

What do Nordic people do when they use their power wheelchair?

Ase Brandt, PhD, MPH, Reg. OT

Senior researcher at the Danish Centre for Assistive Technology
aab@hmi.dk

Presentation

- Data from Danish study
- Data from ongoing Nordic study

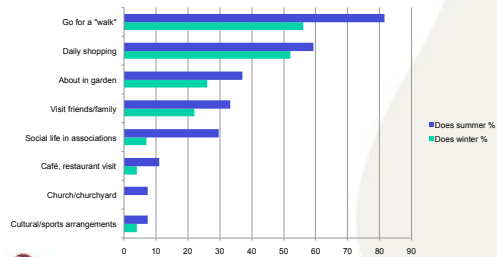


Danish power wheelchair and scooter study

- A cross- sectional structured interview study on outdoor activities
- Representative for
- 111 power wheelchair and scooter users
- 27 power wheelchair
 - Mean age 77 years (range 67 – 90)
 - 48% male



What Danish older pw users do

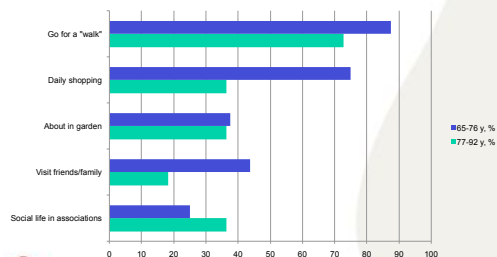


Similar to

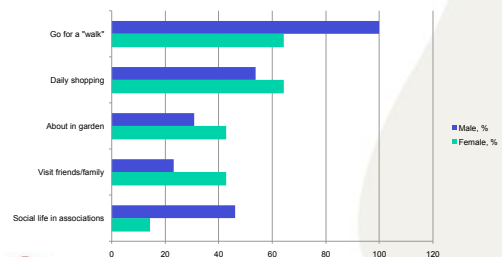


- What older people in general do when they go outdoors
- What scooter users do when they go outdoors

Age differences between age groups: 65-76 years and 77-92 years (n=16/11)



Gender differences Male: n=13, female n=14

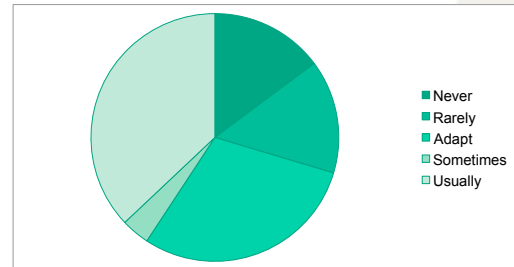


What they could not use the pw for

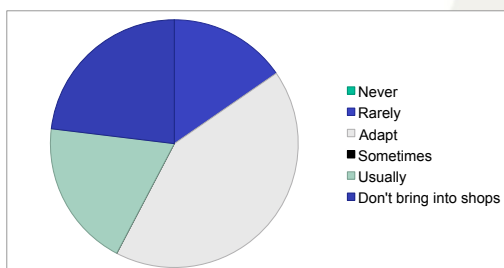
- 9 ~ 1/3 could not use pw for visits
 - Too far to go
 - Steps and other environmental barriers
- Other Activities: 1-3 could not use pw
 - Same reasons
- Too cold and sit for too long time were not reasons



Experience of environmental barriers: steep curbs



Experience of environmental barriers: steps



Nordic power wheelchair and scooter effect study

Pre-post study, data collection at baseline and 1 year follow-up

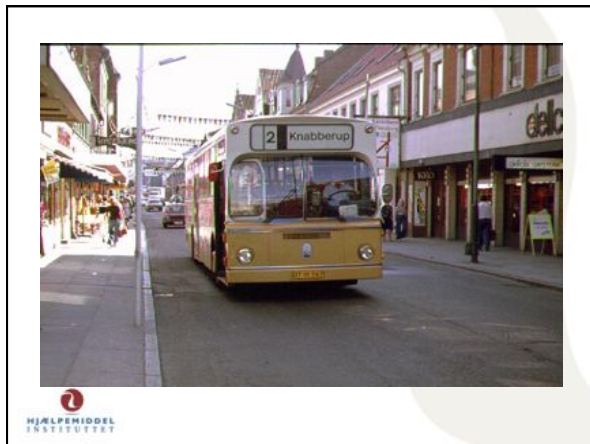
- Main outcome measure NOMO 1.0: mobility-related participation
- Structured interviews among community-based applicants for power wheelchair or scooter



What do the Nordic countries have in common?

Social welfare system

- Citizens needing a power wheelchair are entitled it free of charge if
 - It can improve the citizen's activity performance and participation in real life situations substantially
 - The citizen's quality of life is improved



Nordic power wheelchair and scooter effect study

- Sweden, Cecilia Petterson: N=34
 - 7 pw users
 - Data collection finished
- Norway, Terje Sund: n=120 & Denmark, Åse Brandt: n=60
 - 28 & 2 pw users
 - Baseline data collected, follow-up data collection in progress
- Finland, Heidi Anttila: N=60
 - Baseline data collection not finished

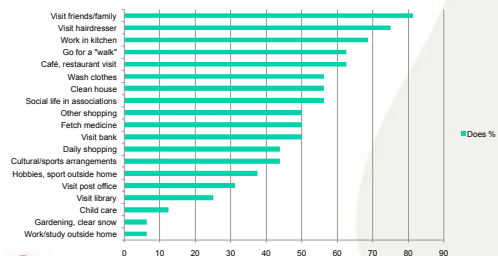


Provisional data: sample

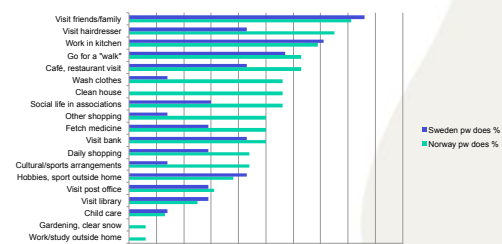
- Swedish pw users, n=7
 - Mean age 60 years (range 47-69)
 - 71% male
- Danish pw users, n=0 (final sample n=2)
- Norwegian pw users, n=16 (final sample n=30):
 - Mean age 72 years (range 42-93)
 - 38% male



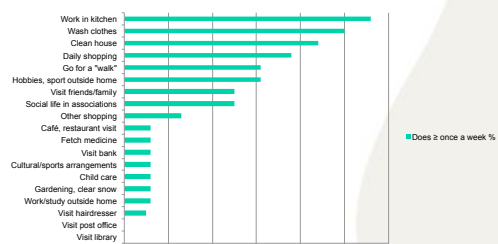
What pw users do in Norway



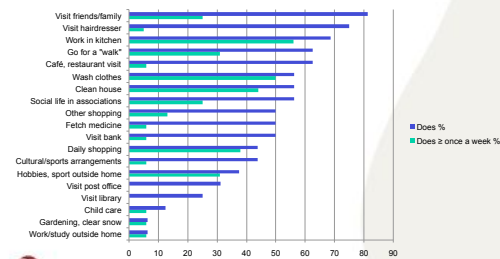
What the Swedish do compared to the Norwegians



What pw users do in Norway at least once a week



What pw users in Norway do and do at least once a week



What did they want to be able to do before pw?

Answer to open question:

- Half wanted to be able to go outdoors or that it got easier
- A quarter to be able to shop
- A few to be able to visit friends

Did the pw enable participation?

- Shopping
 - More did, more frequently, and it became easier
- Go for a 'walk'
 - More did, more frequently, and it became easier
- Visit friends
 - No change – why??

What pw users do depends on

- Time of year
- Country
- Gender
- Age
- How you investigate
- And much more.....

Future studies



- Generalizability – small sample sizes
- In depth knowledge – combination with other research methods?
 - Time geographical diary, photovoice
 - Other....

