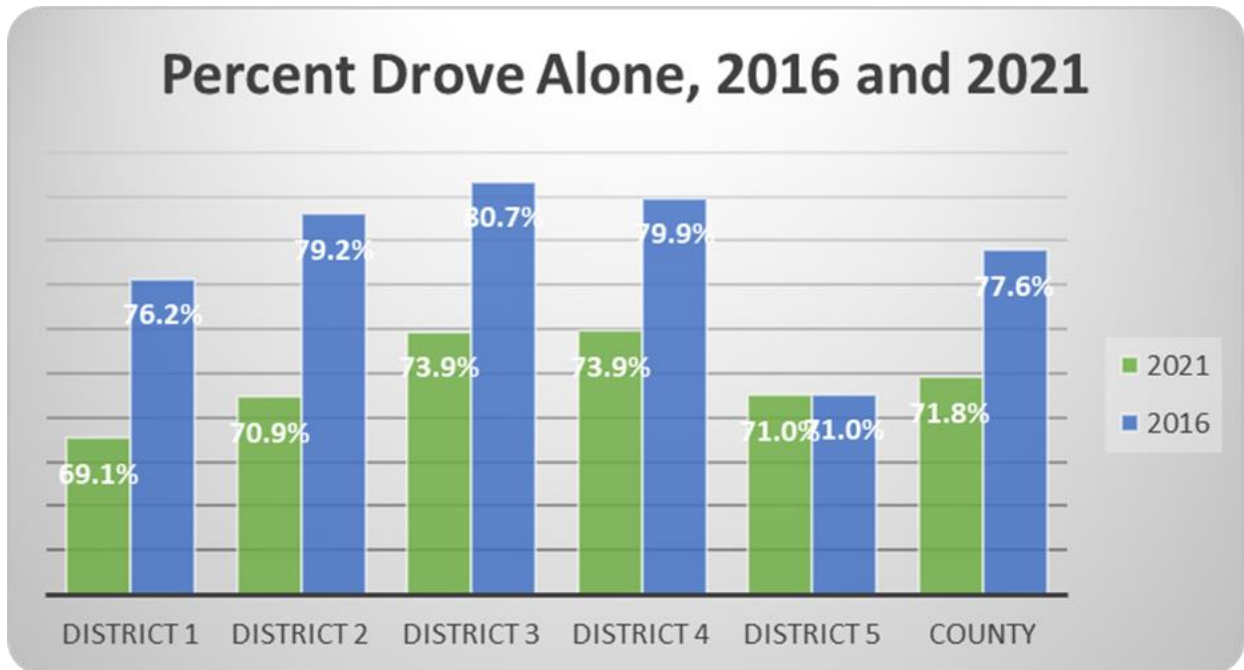


Arapahoe County 2021 Demographic Highlight – Means of Commuting

In December, the U.S. Census Bureau released data from the American Community Survey for places as small as census tracts. Annual surveys are the basis for these data but, for the small areas, the Bureau accumulates five years of data before they release new information. Therefore, the new release is based on surveys collected from 2017 to 2021. I will refer to this as 2021 data even though it represents a five-year dataset. The demographic highlight series will use these data to report on subareas of Arapahoe County. The current highlight reports will use the County Commissioner districts as the reporting units.

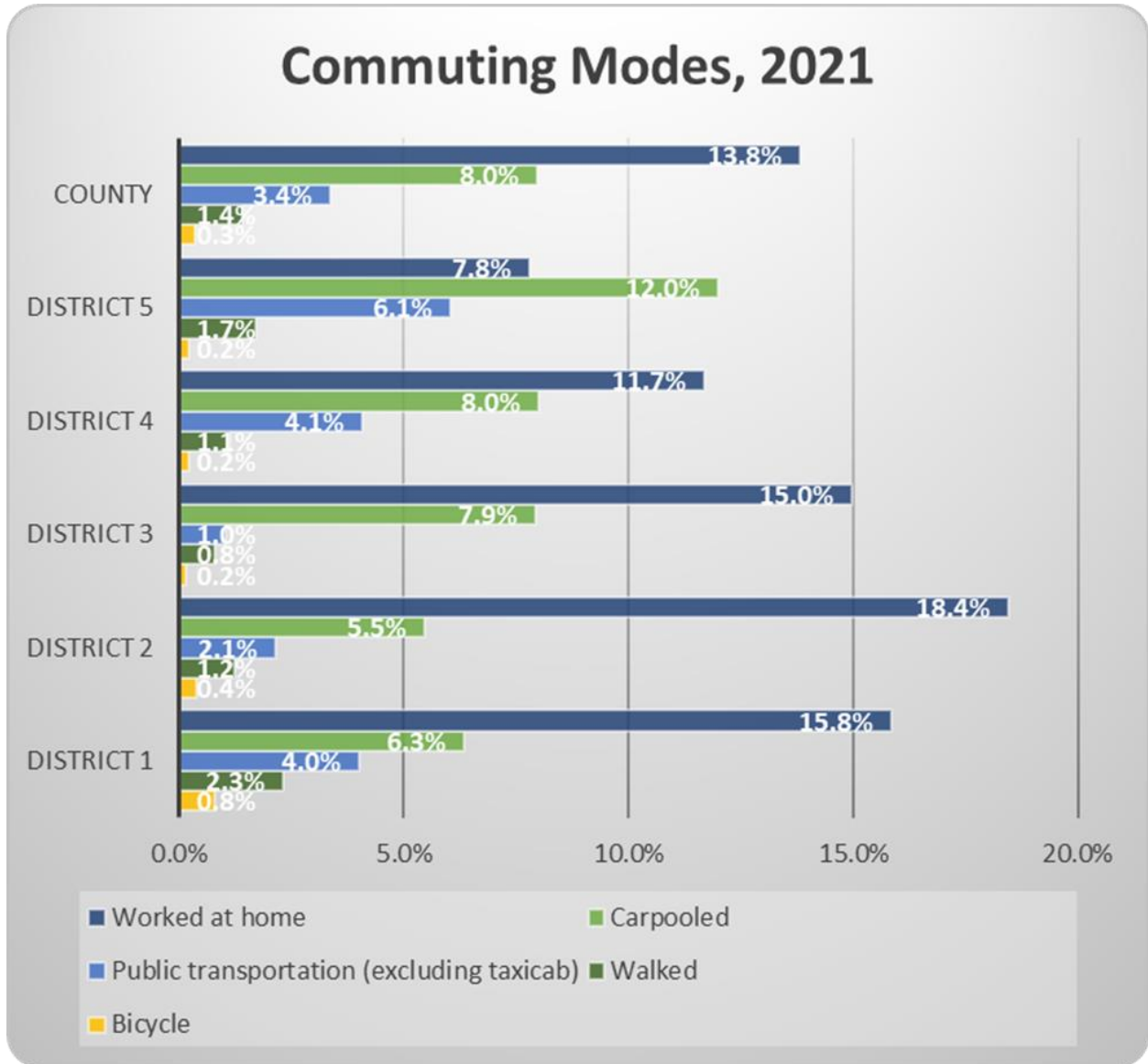
For those 16 and over who were working, the ACS asks how they usually got to work in the previous week. That phrasing can lead to some odd results if, for example, the person was on a business trip in New York that week and rode a ferry to work. However, those cases are rare and do not affect the general patterns.

The largest percentage of workers in every District drove alone to work in both 2016 and 2021. The pandemic resulted in significantly fewer people driving to work (and a corresponding increase in those working at home). The chart compares the share of drive alone workers in each District for the two years. Only Districts 3 and 4 had rates higher than the County average of 71.8 percent in 2021. Even in those two districts, the 2021 rate was at least six percentage points lower than 2016. Districts 2, 3, and 4 were all near 80 percent driving alone in 2016 and were below 74 percent in 2021.



The second chart shows the estimated shares of commuters for the other modes in 2021 in order by shares at the County level. In all but District 5, worked at home was by far the most method after driving alone. In every district, the share of those working at home more than doubled from 2016. District 5 led all Districts in the number of commuters using carpooling (8,200) and public transportation at 4,100.

District 1 had the most walkers at 1,500. Only District 1 had more than 500 people commuting by bicycle in 2021.



The ACS also provides a tabulation of commuting mode by the earnings of the worker. The table provides the median earnings for the three largest modes and an all other group for each District. The median earnings for the “all other modes” were the highest in all Districts likely due to the large percentage of persons who worked at home during the pandemic. The light rail service to District 2 explains that high value. District 5 has the lowest median incomes regardless of commuting mode.

Median earnings

	Total Workers 16 and over	Drove alone	Carpooled	Public Transportation	All Other Modes
<i>District 1</i>	\$ 51,758	\$ 51,515	\$ 40,855	\$ 42,009	\$59,861
<i>District 2</i>	\$ 63,380	\$ 61,333	\$ 46,066	\$ 61,118	\$75,000+
<i>District 3</i>	\$ 55,328	\$ 54,896	\$ 38,901	\$ 42,071	\$69,466
<i>District 4</i>	\$ 42,352	\$ 42,128	\$ 36,003	\$ 31,555	\$53,455
<i>District 5</i>	\$ 37,312	\$ 39,135	\$ 29,756	\$ 24,630	\$43,435
<i>County</i>	\$ 48,133	\$ 47,996	\$ 35,381	\$ 33,168	\$61,395

If you would like details about any of this information, or have questions about other 2021 information, contact me at lmugler@arapahogov.com or 720-874-6577