal aging
2. Explore the air travel behavior of older adults in light of these changes.
3. Identify the impediments to air travel by older adults, with emphasis on airports
4. Discuss potential airport enhancements to address the needs of older adults.
5. Define next steps
 - a What research needs to be undertaken?

- b. What policies need to be investigated?
- c. How can we engage and encourage collaboration among the stakeholders?

