Purpose Statement

The purpose of this quantitative study will be to investigate travel patterns and determine transportation barriers for parents with children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years.

Background

After World War II, North American metropolitan areas experienced a cultural shift as the personal automobile allowed people to live in suburban areas and quickly commute to the city (Danielsen, 1999). This culture shift has created a new generation that desires suburban living and have accepted the presence of vehicles in their daily lives (Geller, 2003). However, low-density developments and the resulting car dependency has consequences; increasing pollution, large scale production of greenhouse gases, vehicle congestion, degrading quality of life and reduction in activity levels (Collins, 2010; Geller, 2003; Patridge, 2007; Strathman, et al., 1994). School travel planning (STP) initiatives have become a common method of combating suburban and car culture through the establishment of new sustainable habits within school aged children (Collins, 2010; Jackson, 2009). However, STP has demonstrated that habitual family travel behaviours are often established before children reach school age, when the child begins daycare and mothers return to work from maternity leave (Collins, 2010).

Daycare facilities are a critical component of liveable communities. Local planning policies can play an important role in ensuring adequate child care and providing social, economic, and environmental benefits for children, families and communities (Anderson, 2010; Hodgenson, 2011). An investigation of daycare parents’ travel patterns to determine sustainable transportation barriers will provide valuable information to guide future planning policies, development regulations and physical activity programs.

Objectives

To investigate parents’ daycare based travel behaviour

To understand transportation barriers for parents with children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years

To identify planning recommendations to improve parents with children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years travel planning

References


Zubrick, et al., 2010.