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## **Delivery Accessibility Improvement for Older Adults in Tompkins County**

Emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic block citizens' access to daily necessities, but technology makes many services accessible via smartphones and the internet. There is a large older adults population in Tompkins County who live separately from their children and don't use these services. This project is aimed to analyze and address the challenges they're facing regarding online delivery ordering.

## There is a gap between older adults and delivery services accessibility

- Many of them believe they don't need online delivery services, thinking it's not important because they can do everything by themselves. However, there are always emergencies where they can't do it themselves.
- They often mistakenly think ordering online delivery services is complicated or expensive, so they are reluctant to learn about and use these services.
- They are interested in using online delivery services but don't know which stores offer delivery services and whether they are within the delivery range.
- Many can't take advantage of technology because they don't know how to use delivery apps.



- Difficulty navigating apps or websites
- Security and privacy concerns
- Difficulty in understanding product descriptions
- Concerns about hidden fees

### " People crave connection and convenience, and a tech-linked world serves both well"

## Help older adults overcome challenges in accessing delivery service

#### **Data Collection**

- Collect delivery information for each grocery store and pharmacy in the county, including whether they provide store delivery and third party delivery, as well as the delivery range, and charges.
- Online survey and interview with local older adults and delivery drivers.

#### Data Analysis and Visualization

• Synthesize the data and feedback, make them into Table Chart, Pie Chart and Buffer Zone Maps.

## **Charges of the Delivery Services**

Through the interviews with older adults and delivery drivers, we understood seniors' usage patterns, preferences, and obstacles in ordering delivery sevices. By collecting data, we integrated the delivery methods and ranges of grocery stores and pharmacies.

Based on the data, we processed integration and visualization to make the delivery information of each store easier to check. We believe our findings will help to create an educational program to enhance seniors' skills in using online delivery services.

| Charging Mechanism |   |                          |  |              |   |  |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------|--|--------------|---|--|
| Item subtotal      | Checkout bag fee  | Checkout bag fee tax     | tip  | Services fee | Delivery fee  |  |
| \$93.00            | \$0.48(A small charge<br>depending on the size of<br>items) | \$0.03(A very small tax) | \$4.67<br>(you can chose by<br>yourself, at least<br>5% of subtotal) |              | \$0 (Some stores provide<br>free delivery if you spend<br>up to a certain amount) |  |

Challenges or concerns while using delivery apps



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# **Delivery Information Chart (Pharmacies)**

| Phrmacies                     | Delivery service store delivery range (need prescription) |  | third party range (normally don't need prescription)                               |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| CVS Pharmacy                  | YES   |  | 6-7 miles  |
| Kinney Drugs                  | YES   | free, 10 miles (have morning delivery service only on Mon/Wed/Fri) | 6-8 miles  |
| Kinney Drugs                  | YES   | free, 10 miles (everyday delivery in the moring)                   | 6-8 miles  |
| Kinney Drugs                  | YES   | free, 10 miles (have morning delivery service only on Mon/Wed/Fri) |  |
| Kinney Drugs                  | YES   | free, 6 miles (Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur in the morning)                 | 5 miles  |
| Walgreens Pharmacy            | YES   |  | 6-10 miles, need prescription  |
| Tops Pharmacy                 | YES   |  | 6-7 mins   |
| Walmart Pharmacy              | YES   | free, 8 miles  |  |
| Wegmans Food Markets Pharmacy | YES   |  | Almost cover Tompkins County (both prescription and non-prescription use Instcart) |
| CVS Pharmacy                  | YES   |  | 9.99\$, 8-10 miles (use Target APP, must purchase more than \$35)                  |
| Nature's Apothecary           | NO  |  |  |
| Walgreens Pharmacyy           | YES   |  | 6-10 miles, need prescription  |

# **Delivery Range (Areas covered in the county)**



#### Pharmacy Delivery Range

Most pharmacies who cooperate with third •
parties generally provide 8-10 miles delivery,
and more businesses involved with third parties.
In particular, the Wegmans pharmacy's delivery
range covers the whole county by Instacart. In
comparison to its store delivery, the range of thirdparty delivery is wider.



#### **Grocery Store Delivery Range**

• The average delivery range of both store and third party is 8 miles, except Wegmans, which serves anywhere within 60 minutes driving distance (which covers the whole county) from the store (+\$5 for every 30 mins additional driving distance).

### Recommendations

- Delivery Accessibility Enhancement: Distribute delivery accessibility maps, delivery information charts and tutorial brochures to every older adult in the county.
- Training Provision: Brochure of everything you need to know about online delivery services, Tutorial video, Faceto-face workshop. Collect feedback, and continually adjust educational materials to align with users' needs.
- Community Involvement: Establish a network of volunteers, older adults, and community members to achieve pair help for problem-solving. Collaborate with third parties and Stores in the county to share information.

Chengyu Wang, Hanyu Zeng & Yidi Xu; Instructor: Mildred E, Warner Supported by COFA This issue brief and related documents can be found at at: https://labs.aap.cornell.edu/node/923