COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN AND MEN IN THE BALTIMORE AREA

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the trip making characteristics of women and men in the Baltimore metropolitan area. A survey was undertaken on white collar office workers. The purpose of the survey is to document and compare some trip making characteristics, including number of trips made, amount of time spent on the road, latent effect of random violence on trip making, and the travel issues perceived to be the most critical, for women and men.

Analysis of 51 participants (37 women and 14 men) suggests that, contrary to previous studies on gender related travel, women in white collar jobs make more daily trips and hence spend more time on the road than their male counterparts; equal proportion of the women and men perceived random violence to be the most critical travel issues; and the women postponed a higher percentage of their trips owing to perceived personal safety. The survey also shows that the married women make fewer trips than the single women; the women with kids make more trips than the women without kids; and the married women with kids make fewer trips than the single women with kids. In addition, the analysis of traffic accident data for the Baltimore metropolitan area from 1993 to 1995 reveals that the accident rate for men is approximately twice the rate for women.

The fatality rate ratio is even higher. The conclusion of the study is that contrary to the popular notion, for men and women with similar socioeconomic attributes, there is no evidence that men make more trips and travel longer than women. Indeed, there are indications that the women make more trips and spend more time on the road than their male counterparts.