

SURVEY RESULTS

West Virginia has 156 organizations that provide transportation services in all 55 counties. Transportation is provided by public transit systems, taxis, limousines, head start providers, non-emergency Medicaid transportation providers and social service agencies, such as councils on aging, health centers and community action programs. For some agencies, transportation is the only service provided; for others, it is only one of many activities.

Approximately 1,209 vehicles are in the combined specialized transportation and transit fleets. Only 56 agencies responded to the question of total operating expenses. On the basis of these 56 agencies responses, total transportation costs for their agencies are estimated at \$37,324,741. Funding for these costs comes from a variety of federal, state and local sources. Caution should be exercised when using the transportation costs since several agencies did not respond to the question.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's ADA regulations use paratransit to describe the comparable transportation service that must be provided for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use fixed route service. The number of ADA vehicles (specialized and transit) available in the state has increased from 494 in 1996 to 566 in 2008.

Transit systems operate in 32 of the state's 55 counties. The primary users of the service are the general public and senior citizens. Taxi service is available in 34 of the state's 55 counties.

Specialized transportation providers offer a wide variety of transportation services, from home meal delivery to employment opportunities to recreational activities and to medical appointments. The transportation programs are as varied and diverse as the agencies that operate them. Generally, the provision of transportation services is not the primary function of these agencies. The primary users of specialized transportation services are seniors and the disabled.