



Generational Travel Patterns in the  
United States: New Insights from  
Eight National Travel Surveys  
(Yang Li) (CM2-73)

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## GENERATIONAL TRAVEL PATTERNS IN THE UNITED STATES: NEW INSIGHTS FROM EIGHT NATIONAL TRAVEL SURVEYS

Millennials' automobility preferences and choices have attracted widespread attention from academia, policy makers, and business industries. Existing studies, however, have reported mixed findings on whether Millennials differ from their predecessor generations, leading to contradictory conclusions drawn for transportation planning and policy recommendations.

This study utilized eight U.S. national travel surveys to construct a panel data that covers a continuous range of ages for persons five years and older for Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials. With this unique dataset, the study performed analyses on the trend of daily vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by an average person from each generation and its subgroups.

The study's findings on the direction and size of VMT influences associated with the five planning or policy variables did not support the speculation that Millennials would match or surpass Baby Boomers and Generation X in their future daily VMT trajectory. Public policies should be designed to nurture the shifting trend of reduced automobility from the older to the younger generations.

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