



Fact sheet – Travel behaviour of young people

October 2015

Part of the [Tranzinfo Hot Topics](#) series, this fact sheet offers a selection of material on the changing travel behaviour of young people. Several countries have found a decline in the number of young people with a drivers' licence, resulting in a significant shift in travel modes. This modal shift can have implications in many areas of transport including road safety, infrastructure, congestion and the environment.

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[Young adult licensing trends and travel modes](#)

Bailey, T. J., Wundersitz, L. N., Raftery, S. J., & Baldock, M. R. J
2015, Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV), Melbourne

This report includes a review of the literature about the decline in licensing of young people. The report also includes the results of a survey of non-licensed young people in Victoria, summarising the reasons given for not obtaining a licence.

[Recent changes in the age composition of driver in 15 countries](#)

Sivak, M., & Schoettle, B. 2012. Traffic Injury Prevention, 13(2), 126-132

This paper summarises the number of drivers licence holders over time in the US and a number of European countries. The study found a decrease in the number of young people holding a drivers licence in over half of these countries.

Developments in driver's licence holding among young people: potential explanations, implications and trends

Aretun, A., & Nordbakke, S.

2014. VTI Rapport 824A, VTI, Linköping, Sweden

This literature review considers the decline in car usage by younger people and the socio-economic and geographic factors that may contribute to falling licensing rates.

Young adults' licence holding and driving behaviour in the UK: full findings

Berrington, A., & Mikolai, J.

2014. RAC Foundation, London

This report investigates the driving behaviour of young adults in the UK. Characteristics analysed include commuting patterns, socio-economic factors, age and gender.

What's youth got to do with it? Exploring the travel behaviour of teens and young adults

Blumenberg, E., Taylor, B., Smart, M., Ralph, K., Wander, M., & Brumbaugh, S. 2012. Institute of Transportation Studies, Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies and UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Michigan

This report analyses travel behaviour surveys of drivers in the US to determine how the travel patterns of youth differ from those of middle-aged adults. The travel measures investigated include miles travelled, mode type for travel to work and social trips and the number of trips taken.

Transportation and the new generation: why young people are driving less and what it means for transportation policy

Davis, B., Dutzik, T. & Baxandall, P.

2012. Frontier Group, Canada

This report considers the various reasons why young people are leading the trend of a reduction in driving in the US. Reasons for the reduction are examined in detail and include the introduction of graduated licensing schemes, access to communication technology, environmental impact and having access to more transport alternatives.

Timing of driver's licence acquisition and reasons for delay among young people in the United States

Tefft, B. C., Williams, A. F., & Grabowski, J. G.

2013. AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Washington DC

This report investigates the reasons young people in the US are delaying licensure until after turning 18 years old. The report considers how graduated licensing systems (GLS) that apply to drivers under 18 years may be having an impact.

Factors associated with young adults delaying and forgoing driving licences: results from Britain

Le Vine, S., & Polak, J. 2014. Traffic Injury Prevention 15, 794-800

This article uses 2010 National Travel Survey microdata to determine why young people are forgoing obtaining a drivers licence. Reasons include the difficult process of obtaining a drivers licence.

Exploring attitudes of young adults towards cars and driver licensing.

Delbosc, A., & Currie, G.

2013. Australian Transport Research Forum, 2-4 October 2014, Brisbane, Queensland

This paper presents the results of interviews with young people in Melbourne about their licensing intentions. The paper includes a discussion of the various reasons driving is no longer a priority for many young people as well as some of the policy implications of this modal shift.

Why are young people driving less? Trends in licence-holding and travel behaviour

Raimond, T. & Milthorpe, F.

2010. Australasian Transport Research Forum, 29 September – 1 October, Canberra

This paper examines licensing rates in New South Wales and considers the reasons for the decline in young driver licensing.

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Media reports

The great debate: do millennials really want cars or not?

TIME Magazine, Tuttle, B., 9 August 2015

Will Millennials change how cars are bought and sold?

TIME Magazine, Tuttle, B., 9 August 2015

Millennial malarkey: The myth that a generation hates cars

Fortune Magazine, Taylor III, A., 29 August 2015

The many reasons millennials are shunning cars

The Washington Post, Emily Badger, 14 October 2014

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