

INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY
AS A WAY OF UNDERSTANDING GRANDTRAVEL

By

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To my sister - who became my survey-collecting partner. With her along, I never minded the long drives to The Villages, and with her smiling face beside me, I was able to attract more participants than I ever could have by myself. I am grateful for the weeks and months it took me to collect this data, because these were weeks and months I was able to spend and enjoy with my sister. Thank you Elizabeth.

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As the baby boomers reach old age, the senior population is growing at an unprecedented rate. Characteristics of this population may include free time, willingness to travel, and a desire to spend time with family, especially their grandchildren. Combined, these characteristics create a strong case for grandtravel, grandparents traveling with their grandchildren. Various researchers have examined senior travel patterns, intergenerational relationships, and decision-making. However, there is currently no research examining how intergenerational relationships influence grandparents' tendencies toward grandtravel. This study contributes to the body of academic knowledge by being one of the first studies to relate intergenerational solidarity theory to the leisure field. This study looks at the concept of intergenerational solidarity (IGS) and its relationship with likelihood of, support of, and past experience with grandtravel. Intergenerational solidarity is also examined in relationship to grandtravel related decision-making tendencies. Two hundred and fifty two (252) surveys were

collected from different clubs and social groups in the retirement community of The Villages in Ocala, Florida. Results indicate that the majority of grandparents support the idea of grandtravel (80%) and would like to take part in this form of travel (79%); however, only 42% of grandparents had ever done so. No significant relationship between IGS and likelihood of travel was found. However, a significant relationship exists between four of the domains of IGS (affectual, consensual, normative and associational) and support of grandtravel. Grandparents with the highest levels of IGS were also the most likely to have traveled with their grandchildren. Those with the lowest levels of IGS were the least likely to have taken part in grandtravel. No significant relationship was found between IGS and grandtravel related decision-making tendencies, although grandparents with the highest levels of IGS were also the most likely to allow their grandchildren to take part in travel related decision making. Grandparents dominated in the decisions of where to go, when to go, how much money to spend and where to stay, and were most likely to evenly share with their grandchildren the decisions of what to eat and what to do while traveling.

This study has several implications. Because there is a strong interest, but fewer than half of grandparents have taken part in grandtravel, this is a strong travel niche that should be further explored by travel professionals and researchers. Second, grandparents with high levels of the six domains of IGS are more likely to support, likely to travel, and have past experience traveling with their grandchildren. Finally, the decision-making results of this study indicate that marketing relating to high-priced decision (where to stay) should be targeted toward grandparents. Marketing that relates to less expensive decisions (what to eat, what to do) should be marketed toward children.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Aging Population

Rapid changes in all areas of life have occurred over the past 100 years. Diseases such as polio have been vanquished, smallpox has been virtually eradicated, and incidences of cholera and tuberculosis have been severely reduced (Hobbs & Damon, 2001). Because of the invention and use of penicillin during World War II along with a greater understanding of microbiology and advances in Western medicine and public health, age-old diseases have been systematically tackled in the United States and throughout the world (Hobbs & Damon).

Because of these advances, life expectancy around the world has risen faster during the 20th century than ever before (Ceresole, 1999). In 1860, half the population of the United States was under age 20, and most of the population was not expected to live to age 65 (Hobbs & Damon, 2001). Since that time, life expectancy has been rising. In the last two decades of the 20th century, life expectancy at birth increased by 4.7 years for men, and 3.5 years for women (Reuters, 2003). Where life expectancy in 1993 was 76 years, by the year 2050 life expectancy is projected to be 82.6 years (Cheeseman Day, 2000).

Over the last fifty years, the world's population has increased over three times (Ceresole, 1999). During the 21st century, the total population of the United States tripled (Hobbs & Damon, 2001), with a large amount of this growth coming from longer life expectancy. Data gathered by the 2000 U.S. census support the massive growth of the

elderly population. In 2000, 35 million people 65 years of age and over were counted in the United States (Smith, 2002). This number demonstrates a sharp increase as 31.2 million older people were counted in 1990, a 12 percent increase (Hetzl & Smith, 2001). Looking at the increase in age over a longer period of time, the number of persons 65 years of age and older has increased by a factor of eleven, from 3.1 million in 1900 to 33.2 million in 1994 (Hobbs & Damon, 2001).

Seventy-five million babies were born in the United States between 1946 and 1964 (Hobbs & Damon, 2001). The coming high growth of the elderly population will be the result of the entrance of this Baby Boomer cohort into the 65 and over age category (Hobbs & Damon). The sheer magnitude of this human tidal wave can be seen when considering that those born between 1946 and 1964 totaled 70 percent more people than were born during the previous two decades (Hobbs & Damon). Because of the large number of baby boomers, the rate of growth of the elderly population will far exceed the growth of the population of the country as a whole (Hobbs & Damon). While growth of the elderly population from 1990 to 2010 will be steady, due to the medical advances stated above, there will be a massive increase in this population between 2010 and 2030, as these baby boomers reach old age (Hobbs & Damon, 2001). According to the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Institute on Aging (NIA), overall, the world's population age 65 and older is growing by an unprecedented 800,000 people a month (Velkoff & Kinsella, 2000).

Grandtravel

Couples and immediate families have traditionally been the focus of researchers and marketers. In the tourism industry however, there are many overlooked and underserved niches within this family travel market; one of the most significant of these is the

grandparent/grandchild niche (Gardyn, 2001). Grandparents vacationing with their grandchildren, without the grandchildren's parents have become one of the fast-growing travel trends to date (Curry, 2000). The growing demand for grandtravel is indicated by the fact that the business of grandtravel has increased 60% since 1996 (Jeffrey & Collins, 2001).

The concept of grandtravel was first put into practice by Helena T. Koenig. She developed Grandtravel, a company which runs escorted tours for grandparents and grandchildren. Grandtravel has received calls from over 15,000 people, without advertising (Schlosberg, 1990). Schlosberg hypothesized that if 15,000 sought out Grandtravel, thousands more would respond to advertising. Grandtravel, which is based in Chevy Chase, Maryland, has been in operation for 18 years. Tours range from 7 to 15 days and take place in the U.S., Europe, Africa, and Australia. Koenig believes the grandtravel experience draws grandparents and grandchildren closer together and helps them relate to each other in remarkable ways. Grandtravel may be an exciting way to expand the world of grandparent/grandchild relationships (Koenig, 2005). Recognizing a lucrative market niche, companies besides Grandtravel are now developing special grandparent/grandchild excursions.

The Walt Disney Corporation was another pioneer with the idea of grandparents traveling with their grandchildren. In 1998, Disney recognized opportunities to attract grandparents and grandchildren to Disney parks for vacations. It was at this time that Disney began to offer special packages and travel arrangements specifically arranged for grandparents with grandchildren. These packages continue to be offered today (Walt Disney World, 2005).

While grandtravel trips take travelers all over the world, there is a strong interest for grandtravel in the state of Florida. An independent telephone survey conducted in February 1998 asked 521 grandparents what their first, second, and third choice in the United States would be as a destination to take their grandchildren on vacation. Consistently, respondents mentioned Orlando. Forty-five percent of respondents mentioned Orlando in their top three choices, and 34 percent stated Orlando was their number one choice. Other popular cities included Washington D.C., San Francisco, and New York City. The Orlando/Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau found similar results in a study conducted one year earlier. In this study, 29 percent of respondents had participated in grandtravel, with the top destination being Orlando and its surrounding attractions (Orlando/Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2001).

The grandtravel trend appears to be “catching on.” This type of travel is now part of the schedule for many tour operators across the country including Elderhostel, a company well known for its educational travel programs (Gardyn, 2001). The grandtravel business may be one of the most lucrative travel niches available. Jerry Mallett, who researches travel trends as head of the Adventure Travel Society Inc, remarked that: “Grandtravel is the new cutting edge, for the first time in history we’re going to see grandparents taking the grandkids along as the next level of leisure activities” (Maxwell, 1988, p 18).

Theoretical Framework

Grandparenting Styles

With 69 million grandparents throughout the country and even more throughout the world (Jeffery & Collins, 2001), grandparent/grandchild relationships may vary

drastically between different families, and even within the same family. Cherlin and Furstenberg (1992) identified three styles of grandparenting: remote, companionate, and involved. Grandparenting styles are classified by the degree of contact between the grandparents and the grandchildren and the amount of influence the grandparents have on the grandchildren and vice versa (Cherlin & Furstenberg). The three grandparenting styles can be thought of as being on a continuum, ranging from remote to involved, and not very involved to extremely involved.

At the first end of the continuum is the remote relationship. Remote grandparents generally see their grandchildren so infrequently that they are unable to establish the easygoing, friendly relationship that is necessary for the closer grandparenting styles. Some remote grandparents live close to their grandchildren but still do not interact with them enough to develop a close relationship. Perhaps this is due to the relationship between the grandparent and the children, or various other factors. Remote grandparents find it difficult to become more than a symbolic figure in their grandchildren's lives (Cherlin & Furstenberg, 1992).

At the middle of the grandparenting continuum is the companionate style. Cherlin and Furstenberg (1992) report that the companionate style of grandparenting is the dominant style of grandparenting. These grandparents describe themselves as playful companions, and the givers and receivers of love and affection. Companionate grandparents enjoy taking part in emotionally satisfying, leisure-time activities with their grandchildren. Being able to spend time with their grandchildren without having to deal with the responsibilities of child rearing is a popular theme among companionate grandparents. These grandparents care a great deal about, and enjoy being with their

grandchildren. However they also enjoy the fact they can “love them and send them home” (p 56).

At the opposite end of the continuum is the involved style of grandparenting. These grandparents take an active role in raising some, or all of their grandchildren. These individuals are likely to act more as parents than traditional grandparents. Daily or almost daily contact, often after a disruptive event such as an out of wedlock birth, divorce, or death of a parent, characterizes the involved style of grandparenting. Much like the companionate grandparent, involved grandparents can be spontaneous and playful. However, these styles of grandparenting are different in that involved grandparents exert substantial authority and impose definite and sometimes demanding expectations upon their grandchildren.

Intergenerational Solidarity

The concept of intergenerational solidarity is based on the idea that the more you see and interact with a person, the closer your relationship will be with that person. Mangen, Bengston, and Landry (1998) suggest that intergenerational solidarity, or how close you feel to someone, is a multidimensional construct comprised of dependent on six distinct but interrelated constructs of solidarity. Solidarity refers to the nature of social bonds or ties that link individuals in one group to another. Intergenerational solidarity refers to how close your relationship is with those in different generations in your family. Specifically, the constructs of intergenerational solidarity examine issues of warmth, affection, attraction to, and interaction with one another and providing assistance when needed. The term solidarity is used to examine the variable manifestations of cohesiveness within the family group. These constructs include affectual, associational, consensual, functional, normative, and structural solidarity (Bengston & Schrader, 1982).

These constructs have been used in various studies concerning different aspects of grandparent/grandchild relationships.

Affectual solidarity involves the perceptions of feelings or emotional closeness and sentiment for family members in another generation. Associational solidarity involves the type and frequency of interactions shared between family members in different generations. Consensual solidarity is the degree or perception of agreement in opinions, values, and orientations between family members in different generations. Functional solidarity is the giving, receiving, and exchanging of tangible assistance and resources between family members in different generations. Normative solidarity involves the expectations regarding intergenerational support and filial obligations. Finally, structural solidarity is the “opportunity” structure for intergenerational interactions. This reflects the number, gender, and geographic proximity of the intergenerational family members (Mangen et al., 1988).

Link Between Intergenerational Solidarity and Grandtravel

Previous to this study, the link between grandtravel and intergenerational solidarity had not been established in the literature. Most of the existing work on grandtravel reports numbers concerning how many people travel, and where these people are traveling. This research typically does not use a theoretical or conceptual basis to reveal the causes and reasons for grandtravel. In contrast, this study explored the relationship between the constructs of intergenerational solidarity and travel. In so doing perhaps it would be possible to identify and explain what types of grandparents are more likely to participate in grandtravel. What types of grandparents are most likely to take part in grandtravel? What types of relationships these grandparents have with their grandchildren? Information regarding these questions would enable travel professionals

to determine which grandparents are most likely to take part in grandtravel, and better enable those involved with grandtravel to make the experience as enjoyable and rewarding as possible.

Justification

The justification for this study lies in a number of areas. First, this study will contribute to the academic body of literature. In this area it contributes as one of the first studies to apply the concept of intergenerational solidarity to the leisure field. In addition, from an industry point of view, this study can help determine how to give grandparents and grandchildren the best travel experience possible. This study is relevant to all areas of the country, but especially to Florida. Although the elderly population is increasing throughout the nation, the West and South regions have had the most growth in total population and in the older population (Hetzl & Smith, 2001). The older population is a particular concern for the state of Florida. In a report of the ten places of 100,000 of more population with the highest proportion of their population 65 years or over, five of these cities are located in Florida and include, Clearwater, Cape Coral, St. Petersburg, Hollywood, Miami, and Hialeah (Hetzl and Smith). This demonstrates a huge need for studies relating to the older population in the state of Florida. Specific to this study is the interest in those who have grandchildren. The large numbers of older adults who are retired, have money and free time, and reside in Florida demonstrates the need for a study such as this. In addition, these grandparents may be geographically removed from their grandchildren and therefore travel to see their grandchildren or vice versa.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to examine the concept of intergenerational solidarity and grandtravel. This study provides information on the likelihood of grandtravel, support of grandtravel and past experience of grandtravel in relation to intergenerational solidarity. In addition, this study looked at decision-making tendencies during grandtravel in relation to intergenerational solidarity. This information revealed what types of grandparents are most likely to take part in grandtravel and what types of relationships they have with their grandchildren. This was accomplished by examining grandtravel from a theoretical and conceptual point of view.

Research Questions

Six research questions guided this research:

1. What do the distinct domains of intergenerational solidarity look like?
2. What does the profile of grandtravelers look like?
3. What is the relationship between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and likelihood of grandtravel?
4. What is the relationship between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and past experience with grandtravel?
5. What is the relationship between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and support of grandtravel?
6. What is the relationship between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and decision-making behaviors in regards to grandtravel?

Delimitations

This study was delimited to grandparents who live in The Villages and took part in some of recreational activity of club. The residents of the Villages are all middle class to high-income individuals or families. This is a newly developed community with

mostly new large houses. The large majority of The Villages residents are white, which resulted 98% of response coming from white grandparents. Also, residents of The Villages have chosen to live in a place with a myriad of recreational activities, because they chose to move to such a place residents are most likely to enjoy such activities.

Participants volunteered to take part in this study. It is possible that volunteers of a study concerning grandchildren had a better relationship with their grandchildren than those who were not willing to take part. This may have resulted in a skewed result in the intergenerational solidarity results if compared to those that would have resulted if the sample had been random. Because of these limitations, results are limited in terms of generalizability to all grandparents but may be generalized to those grandparents who have similar circumstances to those to took part in this study.

Limitations

There were a number of limitations to this study. First, the questionnaire was 37 questions long and many participants may have suffered from fatigue while filling out the questionnaire. Several participants completed the questionnaire as quickly as possible, which may have caused them to not thoroughly consider all the questions. There were some issues within the questionnaire, which may have posed a threat to the validity of this study, mainly unclear questions. For example, when asked about the amount of financial support they provided for their grandchildren it was not made clear whether or not this included gifts. Additionally, the question of childcare did not include a response for "none," making it unclear whether or not those who did not answer this question did so because they did not provide any childcare or because they simply skipped the question.

An additional limitation of this study is the fact that it asked about a “favorite” grandchild. A large number of respondents were offended by the word favorite and opted to withdraw from the study after seeing this word.

CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

There are several areas of literature that relate to the topic of grandtravel. Literature on senior travel examines a variety of topics relating to the travel tendencies of older adults. Past experience with grandtravel is examined from several different sources. Decision-making processes of families and the effects of decisions made by different members of the family are examined in literature on decision-making. Perception of grandtravel held by grandchildren reveals the child's view of grandtravel. Finally, a review of the literature on intergenerational relationships introduces us to the variety of issues affecting the relationships between grandparents and grandchildren. These areas of literature are examined below.

Senior Travel

The senior travel market is not a new topic in the travel literature. One of the first studies on this topic was by Guinn (1980) who examined the motivations for recreation participation among older recreational vehicle tourists. Using data gathered from over 1,000 recreational vehicle tourists, Guinn found that the primary motivations for travel included rest and relaxation, opportunities to meet and be with friends and family, physical exercise, and learning experiences. Results revealed that leisure motives and recreation participation were closely associated with age and socioeconomic variables. Also, the motive of rest and relaxation was more important to those with higher socioeconomic status. Providing a learning experience was found to become more

important with age. Participation in leisure activities with friends and family became increasingly important with age and socioeconomic status. Finally, recreation participation in games, sports, and nature appreciation activities decreased with age.

Participants and non-participants of group travel programs were studied by Blazey (1987). His study examined travel interests, constraints to travel, and other relevant characteristics regarding those aged 55 and older that participated or did not participate in a group travel program. Blazey found that reluctance to drive in the dark, not being interested in the trip, and difficulty registering for the program were the most frequently cited reasons for not taking part in the travel program. Participants were significantly more likely to be female than male. Participants were more likely than non-participants to report having average to excellent health. There was no significant difference in race, educational attainment, employment status, or marital status between participants and non-participants.

The female segment of senior travelers was studied by Hawes (1988). Results indicated that women aged between 55 and 59 had a high interest in traveling overseas. Women who indicated they would be most likely to travel to foreign places were those who had previous experience traveling to such countries. Three of the five age groups identified by Hawes, including the 70-and-over group, were not primarily interested in resting and relaxing on vacation. The general profile of women travelers showed that this group consisted of those with higher education levels and higher income levels, smaller household sizes, activeness, and acceptance of the uncertainty involved with travel.

Shoemaker (1989) surveyed members of the senior travel market and segmented the market into smaller homogenous groups. He surveyed 407 Pennsylvania residents

aged 55 and older. Travelers were divided into three clusters, based on their reasons for travel. Cluster 1 was considered family travelers. According to Shoemaker this group enjoyed spending time with immediate family members; enjoyed playing golf and going shopping. This group also enjoyed shorter trips and preferred to return to a destination rather than visiting a new one. Family travelers also preferred things to just happen rather than plan carefully. Cluster II was referred to as “active resters.” This group sought spiritual and intellectual enrichment; enjoyed meeting people, socializing, resting and relaxing, escaping the everyday routine, engaging in physical exercise, and visiting historic sites. Finally, cluster III, the “Older Set” consisted of travelers who were generally older than those in cluster I or II. Cluster III travelers were most likely to stay in resorts where everything was included. This group also liked to visit historic sites, tell family and friends where they had traveled, and take part in trips filled with activity.

Shoemaker’s cluster analysis of senior travelers was used by Vincent and de los Santos (1990) in their study of older winter travelers to Texas. Senior winter travelers to Texas were found to fit into two clusters: (1) “active resters” and (2) “older set.” These travelers’ preferred longer trips over shorter ones, and sought many incidental activities. These two studies are slightly different in that while Shoemaker examined senior travelers based in Pennsylvania, Vincent and de los Santos examined snow birds who traveled to Texas or the winter.

Different groupings were determined by Leuix, Weaver, and McCleary in 1994. Their study of lodging preferences of the senior tourism market helped to identify three types of leisure-travelers among older adults. These categories were novelty seekers,

active enthusiasts attracted to physically active pursuits while on vacation, and reluctant travelers who are older, less educated and have a lower income.

Determining the difference between participants and non-participants was examined by Zimmer, Brayley, and Searle (1995). They explored the differences between older adults who traveled and those who did not. Results indicated that as age increased the tendency to travel decreased. Also, as education level increased, tendency to travel increased, and as mobility decreased, tendency to travel decreased. Other important indicators of likelihood of travel included health status, income level, ability to handle money, number of chronic health conditions, and interest in spending money on recreation. As health status, income level, ability to handle money, and interest in spending money on recreation decreased, tendency to travel also decreased. As number of chronic health problems increased, tendency to travel decreased.

Similarly, Teaff and Turpin (1996) studied the preferences of senior travelers. Travelers over the age of 50 preferred non-hectic, pre-planned, group-based pleasure travel for rest and relaxation and visiting relatives. In contrast, travelers aged under 50 who traveled for rest and relaxation were more likely to participate in outdoor recreation activities or to visit man-made amusement facilities. Teaf and Turpin also found that 52% of respondents 65 years of age and older planned to take three to four trips per year during retirement, and that when people retired the number one activity they wanted to engage in was travel. Conclusions indicate that travel may “be a very important life-enriching resource” (p. 16).

The differences between segments of the older adults were examined by Backman, Backman and Silverberg (1999). The authors examined the senior nature-based travel

market by comparing “younger seniors” (aged 55-64) with “older seniors” (over the age of 65). Older seniors were more likely than younger seniors to visit friends and relatives as the major purpose of their trip. Older senior travelers stayed longer on their trips (8.46 nights) than younger seniors (6.95 nights). Younger seniors spent less time planning for their trip than older seniors. Younger seniors were also more interested in relaxation than older seniors.

Hong, Kim, and Lee (1999) used data from the 1995 Consumer Expenditure survey to examine factors associated with the likelihood of taking a trip. Race, education, marital status, economic factors, and home ownership determined whether or not the elderly were not going to travel. Income was significantly related to both the likelihood to travel and the level of travel expenditure. Current income was the only variable that significantly affected both the likelihood to travel and the actual amount of money spent on trips. Finally, young-old (55-64) travelers were most likely to spend more on trips than other groups of the elderly, possibly because for many there are peak earning years and for many who are parents no longer have financial responsibilities for their children (Hong et al).

The decision of senior citizens in Israel to travel was examined by Fleischer and Pizam (2002) in a study of the Israeli senior travel market. The decision to take a vacation by Israeli seniors aged 55 and older was dependent not only on the individual's self assessed health condition but also income level. Age did not play a significant part in the decision to travel. In addition, these authors found that the number of vacation days taken increased until age 65, and then dropped after the age of 75, revealing that those ages 61 to 70 years of age tended to take the longest vacations.

The study of the Israeli seniors was extended by Fleischer and Seiler (2002). Findings focused on past experience and income. Seniors with past vacation experience took longer vacations than those without past experiences. There was a significant positive relationship between income and the likelihood of vacation travel.

Leisure-travel patterns and meanings in later life were examined by Gibson (2002) who found that in the early years of retirement individuals are busy travelers. Traveling to Europe, taking part in Elderhostel programs, and traveling throughout the US to visit friends and family were the most popular forms of travel amongst respondents. The majority of respondents also felt that leisure-travel was an important part of their lives both for educational and spiritual reasons.

In a study of senior traveler behavior in Taiwan, Huang and Tsai (2003) found that the majority of respondents traveled for rest and relaxation. Spending time with immediate family was also an important reason for traveling. When looking at all-inclusive packaged tours, convenience was rated as the most important attribute, followed by help with unfamiliar sights, language problems, and help with travel safety. Senior travelers preferred their trips to be 6-10 days long. Taiwanese senior travelers were most attracted to historical places, beautiful places, culture and eco-tourism. The biggest barrier to travel were issues of health related mobility problems.

As demonstrated by the above studies, the senior travel market has been researched in a number of ways. Major findings include the primary motivations for travel being to visit with family and friends (Guinn, 1980; Gibson, 2002; Huang & Tsai, 2003), older travelers prefer non-hectic, pre-planned, group-based travel for rest and visiting relatives (Teaf and Turpin, 1996), participants are likely to be female and be in excellent health,

base decision to travel on self-assessed health condition and income level (Blazey, 1987; Fleisher & Pizam, 2002), and as income and health status increase, likelihood of travel also increases (Zimmer, Brayley & Searle, 1995). Even with this large amount of literature, research concerning older adults traveling with their grandchild was not found in the extensive literature review. This study will expand the study of older adults to include grandtravel.

Link Between Grandparenting and Leisure

Very few studies have looked at grandparenting as it relates to leisure activities. However, this link was examined by Wearing in a 1996 study, which looked at whether or not grandmothers considered grandmotherhood as leisure. Results from 20 qualitative interviews indicated that over half of respondents were ambivalent in determining whether or not they considered grandmotherhood leisure. Six respondents stated that grandmotherhood was leisure and two respondents said it was not. One of the determining factors of whether or not grandmothers considered this role leisure was the amount of childcare grandparents were required to provide to their grandchildren. As the amount of childcare increased, the fewer grandmothers considered grandparenting a leisure activity. This study demonstrates that grandparenting can be considered leisure, but it is dependent on how much responsibility grandparents are required to have for their grandchildren.

Past Experience with Grandtravel

In the year 2000 America's 60 million grandparents spent \$36.6 billion on their grandchildren (Curry, 2000). Escorted grandtravel trips through the Grandtravel company range from \$6,700 per adult for a 10-day Wild West tour, to \$17,625 for a 12 day trip in China. (Maxwell, 1998). Twenty seven percent of grandparents aged 50 to

59, and 16% of grandparents aged 60-74 said they vacationed with their grandchildren in a typical month. According to this information, if grandparents spent \$500 per trip with grandchildren, Curry estimates that grandtravel would be at least a \$6.5 billion market.

The key to the popularity of the grandtravel experience may be that this type of trip offers something for everyone involved, even the parents who are not involved.

Grandparents are able to spend quality time with their grandchildren without interference from the parents. The parents are able to relax, as they know their children are away with someone they know and trust (Maxwell, 1998). Currently, the most popular grandtravel trips include theme parks and cultural centers like Washington D.C., New York, and Orlando. Safaris are popular for those wanting more extensive travel.

Maxwell reported that the most difficult part for the grandparents may be remembering how to deal with young children and being prepared for any problems (carsickness, homesickness, etc.) However, many trips are pre-arranged in order to alleviate these problems. Often in planned group travel, grandparents are offered breaks from the grandchildren through separate arranged activities. As an example, on Hong Kong trips, grandparents get a day off for shopping and sightseeing, while grandchildren are taking a tram tour.

Decision-making and Grandtravel

One of the earliest studies to examine children in family decision-making was that of Berry and Pollay (1968). This study focused on the influence of children on family decision-making by investigating the hypothesis that “the more assertive the child, the more likely the mother would purchase the child’s favorite brand of breakfast cereal” (p. 71) and “the more child-centered the mother, the more likely she would purchase the child’s favorite brands of breakfast cereal” (p. 71). The study was unable to support

either of these hypotheses, showing that child-assertiveness and mother child-centeredness may not be directly related to purchasing decisions.

In order to determine the effect children had on their mother's purchases, Ward and Wackman (1972) studied childrens' attempts to influence mothers' purchases of various products, and the mother's giving in to these attempts. The children's influence on purchases of certain products decreased with age, depending on the type of product. However, mother's agreement with the child's request increased with age. This could most likely be due to a perceived increase in the child's competence level, as they begin to understand what they need. The products that mothers most likely agreed with were food products.

Early family decision-making literature primarily focused on the husband-wife dyad. Davis and Rigaux (1974) examined the perception of marital roles in the decision process. Their study addressed specific questions: (1) do marital roles in consumer decision-making differ by phase of the process? (2) to what extent do husbands and wives agree in their perception of roles at various phases of the decision process? The study determined that marital roles were found to vary in the decision process. Roles in decision-making also varied depending on what type of decision was being made, or what the decision was related to. For example decisions were found to be either husband dominated, automatic, wife dominated, or syncratic. Syncratic decisions were considered to be very specialized and had an equal amount of influence exerted by the husband and the wife.

In the early years, research concerning family purchasing activities was limited and tended to characterize the wife as the principle family-purchasing agent. However,

this varied throughout the family life cycle. For example, family decisions were thought to take place differently during the early marriage stage versus the late marriage stage, with early marriage being a time of intense negotiation, and late marriage being a time in which everything tends to be in a stage of flux. Because of this, Cox (1975) suggested that viewing family purchase decision-making in the context of the goal-oriented behavior of a small group may be more satisfactory than examining it in terms of the relative power of husband and wife.

Szybillo and Sosanie (1977), examined decisions capable of reflecting a full range of family role structures, and decisions that could be generalized into the idea of “family outings.” Specifically, questions regarded having dinner out, and going on a one-day family trip were examined. The dominance of different family members varied within the decisions being made. Families visiting fast food restaurants indicated a high degree of adult/child interaction throughout the entire decision-making process. Family decisions for day trips were also characterized by adult and child interaction. However, the interaction was not as pronounced as that of the fast food restaurant decision. A significant number (34%) of the decisions for family trips were made by the husband-wife dyad, not including the child. This lead to further research involving the child as a family decision maker.

Children’s influence on family decision-making has been examined in terms of deciding where families go when they eat out. Children’s involvement in this decision was examined across six decision-making stages including, problem recognition, providing information, deciding on restaurant type, deciding on particular restaurant, deciding how much will be spent, and making the final decision. The results of this study

indicated that children over the age of five were as involved as the parents in four of these stages, recognizing the problem, providing information, deciding on restaurant type, and deciding on a particular restaurant. Parents were in total control of the other two stages, making the final decision, and deciding how much money would be spent (Nelson, 1979).

Other research on family decision-making found that the husband and the wife may perceive the amount of influence the child has on decisions differently (Jenkins, 1979). Through focus group interviews it was determined that in general, husbands more than wives perceived their children to be more influential in family decision making. Also, children were perceived to exert more influence in vacation decisions and less influence in major appliance decisions. The vacation decisions were considered “child dominant.” The types of activities the family would take part in while on vacation were the most likely to be influenced by children. The amount of influence children had on vacation decisions varied by the number of children in the family (the more children the more influence the children had). Perceived influence of the child also varied depending on the level of education of the husband and number of hours spent at work. As these variables increased, the amount of child decision-influence decreased.

The amount of influence parents perceive their children to have in terms of family consumption may be related to the mother’s attitudes. Roberts, Wortzel, and Berkeley (1980) studied mothers’ attitudes and perceptions of children’s influence and their effect on family consumption. Two research questions were developed, (1) do mothers’ attitudes toward a variety of family-related and social issues, influence their perceptions of the amount of influence their children have on their brand choices? (2) Does the

amount of influence children have affect the amount of family consumption in that particular product category? Results indicated that three attitudinal dimensions, economic, health-related, and liberal versus conservative affect the amount of influence mothers' allow their children to have on family purchasing decisions. The higher the amount of concern was in these three categories, the lower the level of influence.

In examining travel behaviors, it is important to consider who the person is traveling with. Individuals are most likely to travel as part of a group. In a study of the dynamics of travel groups, Crompton (1981) sought to determine how groups influence an individual's travel behavior. Four concepts were found to have influenced the decision to travel. First, the group had a direct influence on the destination selected. Second, members of groups who had traveled to a certain location influenced other members, through casual conversations. This is referred to as the normative influence of social groups. Third, individuals were influenced by the history of a groups travel experiences. For example, if a person traveled often as a child, they were more likely to travel often as an adult. Finally, travelers were affected by the locational influence of social groups, i.e. traveling to visit friends and relatives. Those who take part in grandtravel are likely to be affected by all four of these group related travel influences.

Contrary to Berey and Pollay's (1968) study where children were thought to influence parents, studies have also examined parents influences on children. This concept focuses on the idea of socialization. Socialization refers to children's acquisition of consumer habits from their parents. Reverse socialization is the opposite. The type of socialization that takes place varies depending on the communication between parents and children. Children in families whose communication patterns encourage children to

develop their own ideas tend to have more influence on parents than children in families who avoid communication. (Ekstrom, Tansuhaj, & Foxman, 1986).

Children's influence on family purchasing decisions has also been studied in terms of family vacations. According to Swinyard and Sim (1987) children are significant participants in each stage of the decision-making process for a variety of products, including vacations, outside entertainment, and restaurants. In fact, children were involved in approximately 60 to 80% of all decision stages.

The family typically is the predominant social group in which people choose to spend their free time. Travel makes up a large amount of this free time. When family members travel together who makes the decisions for the vacation? Travel related decisions within the family are frequently examined in three ways, husband-dominated, wife-dominated, or joint decision between husband and wife. When examining families traveling to Alaska, Nichols and Snepenger (1988) found a majority of families used the joint decision-making mode, with the husband-dominated mode coming in second, and the wife dominating mode coming third. This study indicated that marketing efforts should appeal to both spouses. Even though this study did not mention the influence of children, the joint decision-making mode showed that more than one person makes the decision.

The idea of joint decision-making was supported by Lackman and Lanasa's (1993) study on decision-making activities for goods and services within a family. They found decisions appeared to be more of an outcome of joint decision making. The presence of children within the family had the potential to affect decision-making within the husband-

wife dyad. In families that had children, children played more of a role in the decision-making process.

Lackman and Lanasa (1993) found that children have an especially important influence on the decision-making process in terms of vacation. When making vacation and travel decisions, 60% of families reported adolescents had an influence on decisions. Because of this, Nickerson and Jurowski (2000) examined the benefits of conducting surveys on vacationing children. Results indicated that children's response rate is higher than that of adults, children are slightly more satisfied with the destination, and children provide an important perspective in terms of planning and developing a destination to increase child satisfaction. The authors suggested, because children play a major role in the decision-making processes of family vacations, it is important to listen to what these young customers have to say. Word-of-mouth advertising is one of the largest forms of advertising, which children play a large part in. Luckily, children are more willing and likely than adults to fill out and return surveys so their important ideas may be easily accessible.

In their study on family vacation decision-making, Kim and Kerstetter (2001) sought to broaden the understanding of children's influence on family decision-making in the context of travel. Results indicated that children had an influence on various aspects of the family vacation decision, and that children's influence changed under different family structures. This indicates that children may have a different form of influence in the grandtravel situation.

Perceptions of Grandtravel Held by the Grandchildren

The steady increase in the popularity of grandtravel is demonstrated by the fact that grandparent/grandchild travel accounted for one fifth of all trips taken with children in

2000 (Gardyn, 2001). This percentage is an increase of 13% from 1999. In his study on grandparent travel, Gardyn found that 20% of grandparents had been on a trip with their grandchildren in the past year. While these trips included the child's parent, 12% of grandparents reported having been on a trip with children in their family without another adult present. The demand for grandtravel is not coming exclusively from grandparents. The majority of grandchildren (56 %) ages 6 to 17 say they would "really like" to travel with their grandparents. The youngest grandchildren were the most enthusiastic about the opportunity with 78% of grandchildren aged 6 to 8 responding that they would like to travel with their grandparents.

Intergenerational Relationships

The constructs of intergenerational solidarity are used to measure many different aspects of grandparent/grandchildren relationships. For example, structural, associational, normative, and functional solidarity are used to show how geographic distance influences the frequency of association and assistance between grandparents and grandchildren (Kivett, 1991).

Grandfathers' relationships with their grandchildren develop as they take part in joint activities, provide assistance to, support, and help their grandchildren face family challenges (Roberto, Allen, & Blieszner, 2001). The proximity of family households influences the frequency of association and exchange of assistance and support between grandfathers and grandchildren. Greater geographical distance in grandfather-grandchild relationships, especially during the early years of the grandchild's life, increase the likelihood that the relationship will be remote (Roberto et al., 2001). However, even if geographic distances increases the amount of contact between grandchildren and grandfathers, this does not guarantee the formation of a close relationship.

The constructs of intergenerational solidarity have also been used to measure adult grandchildren's perceptions of emotional closeness and consensus with their maternal and paternal grandparents (Mills, et al, 2001). This study focused on the constructs of affectual and consensual solidarity; they found that grandchildren feel emotionally closer to maternal grandparents than they do to paternal grandparents. Overall, the most emotional closeness is held toward maternal grandmothers. Results indicated that grandmothers received the highest scores on affect and consensus regardless of lineage. This supports the idea of kin-keepers theories that are based on the idea that women are more involved in family relationships than men are; hence they are kin-keepers and hold the primary responsibility of keeping the family together (Dubas, 2001). Dubas found that gender is related to both closeness and importance young adults place on relationships with their grandparents. Also, relations with maternal grandparents were described as more important than those with paternal grandparents. Aspects that may include affect and consensus include enjoying the grandparent's personality and shared activities (Kennedy, 1991,1992).

Affectual and consensual solidarity were used to examine cross-ethnic grandparent/adult grandchildren relationships (Giarrusso, Feng, Silverstein, & Bengston 2001). This study demonstrated that when both grandparents and their grandchildren are asked about their relationships with one another, grandparents tend to rate the relationships higher in terms of affect and consensus. This is known as the intergenerational stake phenomenon. This is most common with Euro-American grandparent/grandchild dyads. However, this varies across different ethnicities. In

Mexican American grandparent-grandchildren dyads, feelings if affect may exhibit a reversal of the pattern demonstrated by that of Euro-Americans (Giarrusso et al., 2001).

Associational, functional, and affective constructs of intergenerational solidarity were used by Silverstein and Marengo (2001) to determine the different roles grandparents play in the grandchild's life throughout different life stages. In general, grandparent involvement was characterized by frequent contact, high rates of support and activity, and a strong sense of accomplishment and meaning in the grandparent role. This varies with the age of the grandchild however. Grandparents with younger grandchildren tended to have more interaction with the grandchildren than those with older grandchildren. While younger grandchildren accompanied their grandparents to fun activities and religious events, older grandchildren discusses personal concerns with grandparents, but interacted with them less (Silverstein & Marengo, 2001.)

It is obvious that the grandparent/grandchild relationship is very complex and can be affected by many different factors. The constructs of intergenerational solidarity have been used to determine how geographic distance effects association and assistance between grandparents and grandchildren, perceptions of emotional closeness and consensus, intergenerational stake phenomenon, and relationship differences between different life cycles.

Grandparent/grandchild relationships share many characteristics, but some are distinctively different. Studies have examined a variety of these relationships. Particularly, interesting is a study which examined the role of the grandfather. In a 2001 study, Roberto et al., conducted a qualitative study on grandfathers to examine the interactional dynamics occurring within families. They examined the influence of

interactional dynamics on quality, meaning, and maintenance of relationships as grandparents (fathers) and grandchildren grow older. Similarly, Dubas (2001) examined the influence of gender on grandparent/grandchild. Controversially however, this study attempted to determine which grandparents (maternal or paternal, grandmothers or grandfathers) grandchildren felt closest to. The above studies, while focusing on different areas, all focus on the general grandparent/grandchild relationship. Few studies have explored grandparent/grandchild relationships as they relate to specific life occurrences, events, or activities.

One of the shortcomings of many studies looking at grandparents/grandchild relationships is the fact that researchers are often only able to gather data from one side of the relationship. For instance in a 2001 study conducted by Dubas and a separate study conducted by Mills, Wakeman and Fea (2001), data were gathered using grandchildren's ideas and opinions about their relationships with their grandparents. In addition a 2001 study conducted by Silverstein and Marengo used grandparents to gather the data. The problem with these studies is that even though relationships occur between two groups of people, we only become aware of thoughts and feelings from one end. Few studies have been able to avoid this issue by gathering data from both the grandparents and the grandchild. One such study is that Giarusso, Feng, Silverstein and Bengtson (2001) who surveyed both grandparents and grandchildren on the intergenerational stake phenomenon.

Another issue concerning studies of grandparent/grandchild relationships is the lack of diversity. Illustrative of this, Roberto et al., (2001) studied grandfathers perceptions and expectations of relationships with their grandchildren in a qualitative matter. This

sample was very homogeneous. Of the 11 grandfathers, all were white except for one African American.

A similar issue appears in Dubas' (2001) study of how gender moderates grandparent-grandchild relationships, of the 335 midwestern students used as a sample, 98% were white. Because of the imbalance of white respondents in these studies, results cannot be generalized to other populations. This idea is supported by the 2001 study by Giarrusso et al., which demonstrated the differences in affect and consensus between grandparents and grandchild in the Euro-American and Mexican-American dyads. While Euro-American grandparents tended to have more affection for their grandchildren than their grandchildren have for them, this pattern is reversed in Mexican American dyads. Hence, the variability of relationships between different ethnic groups can be extremely different and makes it important to take into consideration.

Studies concerning grandparent/grandchild relationships have not been in agreement as to whom they consider a grandparent. The main discrepancy comes in terms of age, period of birth and cohort. The age used for samples involving grandparents varies between study to study and also within studies. For example, Silverstein and Marengo conducted a national telephone survey interviewing 920 grandparents, 31% of which were under the age of 55. Conversely, Giarrusso surveyed and compared results between Euro-American grandparents and Mexican-American grandparents. The Euro-American grandparents in this study were all age 55 or above, while the Mexican-American grandparents were all age 65 or above. Even though all respondents were grandparents the samples are not equivalent in terms of age and leaves

questions concerning how the age, period of birth or cohort the grandparent belongs to may affect the grandparent/grandchild relationship.

The importance of grandparent age is demonstrated in a 2001 study by Silverstein and Marengo, which focused on how the grandparenting role changes in meaning and with the aging of the family unit as both grandparents, and grandchildren pass through different life stages. Results indicated that the life stage of grandparents and grandchildren is an important factor in determining how the grandparent role is enacted. Older grandparents are less likely to interact and recreate with grandchildren, and are more likely to provide money or gifts. Consequently, the age and mindset/attitude of the grandparents is an important aspect to take into consideration when examining the grandparent/grandchild relationship.

Summary

In summary, there are several areas of literature that lead us to the present study. Previous studies of senior travel have examined senior travel motivations and preferences. Different segments of the senior travel market have been studied, including female travelers, travel participants and non-participants. Finally, senior travelers have been examined in terms of their likelihood to travel, especially in relation to their past travel experiences.

Decision-making has been studied in several different ways, specifically in terms of the family. Most family decision-making literature has focused on the husband-wife dyad. In more recent research, family decision-making has been examined in terms of the entire group, specifically children's influence on parents and visa versa. Decisions made while eating out are the most studied decisions made by families. Other studies

have examined a child's influence on the mother in terms of purchasing decisions. In terms of vacations and travel, adolescents have a large influence on decision making. This may have a strong influence on grandtravel, as grandchildren state a strong interest in traveling with their grandparents. Even though there are numerous studies regarding family decision making, there is currently little research examining the grandparent/grandchild decision-making process, and no research examining decision-making during grandtravel.

Although there is little information presently available regarding grandtravel, there are a few known facts. First, grandparents are very likely to travel or want to travel with their grandchildren. Second, grandparents are most likely to want to take their grandchildren to theme parks or cultural centers, and finally, the most difficult part of the trip for the grandparent may be making sure they keep up with their grandchild.

Finally, intergenerational relationships have been studied in a number of ways. Studies have examined gender and race influence on intergenerational relationships. Studies have also examined the effects of aging on intergenerational relationships.

CHAPTER 3 METHODS

Data Collection

Data for this study were gathered using a convenience sample of residents of The Villages Retirement Community. Data were gathered through surveys that consisted of 37 questions and took about 15 minutes to complete. Questions consisted of Likert-type answers, multiple-choice answers, write in the number answers, etc. Between June 1, 2005 and August 15, 2005, the researcher traveled to The Villages retirement community in Lady Lake, Florida to collect data (Figure 1).

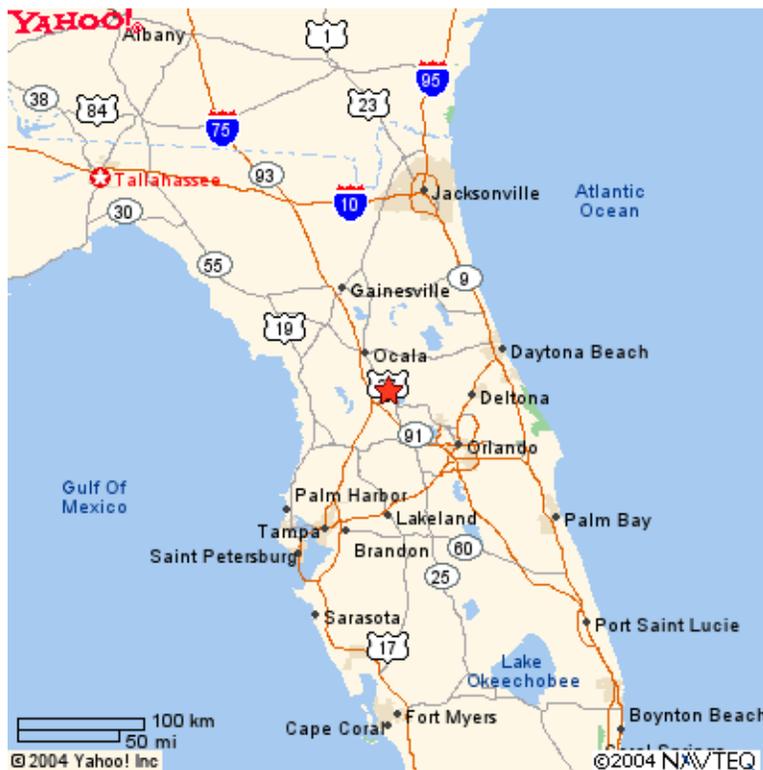


Figure 1 – The Villages distance (www.maps.yahoo.com)

The researcher visited different social clubs including the Three C's Ohio Club, The Michigan Club, The Kentucky Club, The Baby Boomers Club, The La Hacienda Women's Club, the Pimlico Community Club, and The Villages Clog Hoppers. The researcher collected surveys during The Villages College of Life Long Learning's open house and shared a table on Wednesday evenings with the College of Life Long Learning at the Villages Spanish Square. The researcher also spent four Saturdays from 9 am to 4 pm collecting surveys in the lobby of the Mulberry Grove Recreation Center. An article was printed in The Villages Daily Sun and the researcher was interviewed on The Villages radio station in an effort to recruit participants. A total of 252 surveys were collected (Table 1).

Table 1. Distribution of responses for different areas of data collection

Location	<u>N</u>	%
Mulberry Recreation Center (3 visits)	75	30.0
Three C's Ohio Club (2 visits)	34	13.0
Life Long Learning College	30	8.4
Baby Boomers	26	10.3
Kentucky Club	20	7.9
Michigan Club	18	7.1
La Hacienda Women's Club	18	7.1
Pimlico Neighborhood Social	11	4.4
Village Clog Hoppers	10	4.0
Spanish Square Table	10	4.0
Total	252	100%

Please note percentages may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding.

Survey Instrument

The questionnaire consisted of five parts: intergenerational solidarity, likelihood of grandtravel, past travel experience, perceptions of grandtravel, and decision-making during grandtravel. Respondents were asked to complete the survey while thinking about one particular favorite grandchild for the entire questionnaire. This has been done before

by Mills (2001). Because grandparents have different types of relationships with each of their grandchildren, asking respondents to complete the survey referring to their favorite grandchild controls for responses of multiple grandchildren. Without this, respondents may for example answer question 1 referring to their oldest grandchild, question 2 referring to their youngest grandchild, etc.

It is predicted that higher levels of intergenerational solidarity will lead to higher levels of grandchild decision-making, more favorable perceptions of grandtravel, and higher levels of past experience with grandtravel. This in turn will lead to a higher likelihood to take part in future grandtravel experiences.

Independent Variable

The independent variable of this study is intergenerational solidarity (IGS). Through a variety of questions concerning the relationship with their grandchildren, grandparent's level of intergenerational solidarity with their favorite grandchild was determined. Intergenerational solidarity was ranked on a three point scale – 1 = high, 2 = medium, 3 = low. Structural solidarity was measured as either high or low. By comparing intergenerational solidarity to the answers given concerning likelihood to take part in grandtravel, it was determined whether or not grandparents with higher levels of intergenerational solidarity would likely exhibit differences in likelihood to take part in grandtravel as compared with grandparents with lower levels of intergenerational solidarity.

Intergenerational solidarity was measured using six distinct, but interrelated constructs; affectional, associational, consensual, structural, normative, and functional solidarity. In order to answer these questions, respondents were asked to do so referring to one particular grandchild.

Affectual solidarity was measured using 6 questions (1) How well do you get along with your favorite grandchild, (2) how well do you feel you understand your favorite grandchild, (3) how well do you feel this grandchild understands you, (4) overall, how well do you and your favorite grandchild get along together at this point in your life, (5) how is communication between you and this grandchild – exchanging ideas of talking about things that really concern you at this point in you life and (6) taking everything into consideration how close do you feel is the relationship between you and your favorite grandchild? (Table 2).

Questions 1-4 were answered on a six-point scale including not at all well, not too well, somewhat well, pretty well, very well and extremely well. Question 5 was answered on a five-point scale including not at all good, not too good, somewhat good, pretty good, and very good. Finally, question 6 was answered on a six-point scale including not at all close, not too close, somewhat close, pretty close, very close, and extremely close.

Associational solidarity was measured using a single question that asks, in the past year approximately how many times have you been in contact with your favorite grandchild. Respondents were asked to write a number next to the relevant reponse: in person, over the phone, letters, and email.

Consensual solidarity was also measured with one question. In general, how similar are you opinions and values about life to those of your favorite grandchild at this point in time? Respondents completed this question by choosing one of six choices, not at all similar, not too similar, somewhat similar, pretty similar, very similar, and extremely similar.

Structural solidarity was measured in one question. Respondents were asked, what is your gender, answered by circling male or female, and what is the gender of your favorite grandchild, also answer by circling male or females. Next respondents are asked, how close does your favorite grandchild live to you? Respondents select either within the same city, within the same state, in the same region of the country, in a different region of the county, or in a different country. In what year were you born determined the respondent's age, and was answered by writing the year in the blank. How old is your favorite grandchild was answered by the respondent writing the number of years in the blank.

Functional solidarity was measured in two questions. First, "In the past year how much financial support have you provided for you favorite grandchild." Respondents selected either none, \$50 or less, between \$51 and \$100, between \$101 and \$500, between \$501 and \$1000, over \$1001, or over \$10,000. The second question, "In the past year how much childcare have you provided for your favorite grandchild," was answered by respondents choosing either none, 1-12 hours, 1-3 days, 3-7 days, 2-3 weeks, 1 month, 2-3 months, 4-6 months, or more then 6 months.

Normative solidarity, the final construct, was measured using one question. This question stated; looking toward the future how much do you expect that your favorite grandchild will feel a since of family obligation toward you? Respondents chose either, none at all, a little, some, a good amount, quite a bit, or a great deal.

Table 2. Intergenerational solidarity scale

Category	Question	Score
Affectional	1. How well do you get along with your favorite grandchild?	1 to 6
	2. How well do you feel you understand your favorite grandchild?	1 to 6
	3. How well do you feel this grandchild understands you?	1 to 6
	4. Overall, how well do you do your favorite grandchild get along together at this point in your life?	1 to 6
	5. How is communication between you and this grandchild – exchanging ideas or talking about things that really concern you at this point in your life?	1 to 5
	6. Taking everything into consideration, how close do you feel is the relationship between you and your favorite grandchild?	1 to 6
Associational	7. In the past year, approximately how many times where you in contact with your favorite grandchild?	1 to 4
Consensual	8. In general how similar are your opinions and values about life to those of your favorite grandchild's at this point in time?	1 to 6
Structural	9. How close does your favorite grandchild live to you?	1 to 5
Functional	10. In the past year, how much financial support have you provided for your favorite grandchild?	1 to 7
	11. In the past year, how much childcare have you provided for your favorite grandchild?	1 to 8
Normative	12. Looking toward the future how much do you expect that your favorite grandchild will feel a sense of family obligation toward you?	1 to 6
Total		12 to 71

Dependent Variable

It is hypothesized that the level of intergenerational solidarity would be related to several components of grandparent's travel. Specifically, decision-making, perceptions of grandtravel, and past experience with grandtravel were examined.

Perceptions of grandtravel were examined by five questions. The first question asked, what do you think about the idea of traveling with your favorite grandchild without the parents of that child? Answers included strongly support, support, neither support or don't support, somewhat support, and do not support. Next, respondents were asked, if you were to travel with your favorite grandchild without the parents of this child, what would you like to do. This is asked as an open-ended question. Another open-ended question followed, asking respondents where they would like to go. The fourth question in this section was how long would you like to stay on such a trip? Answers included 1-2 nights, 3-4 nights, 5-6 nights, one week, 1.5 weeks, or 2 weeks. The last question in this section asked respondents what types of activities they would like to take part in during a trip with their grandchild. Responses included sightseeing, taking part in educational classes, sporting activities, crafts, shows (theater, dance, etc.), shopping, or relaxing.

A number of questions were asked in order to determine respondents past experiences with grandtravel. First, respondents were asked if they had ever traveled with their grandchild without the parents of that child. This question was answered by circling either yes or no. If the respondent answered yes, they were then asked how many times they had traveled with their favorite grandchild without the parents of that child. They were then asked where they traveled too. Respondents then chose in state, out of state but the same region of the country, out of state in a different region of the country,

or internationally. For this question respondents were asked to check all answers that applied. Next respondents were asked if this trip took place within the last 12 months answers were either yes or no. The next question asked how long the trip was. Respondents chose either 1-2 days, 3-5 days, 1 week, 2 weeks, or more then 2 weeks. Finally, an open-ended question asked, what was your favorite place you traveled to with your favorite grandchild without the parents of that child?

The final section of the survey examined the decision-making process between grandparents and grandchildren while traveling. Respondents were asked to predict the percentage of the decisions they made, and the percentage of the decision they allowed their grandchild to make in relation to different aspects of the trip. The questions included where to travel, when to travel, how much money to spend etc. Respondents were asked about, where to travel, when to travel, what types of activities to take part in, where to stay, and what to eat. For each of these questions respondents had a response space for themselves and a space for the grandchild. Respondents placed a percentage in each response space with the numbers adding up to 100%.

The decision-making framework utilized in the present study is a variation of Jenkin's (1978) study on family decision making. The purpose of Jenkins' study was to determine how families made vacation decisions. More specifically, Jenkins sought to determine which members of the family decided where to go, where to stay, how long to stay, how much to spend, and what to do.

For the present study, the framework was adjusted to use the grandparent/grandchild dyad. Like the husband/wife dyad used by Jenkins, grandparents were asked to record what percentage of the vacation subdecision was made by the

grandparent, and what percentage of the subdecision was made by the grandchild. The decision was then categorized as either grandparent dominant, grandchild dominant or shared equally by both. As with Jenkins' study, understanding how families or any sort of traveling dyad makes decisions is important to travel agents, travel promoters and state and local governments interested in attracting tourists. With the most influential member identified for various decisions, marketers can focus their efforts on the member of the dyad most likely to influence that decision.

Demographic questions included; race (White, Black, African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Other pacific islanders, or some other race), yearly income (less than \$10,000, \$10,000-30,000, \$30,000-50,000, \$50,000-\$100,000 or over \$100,000), marital status (single (never married), married (first marriage), widowed, divorced, remarried after divorce or death of spouse, or living together as if we were married) paternal versus maternal relationships (how is your favorite grandchild related to you)? Respondents selected, child of a son, child of a daughter, child of a son-in-law, or child of a daughter-in-law.

Setting up the Data for Analysis

Computing the Six Domains of Intergenerational Solidarity

In order to respond to research questions #1 "What do the distinct domains of intergenerational solidarity look like?" each domain was examined individually. Responses to 5 of the 6 survey questions for affectual solidarity were measured on a six-point scale. One item was measured on a five-point scale. To examine the affectual solidarity variable that was measured on a 5-point scale the variable was arithmetically transformed from a 5-point scale into a 6 point scale (Table 4). A reliability measure was then run to determine the reliability between these 6 variables (Table 5). The six

variables were then added together and divided by six to create a single variable of affectual solidarity.

Table 3. Affectual solidarity responses (six-point scale)

Response	Not at all well/good %	Not at all well %	Somewhat well %	Pretty well %	Very well %	Extremely well %
How well do you get along with your favorite grandchild? (n=251)	0.0	0.4	1.2	6.0	34.2	58.2
How well do you feel you understand your favorite grandchild? (n=251)	0.0	2.0	6.0	26.7	35.9	29.5
How well do you feel this grandchild understands you? (n=250)	0.4	2.4	14.0	36.4	31.6	15.2
How well do you and your favorite grandchild get along together at this point in your life? (n=251)	0.4	0.8	1.6	13.1	38.6	45.4
How close do you feel is the relationship between you and your favorite grandchild? (n=250)	0.4	2.0	9.6	22.8	37.2	28.0
Total	0.2	1.5	6.4	21	35.5	35.2

Table 4. Transforming of affectual solidarity scale response from a 5 to a 6 point scale
How is communication between you and this grandchild – (n=249)

	Old Scale Item	New Scale Item	%
Not at all	1	1.2	1.2
Not too	2	2.4	5.2
Somewhat	3	3.6	16.9
Pretty	4	4.8	41.0
Very	5	6.0	35.7

Table 5. Reliability of affectual solidarity

Response	Corrected Item - Total Correlation	Alpha if item Deleted	Standardized Item Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Coeff.
1 (n=251)	.70	.88	.90	.90
2 (n=251)	.74	.87		
3 (n=250)	.71	.88		
4 (n=251)	.73	.88		
5 (n=249)	.70	.88		
6 (n=250)	.77	.87		

To determine the level of associational solidarity, responses were recoded into seven different variables; (1) once a year, (2) once every 6 months, (3) once every 2-3 months, (4) once a month, (5) once every 2-3 weeks, (6) once a week, and (7) everyday. Frequencies were then run on each type of contact. To create one measure of associational solidarity, the four different types of contact (in person, over the phone, letters, and email) were added together on the assumption that no type of contact was more important than the other. Frequencies were then run to show the frequency of contact across all four variables (Table 7).

Frequencies were run on each of the two functional solidarity variables; financial support and childcare. These two variables, were then added together to create an index for one measure of functional solidarity.

Consensual, structural and normative solidarity were all measured with one variable. Frequencies were run on each of these variables to determine what these different domains of intergenerational solidarity look like.

Analysis of the Data

What Do the Distinct Domains of IGS Look Like?

Once the six domains of solidarity were collapsed into one variable for each domain (as explained above), frequencies were run. Where possible each domain was recoded into three groups; low, medium, and high. This created a consistent measure for all six domains of solidarity. Because of the distribution of responses, structural solidarity was recoded into only low and high.

What Does the Profile of Grandtravelers Look Like?

A profile of the grandtravelers was created by running frequencies on demographic information. The profile also includes frequency statistics for likelihood of grandtravel, past experience with grandtravel, support of grandtravel, and decision-making tendencies.

Is There a Relationship Between the Six Domains of IGS and Likelihood of Grandtravel?

In order to determine if there was a relationship between IGS and likelihood of grandtravel, an analysis of variance (ANOVA) was computed between the responses of the question “would you consider traveling with your grandchild” and the intergenerational solidarity scale. In to determine which domain of IGS was most likely to influence likelihood of grandtravel, a stepwise regression was run between these two variables. The independent variable was IGS and the dependent variable was likelihood of grandtravel. In order to determine which domain of IGS was most likely to influence

support for grandtravel, a stepwise regression was run between these two variables. The independent variable was IGS and the dependent variable was support for grandtravel.

What is the Relationship Between the Six Domains of IGS and Past Experience with Grandtravel?

In order to determine if there was a relationship between IGS and past experience with grandtravel, crosstabs were run between the responses of the question “have you ever traveled with your grandchild” and the intergenerational solidarity scale.

What is the Relationship Between the Six Domains of IGS and Support of Grandtravel?

The relationship between intergenerational solidarity and perceptions of grandtravel was determined by running an analysis of variance (ANOVA). This ANOVA was calculated using the mean of the responses to the question “what do you think about the idea of traveling with your favorite grandchild without the parents of that child?” (measured on a 5 point likert scale and the means of the combined intergenerational solidarity scale.

What is the Relationship Between the Six Domains of IGS and Decision-making Behaviors Toward Grandtravel?

In order to determine the relationship between intergenerational solidarity and decision-making, cross-tabs were run between the different types of decisions and the different domains of intergenerational solidarity. These cross tabs utilized the decision-making variables that were recoded into grandparent-dominant, grandchild-dominant, and both (equally shared decision).

CHAPTER 4 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Results

What Do the Distinct Domains of IGS Look Like?

Affectual Solidarity

For affectual solidarity, the most responses (58.2%) were received in the extremely well category when grandparents were asked how well they got along with their favorite grandchild. For the overall affectual domain, the highest percentage (35.5%) of grandparents indicated that they would rate their affectual solidarity level in the “very well” category, followed by the “extremely well” category with 35.26%. Fewer respondents (21.0%) indicated that their affectual solidarity was “pretty well.” Only 6.48% fell into the “somewhat well” category and even less (1.52% and .24%) were classified as to well or not at all well, respectively (Table 3).

The fifth question in the affectual solidarity responses was measured on a 5 point scale rather than a 6 point scale. For this question regarding communication, the largest percentage (35.7%) indicated that communication with their grandchild was pretty good. Very good communication was reported by 35.7% of the sample. Somewhat good communication was reported by 16.9% of the grandparents. Fewer respondents indicated not too good and not at all good communication with 5.2% and 1.2%, respectively (Table 4).

Associational Solidarity

Associational solidarity was measured by the amount of contact grandparents had with their grandchildren over the last year. This was measured by asking grandparents how often they contacted their grandchildren in-person, over the phone, through letters, and through emails. This construct was created by adding the items together under the assumption that each method was weighted the same in importance. For in-person contact, grandparents tended to have contact with their grandchild once every 2-3 months (35.7%). With regards to phone contact, 20.5% of respondents contact their grandchild over the phone once every 2-3 months and 20.5% contacted their grandchild over the phone once a month. Grandparents tended to contact grandchildren by letters every 2-3 months (57.8%) or every 6 months (32.9%). Email was the least frequent method of contact (37%); those who did use email tended to do so every 2-3 months (30.0%) (Table 6).

Table 6. Associational solidarity – frequencies of the amount of contact with grandchild in the past year

Type of Contact	Frequency	Valid Percent
<u>In Person (n=238)</u>		
Once a year	19	8.0
Once every 6 months	45	18.9
Once every 2-3 months	85	35.7
Once a month	35	14.7
Once every 2-3 weeks	29	12.2
Once a week	24	10.1
Everyday	1	0.4
<u>Over the Phone (n=210)</u>		
Once a year	5	2.4
Once every 6 months	13	6.2
Once every 2-3 months	43	20.5
Once a month	43	20.5
Once every 2-3 weeks	63	30.0
Once a week	40	19.0
Everyday	3	1.4

Table 6. Continued

Type of Contact	Frequency	Valid Percent
Letters (n=82)		
Once a year	6	7.3
Once every 6 months	27	32.9
Once every 2-3 months	31	37.8
Once a month	12	14.6
Once every 2-3 weeks	5	6.1
Once a week	1	1.2
Emails (n=90)		
Once a year	7	7.8
Once every 6 months	10	11.1
Once every 2-3 months	27	30.0
Once a month	12	13.3
Once every 2-3 weeks	22	4.4
Once a week	11	12.2
Everyday	1	1.1

The index of contact or associational solidarity revealed a mean contact of 2.26 times whereby the majority of grandparents were in contact with their grandchildren more than once every six months, but less than every 2-3 months (Table 7 and 8).

Table 7. Associational solidarity frequencies – combined

Response (n=252)	<u>n</u>	%	<u>M</u>
0.0	5	2.0	2.26
0.25	3	1.2	
0.50	5	2.0	
0.75	17	6.7	
1.00	4	1.6	
1.25	13	5.2	
1.50	30	11.9	
1.75	18	7.1	
2.00	19	7.5	
2.25	23	9.1	
2.50	17	6.7	
2.75	24	9.5	
3.00	22	8.7	
3.25	17	6.7	
3.50	12	4.8	

Table 7. Continued

Response (n=252)	<u>n</u>	%	<u>M</u>
3.75	10	4.0	
4.00	5	2.0	
4.25	2	0.8	
4.75	3	1.2	
5.00	2	0.8	
5.25	1	0.4	

Table 8. Total associational solidarity index

Response (n=252)	<u>n</u>	%	<u>M</u>
Less than 1	34	11.9	2.26
Between 1-2	80	31.7	
Between 2.1-3	86	34.0	
Between 3.1-4	44	17.5	
Between 4.1-5	7	2.8	
More than 5	1	0.4	

Consensual Solidarity

Responses for consensual solidarity revealed that over one-third (36.2%) of respondents indicated that they felt their opinions and values about life were “pretty similar” to those of their favorite grandchild. One quarter of respondents indicated that their opinions and views were “very similar” to those of their grandchild. While, 17.9% indicated that their opinions/views were “somewhat similar” to those of their grandchild, and 10.6% indicated their opinion/views were “not too similar.” Grandparents with extremely similar opinions/views to their grandchild made up only 8.5% of respondents and only 1.3% indicated that their views/opinions were not at all similar to their grandchild (Table 9).

Table 9. Consensual solidarity responses

Response (n=235)	<u>n</u>	%
Not at all similar	3	1.3
Not to similar	25	10.6

Table 9. Continued

Response (n=235)	n	%
Somewhat similar	42	17.9
Pretty similar	85	36.2
Very similar	60	25.5
Extremely similar	20	8.5

Structural Solidarity

Responses for structural solidarity indicated that 157 respondents (62.8%) live in a different region of the country than their grandchild. Only 17.6% lived in the same region of the country and 12.8% lived in the same state as their grandchild. Even less (4.8%) of grandparents lived in the same city as their grandchild and 2% of respondents lived in a different country than their grandchild (Table 10).

Table 10. Structural solidarity responses

Response (n=250)	n	%
Within the same city	12	4.8
Within the same state	32	12.8
In the same region of the country	44	17.6
In a different region of the country	157	62.8
In a different country	5	2.0

Functional Solidarity

Two questions were asked to determine the level of functional solidarity. When asked how much financial support they provided for their grandchild over the past year, the results were bimodal. The largest percent (27.2%) answered \$101-\$500, while the second largest percent (25.8%) indicated that they did not provide any financial support. Responses were very similar for \$51-\$100, \$501-\$1000 and over \$1000 with 13.7%, 13.7% and 12.9% respectively. Only 4.4% indicated that they provided \$50 or less in financial support and even less 1.2% reported that they provided over \$10,000 in financial support over the last year (Table 11).

Table 11. Functional solidarity responses – financial support

Response (n=248)	<u>n</u>	%
None	64	25.8
\$50 or less	11	4.4
\$51-\$100	34	13.7
\$101-\$500	70	27.2
\$501-\$1000	34	13.7
Over \$1000	32	12.9
Over \$10,000	3	1.2

With regards to hours of childcare, over one-quarter (28.9%) of respondents indicated that they only provided 1-12 hours of childcare for their grandchild per year. Close to 20% provided either 4-7 days of childcare (20.2%) or 2-3 weeks of childcare (19.1%). Fewer respondents (12.7%) provided 1-3 days of childcare. The greatest amount of childcare received the lowest responses with 9.8% indicating that they provided one month of childcare. Four respondents (2.3%) indicated providing more than 6 months of childcare for their grandchild (Table 12).

Table 12. Functional solidarity responses – childcare

Response (n=173)	<u>n</u>	%
1-12 hrs	50	28.9
1-3 days	22	12.7
4-7 days	35	20.2
2-3 weeks	33	19.1
1 month	17	9.8
2-3 months	11	6.4
4-6 months	1	0.6
More than 6 months	4	2.3

Normative Solidarity

For normative solidarity, 31.2% of respondents indicated that they expected their grandchild to feel a sense of family obligation toward them. Just over one fifth indicated “some” level of normative solidarity, while 19.4% expected their grandchild would feel a

great deal of family obligation. Over 17% believed their grandchild would feel quite a bit of obligation (Table 13).

Table 13. Normative solidarity responses

Response (n =247)	<u>n</u>	%
None at all	11	4.4
A little	14	5.7
Some	54	21.9
A good amount	77	31.2
Quite a bit	43	17.4
A great deal	48	19.4

Intergenerational Solidarity

The domains of intergenerational solidarity were recoded into three groups: low, medium, or high. For affectual solidarity, associational solidarity, and consensual solidarity the majority of grandparents fell into the medium IGS (34.9%, 35.5% and 36.2% respectively). Due to bimodal distribution, structural solidarity was measured as either high or low. The majority (64.8%) fell into the high group. Finally, functional and normative solidarity had the highest percentages of respondents (33.9% and 36.8%) in the low group (Table 14).

Table 14. Combined intergenerational solidarity profile

Intergenerational Solidarity Domain	Frequency	Valid Percent
Affectual (n=218)		
Low	68	31.2
Medium	76	34.9
High	74	33.9
Associational (n=251)		
Low	77	30.7
Medium	89	35.5
High	85	33.9
Consensual (n=235)		
Low	70	29.8

Table 14. Continued

Intergenerational Solidarity Domain	Frequency	Valid Percent
Medium	85	36.2
High	80	34.0
Structural (n=250)		
Low	88	35.2
High	162	64.8
Functional money (n=248)		
Low	75	30.2
Medium	104	41.9
High	69	27.8
Functional care (n=251)		
Low	64	25.8
Medium	115	46.4
High	69	27.8
Normative (n=247)		
Low	79	32.0
Medium	77	31.2
High	91	36.8

What Does the Profile of Grandtravelers Look Like?

In order to profile grandparents, the following variables were analyzed; gender of grandparent, gender of grandchild, age of grandparent, age of grandchild, number of grandchild, race/ethnicity of grandparent, average yearly income, marital status and relation of grandchild. The results are presented in (Table 15).

Gender of Grandparent

Almost two thirds of respondents (68%) were female. The remaining 32% were male (Table 15).

Gender of Grandchild

Close to half (52.5%) of respondents reported that their favorite grandchild was female while 47.5% of respondents reported that their favorite grandchild was male (Table 15).

Age of Grandparent

Over 80% of respondents were between the ages of 56 and 75. The largest percentage of respondents (24.3%) were aged between 66 and 70. The next highest age category was 61-65 years old (20.9%) followed closely behind by 71-75 years old (20.4%) and 56-60 years old (19.6%). Seven respondents (3%) reported being 51-55 years old and seven respondents (3%) reported being in the youngest age category of 43-50 years old. Finally, four respondents (1.7%) were 81 years of age or older. The mean age of respondents was 66 years old (Table 15).

Age of Grandchild

More than a quarter (25.7%) of respondents reported that their favorite grandchild was between the ages of 6 and 10. Close to a quarter (24.9%) of respondents reported that this grandchild was between 11 and 15 years old. Next, 18% reported that their favorite grandchild was between the ages of 1 to 5 years old. Fewer respondents had older grandchildren with 11.4% reporting the grandchild was 21-25 years old, 5.3% reporting the grandchild was 26-30 years old, and 2.4% reporting that their favorite grandchild was over 31 years old. The youngest favorite grandchild was 1 year old and the oldest grandchild was 40 years old. The mean age was 13 (Table 15).

Number of Grandchildren

Over half of the respondents reported that they had 2-5 grandchildren. The most respondents (26.3%) reported that they had 2-3 grandchildren and 23.9% reported that they had 4-5 grandchildren. Fewer respondents (15.8%) reported having 6-7 grandchildren. The two highest categories, 8-9 grandchildren and 10+ grandchildren both had 11.7% of responses. The smallest group (10.5%) was grandparents with only one grandchild. The mean number of grandchildren was 5 (Table 15).

Race/Ethnicity

The vast majority (98%) of respondents were white. Only 3 respondents (1.7%) were white/Hispanic. One person (.4%) was black and one person (.4%) was Native American (Table 15).

Average Yearly Income

Sixty-nine respondents (35.2) reported that their average yearly income was between \$30,001-50,000. This was followed closely behind by 68 respondents (34.7%) who reported that their average yearly income was \$50,001-100,000. Fewer respondents (17.3%) reported that their average yearly income was \$10,001-30,000 and even fewer (10.7%) reported \$100,001-500,000. The lowest income category of less than \$10,000 had only 4 respondents (2.0%) (Table 15).

Marital Status

The majority of respondents (64.2%) were married. Fifty-four respondents (22%) were remarried after a divorce or death of a spouse. Only 7.7% of respondents were widowed/not remarried, 4.5 of respondents reported that they were divorced and 1.2% reported that they had never been married. One respondent (0.4%) reported that they were living with someone as if they were married (Table 15).

Relation of Grandchild

The majority of respondents (62.5%) reported that their favorite grandchild was the child of a daughter. Fewer respondents (36.3%) reported that this grandchild was the child of a son. Only 8.0% reported that their favorite grandchild was the child of a son-in-law. Finally, one respondent (0.4%) reported that their favorite grandchild was the child of a daughter-in-law (Table 15).

Table 15. Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

Socio-demographic Characteristic	Frequency	Valid Percent
Gender of Grandparent (n=244)		
Female	166	68.0
Male	78	32.0
Gender of Grandchild (n=236)		
Female	124	52.5
Male	112	47.5
Age of Grandparent (n=235)		
43-50	7	3.0
51-55	7	3.0
56-60	46	19.6
61-65	49	20.9
66-70	57	24.3
71-75	48	20.4
75-80	17	7.2
81+	4	1.7
Age of Grandchild (n=245)		
0-5	44	18.0
6-10	63	25.7
11-15	61	24.9
16-20	30	12.2
21-25	28	11.4
26-30	13	5.3
31+	6	2.4
Number of Grandchildren (n=247)		
1	26	10.5
2-3	65	26.3
4-5	59	23.9
6-7	39	15.8
8-9	29	11.7
10+	29	11.7
Race/ethnicity (n=245)		
White	240	98.0
White/Hispanic	3	1.2
Black	1	0.4
Native American	1	0.4
Average Yearly Income (n=196)		
Less than \$10,000	4	2.0
\$10,001-30,000	34	17.3
\$30,001-50,000	69	35.2
\$50,001-100,000	68	34.7
\$100,001-500,000	21	10.7
Marital Status (n=246)		
Single – never married	3	1.2

Table 15. Continued

Socio-demographic Characteristic	Frequency	Valid Percent
Married	158	64.2
Widowed	19	7.7
Divorced	11	4.5
Remarried	54	22.0
Living together	1	0.4
Relation of Grandchild (n=240)		
Child of a son	87	36.3
Child of a daughter	150	62.5
Child of a son-in-law	2	8.0
Child of a daughter-in-law	1	0.4

What Does the Travel Related Profile Look Like?

The majority of respondents (79.2%) stated that they would consider traveling with their favorite grandchild without the parents of the grandchild. Only 11.1% of grandparents said “maybe” when asked if they would consider this type of travel and only 9.7% said they would not consider traveling with their grandchild without the parents of that child (Table 16).

Table 16. Frequencies of likelihood of grandtravel

Response	<u>n</u>	%
Yes	114	79.2
No	14	9.7
Maybe	16	11.1

When asked whether they had ever traveled with their favorite grandchild responses were about split, though heavier on the “no” side. The largest percentage (57.1%) said they had not taken part in this type of travel while 42.6% said that they had (Table 17).

Table 17. Frequencies of past experience with grandtravel

Response (n=245)	<u>n</u>	%
Yes	105	42.6
No	140	57.1

When asked what they thought about the idea of traveling with their favorite grandchild without the parents of this child, 201 respondents said they either strongly supported this idea (43.5% of respondents) or supported this idea (37.5% of respondents). The amount of support decreased where 8.1% said neither support nor not support, 6% somewhat supporting the idea, and 4.8% reported not supporting the idea (Table 18).

Table 18. Frequencies of support for grandtravel

Response (n=248)	<u>n</u>	%
Do not support	12	4.8
Somewhat support	15	6.0
Neither	20	8.1
Support	93	37.5
Strongly Support	108	43.5

What Does the Decision-making Profile Look Like?

Where to Go

Close to half (50.5%) of respondents reported that they made the majority of the decision regarding where to go, when or if they would travel with their grandchild without the grandparents of that child. One-third of respondents (32.7%) reported that they would allow the grandchild to make the majority of this decision and 16.8% reported that they would share equally in this decision with their grandchild (Table 19).

When to Go

More than two-thirds of respondents (65.1%) reported that they would dominate the decision regarding when to travel with their grandchild without the parents of that child. Close to one quarter (23.5%) of respondents said they would allow their grandchild to dominate this decision and 11.5% said they would split this decision 50/50 with their grandchild (Table 19).

What to Do

Close to half (50.5%) of the respondents reported that the decision of what to do while traveling would be split equally between the grandparent and the grandchild. Thirty percent (29.9%) of respondents reported that they would dominate this decision and 19.6% said they would allow their grandchild to be the dominant decision-maker of what to do while traveling (Table 19).

What to Eat

A little less than half (47.4%) reported that they would split this decision equally with their grandchild. Almost one-third of respondents (32.5%) reported that they would allow their grandchild to be the dominant decision-maker of what to eat while traveling and 20% of respondents reported that the grandparent would be the dominant decision-maker of what to eat (Table 19).

How Much Money to Spend

The large majority (88.1%) of respondents said that they would be the dominant decision-makers as to how much money to spend while traveling. Only 9.8% said that they would split this decision evenly with their grandchild and even less (1.2%) said that they would allow their grandchild to be the dominant decision-maker of how much money to spend (Table 19).

Where to Stay

The majority (85.8%) of respondents said that they would be the dominant decision-makers of where to stay while traveling with their grandchild. Only 11.6% of respondents would allow their grandchild to be the primary decision-maker as to where to stay and even less (2.6%) of respondents would split this decision evenly with their grandchild (Table 19).

Table 19. Decision-making profile

Decision Topic	Frequency	Valid Percent
Where to go (n=196)		
Grandparent	99	50.5
Grandchild	33	16.8
Both	64	32.7
When to go (n=196)		
Grandparent	125	65.1
Grandchild	22	11.5
Both	45	23.4
What to do (n=194)		
Grandparent	58	29.9
Grandchild	38	19.6
Both	98	50.5
What to eat (n=194)		
Grandparent	39	20.1
Grandchild	63	32.5
Both	92	47.4
How much to spend (n=194)		
Grandparent	171	88.1
Grandchild	4	2.1
Both	19	9.8
Where to stay (n=190)		
Grandparent	163	85.8
Grandchild	5	2.6
Both	22	11.6

Is There a Relationship Between the Six Domains of IGS and Likelihood of Grandtravel?

In order to determine the relationship between the different domains of intergenerational solidarity and likelihood of grandtravel, an analysis of variance (ANOVA) between each of the six IGS domains and likelihood of grandtravel. Results indicated that there was no significant relationship between any of the IGS domains and likelihood of grandtravel (Table 20 and 21).

Table 20. ONEWAY ANOVA for the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and likelihood of grandtravel

Factors	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	Mean Squares	F Ratio	F Prob.
Affectual					
Between SS	2	0.216	.108	.468	.627
Within SS	116	26.777	.231		
Consensual					
Between SS	2	0.264	.132	.703	.497
Within SS	132	24.729	.187		
Structural					
Between SS	1	0.168	.168	.823	.366
Within SS	141	28.825	.204		
Normative					
Between SS	2	0.429	.215	1.046	.354
Within SS	139	28.508	.205		
Associational					
Between SS	2	1.169	.584	2.946	.056
Within SS	140	27.768	.198		
Functional (Money)					
Between SS	2	.089	.045	.215	.807
Within SS	139	28.85	.205		
Functional (Care)					
Between SS	2	.073	.036	.176	.839
Within SS	139	28.86	.208		

Table 21. Mean (M) and standard deviations (SD) for relationships between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and likelihood of grandtravel.

Factors	Low		Medium		High	
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD
Affectional (n=119)	1.95	0.62	2.05	0.46	2.03	0.28
Consensual (n=135)	1.96	0.53	2.06	0.42	2.00	0.32
Structural (n=143)	1.96	0.43	2.03	0.46		
Normative (n=142)	1.96	0.54	2.10	0.44	2.02	0.36
Associational (n=143)	1.91	0.57	2.12	0.38	2.00	0.38
Functional (Money) (n=144)	2.00	0.45	2.05	.433	2.00	.492
Functional (Care)	2.00	.442	2.05	.445	2.00	.492

In order to better understand the relationships between the six domains of IGS and likelihood of grandtravel, a stepwise regression was run between each of the six domains of IGS and likelihood of grandtravel. Results of the indicated that there were no significant relationships between any of the IGS domains and likelihood of grandtravel. Therefore, none of the six domains of IGS affect likelihood of grandtravel.

What is the Relationship Between the Six Domains of IGS and Past Experience with Grandtravel?

When the domains of intergenerational solidarity were compared to past experience with grandtravel, results indicated that respondents with the lowest levels of the intergenerational solidarity domains were the most likely to have never traveled with their grandchild. Conversely, the results indicated that those with the highest levels of the intergenerational solidarity domains were most likely to have traveled with their grandchild. This was true for all IGS domains excluding functional solidarity (Table 22).

Table 22. The relationship between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and past experience with grandtravel

Solidarity Domain	No	Yes	Total
Affectual			
Low	63.6	36.4	100%
Medium	57.7	42.3	100%
High	45.2	54.8	100%
Chi square=5.04, p=0.08, n=210			
Associational			
Low	57.3	42.7	100%
Medium	65.1	34.9	100%
High	48.8	51.2	100%
Chi square= 4.58, p=0.10, n=243			
Consensual			
Low	63.8	36.2	100%
Medium	56.8	43.2	100%
High	51.9	48.1	100%
Chi-square= 2.13, p=0.35, n=229			
Structural			
Low	64.3	35.7	100%
High	53.5	46.5	100%
Chi-square=2.63 p=0.11, n=243			
Functional (Money)			
Low	34.1	25.2	100%
Medium	41.3	43.7	100%
High	24.6	31.1	100%
Chi-square=2.48 p=0.29, n=241			
Functional (Care)			
Low	29.7	20.4	100%
Medium	45.7	48.5	100%
High	24.6	31.1	100%
Chi-square=3.00 p=0.22, n=241			
Normative			
Low	60.3	39.7	100%
Medium	58.3	41.7	100%
High	53.3	46.7	100%
Chi-square=0.88 p=0.64, n=240			

What is the Relationship Between the Six Domains of IGS and Support of Grandtravel?

In order to analyze the relationship between the intergenerational solidarity domains and support for grandtravel, a oneway analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used. The results indicated that the affectional, consensual, normative and associational domains of solidarity were significantly related to grandparents support of grandtravel. A post hoc analysis using Tukey revealed that there were significant differences between those with low levels of affectual intergenerational solidarity and those with high levels of IGS. There was also a significant difference between those with medium levels of affectual solidarity and high levels of affectual solidarity.

For consensual solidarity, there was a significant difference between those with low levels of solidarity and high levels of solidarity. For normative solidarity, there was a significant difference between those with low levels of solidarity and those with medium levels. There was also a significant relationship between those with low levels of solidarity and high levels of solidarity. Finally, for associational solidarity there was a significant difference between those with low levels of solidarity and those with high levels of solidarity (Table 23 and 24).

Table 23. ONEWAY for the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and support of grandtravel

Factors	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	Mean Squares	F Ratio	F Prob.
Affectual					
Between SS	2	27.914	13.957	8.795	.000**
Within SS	215	341.205	1.587		
Consensual					
Between SS	2	15.625	7.813	5.592	.004*

Table 23. Continued

Factors	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	Mean Squares	F Ratio	F Prob.
Within SS	232	324.136	1.397		
Structural					
Between SS	1	1.063	1.063	.732	.393
Within SS	248	359.881	1.451		
Normative					
Between SS	2	30.731	15.366	11.380	.000**
Within SS	244	329.463	1.350		
Associational					
Between SS	2	14.032	7.016	4.701	.010*
Within SS	248	370.167	1.493		
Functional (Money)					
Between SS	2	1.104	0.552	0.465	.629
Within SS	242	287.345	1.187		
Functional (Care)					
Between SS	2	0.186	0.093	0.078	.925
Within SS	242	288.262	1.191		

** significant at the .01 level

***significant at the .001 level

Table 24. Mean (M) and standard deviations (SD) for significant relationships between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and support of grandtravel.

Factors	Low		Medium		High		Total	
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD
Affectional (n=218)	3.76 ^(a)	1.56	4.16 ^(a)	1.28	4.65 ^(b)	0.88	4.20	1.30
Consensual (n=235)	3.87 ^(a)	1.59	4.14	1.12	4.51 ^(b)	0.75	4.19	1.20

Table 24. Continued.

Factors	Low		Medium		High		Total	
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD
Normative (n=247)	3.67 ^(a)	1.41	4.27 ^(b)	1.23	4.50 ^(b)	0.81	4.17	1.21
Associational (n=251)	3.87 ^(a)	1.60	4.20	1.10	4.46 ^(b)	0.98	4.19	1.23

Note: Matching superscripts indicate significant differences. For example, with normative solidarity low levels of solidarity significantly differ from medium levels of and low levels also differ significantly from high levels of normative solidarity. Only significant relationships were reported.

In order to better understand the relationships between the six domains of IGS and support of grandtravel, and stepwise regression was run between the six different domains and support of grandtravel. Stepwise regression is a technique for estimating the relationship between a continuous dependent variable and two or more continuous of discrete independent variables.

Results of the stepwise regression between IGS and support for grandtravel indicated that affectual solidarity was the IGS domain most likely to determine support of grandtravel. Affectual solidarity was the only IGS domain with a significant relationship on support of grandtravel. The regression line indicated that as affectual solidarity increased, support for grandtravel also increased. The adjusted R square value indicated that 6% of support of grandtravel can be explained by affectual solidarity (Table 25). However, results cannot explain what influences the remaining 94% of support for grandtravel. This relationship is further examined in chapter V.

Table 25. Model summary for intercorrelations for the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and support of grandtravel

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of estimate
1	.259 ^a	.067	.062	1.181

a. Predictors: (Constant), affectional groups (low to high)

Table 26. ONEWAY ANOVA for intercorrelations between intergenerational solidarity and support of grandtravel

Factors	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	Mean Squares	F Ratio	F Prob.
Regression	1	19.69	19.69	14.12	.000(a)
Residual	197	274.74	1.40		
Total	198	294.42			

a. Predictors: (Constant), affectional groups (low to high)

Table 27. Coefficients for intercorrelations for the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and support of grandtravel

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	
	B	Std. Error	B	Std. Error
(Constant)	3.451	0.226		15.237
Affectual groups (low to high)	0.389	0.104	0.259	3.757

What is the Relationship Between the Six Domains of IGS and Decision-making behaviors Toward Grandtravel?

Where to Go

In the associational, structural, functional and normative domains of intergenerational solidarity, grandparents were most likely to dominate the decision of where to go while traveling with their grandchild. This was true no matter if the level of solidarity for these domains was low, medium or high. For both affectual and consensual solidarity, respondents with the highest levels of the different IGS domains were most likely to let their grandchild dominate the decision of where to go (Table 25).

Within the different levels of solidarity, those with the lowest levels of the IGS domains were also the most likely to dominate in the decision of where to go. This was true for all domains of solidarity except for functional. This pattern was reversed in functional solidarity as respondents with the highest levels of functional solidarity were the most likely to dominate in this decision (Table 28).

Table 28. The relationship between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and decision-making of where to go

Solidarity Domain	Grandparent	Grandchild	Both	Total
Affectual				
Low	61.5	15.4	23.1	100%
Medium	51.7	18.3	30.0	100%
High	37.3	20.3	42.4	100%
Chi-square=7.05, p=0.13, n=171				
Associational				
Low	56.1	10.5	33.3	100%
Medium	46.7	20.0	33.3	100%
High	50.0	18.8	31.3	100%
Chi-square=2.57, p=0.63, n=196				
Consensual				
Low	61.2	14.3	24.5	100%
Medium	53.3	17.3	29.3	100%
High	37.3	18.6	44.1	100%
Chi-square=7.19, p=0.13, n=183				
Structural				
Low	46.8	19.0	34.1	100%
High	56.5	13.0	30.4	100%
Chi-square=1.97, p=0.37, n=195				
Functional (Money)				
Low	27.6	36.4	25.4	100%
Medium	38.8	30.3	49.2	100%
High	33.7	33.3	26.7	100%
Chi-square=3.97, p=0.41, n=194				
Functional (Care)				
Low	23.5	33.3	20.6	100%
Medium	42.9	33.3	54.0	100%
High	33.7	33.3	25.4	100%
Chi-square=4.64, p=0.33, n=194				
Normative				
Low	56.5	14.5	29.0	100%
Medium	53.3	18.3	28.3	100%
High	43.8	17.8	38.4	100%
Chi-square=2.81, p=0.59, n=195				

When to Go

When deciding when to travel with their grandchild, across all solidarity domains, and all levels of solidarity within these domains, grandparents were most likely to dominate this decision. The second most dominant strategy was sharing the decisions between the grandparent and grandchild, and the third most likely decision strategy was allowing the grandchild to be the dominant decision maker. These patterns were consistent throughout all the domains of solidarity and with each level of solidarity in the different domains (Table 29).

Table 29. The relationship between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and decision-making of when to go

Solidarity Domain	Grandparent	Grandchild	Both	Total
Affectual				
Low	71.2	11.5	17.3	100%
Medium	66.1	6.8	27.1	100%
High	59.6	17.5	22.8	100%
Chi-square=4.56, p=0.34, n=168				
Associational				
Low	62.5	7.1	30.4	100%
Medium	66.2	12.2	21.6	100%
High	66.1	14.5	19.4	100%
Chi-square=3.22, p=0.52, n=192				
Consensual				
Low	63.3	12.2	24.5	100%
Medium	68.9	9.5	21.6	100%
High	58.6	13.8	27.6	100%
Chi-square=1.57, p=0.81, n=181				
Structural				
Low	63.9	12.3	23.8	100%
High	66.7	10.1	23.2	100%
Chi-square=0.23, p=0.89, n=191				
Functional (Money)				
Low	26.6	40.9	23.6	100%
Medium	38.7	45.5	24.7	100%
High	34.7	13.6	22.0	100%
Chi-square=4.35, p=0.36, n=191				
Functional (Care)				
Low	21.8	36.4	26.7	100%
Medium	43.5	50.0	44.4	100%
High	34.7	13.6	28.9	100%
Chi-square=4.65, p=0.33, n=191				
Normative				
Low	63.9	8.2	27.9	100%
Medium	69.5	10.2	20.3	100%
High	63.4	15.5	21.1	100%
Chi-square=2.78, p=0.56, n=191				

What to Do

Grandparents and grandchildren were most likely to split the decision what to do while traveling. This was true for all six domains of solidarity no matter if respondents ranked as low, medium, or high on the six domains of IGS. A grandparent-dominated decision was the second most likely scenario across all IGS domains. For high levels of normative solidarity and medium levels of functional solidarity a grandchild-dominated decision was the second most likely decision-making scenario (Table 30).

Table 30. The relationship between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and decision-making of what to do

Solidarity Domain	Grandparent	Grandchild	Both	Total
Affectual				
Low	34.6	19.2	46.2	100%
Medium	32.2	20.3	47.5	100%
High	29.3	19.0	36.6	100%
Chi-square=0.47, p=0.98, n=169				
Associational				
Low	31.6	15.8	52.6	100%
Medium	22.7	21.3	56.0	100%
High	37.1	21.0	41.9	100%
Chi-square=4.44, p=0.35, n=194				
Consensual				
Low	34.7	22.4	42.9	100%
Medium	32.4	20.3	47.3	100%
High	20.3	16.9	62.7	100%
Chi-square=5.21, p=0.27, n=183				
Structural				
Low	28.2	20.2	51.6	100%
High	33.3	18.8	47.8	100%
Chi-square=0.55, p=0.76, n=193				
Functional (Money)				
Low	26.3	18.4	33.7	100%
Medium	36.8	52.6	38.8	100%
High	36.8	28.9	27.6	100%
Chi-square=5.04, p=0.28, n=193				
Functional (Care)				
Low	22.8	15.8	28.6	100%
Medium	40.4	55.3	43.9	100%
High	36.8	28.9	27.6	100%
Chi-square=4.16, p=0.38, n=193				
Normative				
Low	27.9	18.0	54.1	100%
Medium	36.7	11.7	51.7	100%
High	26.4	27.8	45.8	100%
Chi-square=6.21, p=0.18, n=193				

What to Eat

An evenly shared decision between the grandparent and the grandchild was the most likely scenario when deciding what to eat while traveling. This was true for all domains of solidarity no matter what the level. For all six IGS domains, those with medium levels of solidarity were the most likely to evenly share this decision. For associational, consensual, functional and normative solidarity, a grandchild-dominated decision was the second most likely scenario for all domains and levels of solidarity.

Table 31. The relationship between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and decision-making of what to eat

Solidarity Domain	Grandparent	Grandchild	Both	Total
Affectual				
Low	28.8	25.0	46.2	100%
Medium	20.0	33.3	55.0	100%
High	37.1	24.1	40.4	100%
Chi-square=6.75, p=0.15, n=169				
Associational				
Low	19.6	35.7	44.6	100%
Medium	14.5	32.9	52.6	100%
High	27.4	29.0	43.5	100%
Chi-square=4.00, p=0.41, n=194				
Consensual				
Low	28.6	34.7	36.7	100%
Medium	17.3	28.0	54.7	100%
High	11.9	35.6	52.5	100%
Chi-square=7.00, p=0.14, n=183				
Structural				
Low	16.1	36.3	47.6	100%
High	27.5	24.6	47.8	100%
Chi-square=4.73, p=0.09, n=193				
Functional (Money)				
Low	26.3	30.2	27.2	100%
Medium	31.6	44.4	42.4	100%
High	42.1	25.4	30.4	100%
Chi-square=3.37, p=0.50, n=193				
Functional (Care)				
Low	18.4	25.4	25.0	100%
Medium	39.5	49.2	44.6	100%
High	42.1	25.4	30.4	100%
Chi-square=3.25, p=0.52, n=193				
Normative				
Low	23.0	32.8	44.3	100%
Medium		23.0	55.7	100%
High		40.8	42.3	100%
Chi-square=5.29, p=0.26, n=193	16.9	21.3		

For affectual and structural solidarity, those with the lowest levels of solidarity were most likely to be the second highest most likely decision makers (Table 31).

How Much Money to Spend and Where to Stay

Due to small cell size, statistics were not viable for the six IGS domains versus the decision of how much money to spend and the decision of where to stay (Table 32 and 33).

Table 32. The relationship between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and decision-making of how much money to spend

Solidarity Domain	Grandparent	Grandchild	Both	Total
Affectual				
Low	92.2	2.0	5.9	100%
Medium	91.7	0.0	8.3	100%
High	81.0	5.2	13.8	100%
Chi-square*, n=169				
Associational				
Low	84.2	3.5	12.3	100%
Medium	92.0	0.0	8.0	100%
High	87.1	3.2	9.7	100%
Chi-square*, n=194				
Consensual				
Low	91.8	2.0	6.1	100%
Medium	84.9	1.4	13.7	100%
High	88.1	1.7	10.2	100%
Chi-square*, n=181				
Structural				
Low	89.7	0.8	9.5	100%
High	85.1	4.5	10.4	100%
Chi-square*, n=193				
Functional (Money)				
Low	26.6	100.0	36.8	100%
Medium	43.2	0.00	26.3	100%
High	30.2	0.00	36.8	100%
Chi-square*, n=192				
Functional (Care)				
Low	23.1	75.0	31.6	100%
Medium	46.7	25.0	31.6	100%
High	30.2	0.00	36.8	100%
Chi-square*, n=192				
Normative				
Low	88.3	1.7	10.0	100%
Medium	86.4	0.0	13.6	100%
High	89.2	4.1	6.8	100%
Chi-square*, n=193				

*Chi-square not completed due to cell size of less than 5.

Table 33. The relationship between the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and decision-making of where to stay

Solidarity Domain	Grandparent	Grandchild	Both	Total
Affectual				
Low	90.2	2.0	7.8	100%
Medium	89.3	0.0	10.7	100%
High	75.9	6.9	17.2	100%
Chi-square* n=165				
Associational				
Low	90.6	3.8	5.7	100%
Medium	86.5	0.0	13.5	100%
High	81.0	4.8	14.3	100%
Chi-square* n=190				
Consensual				
Low	91.5	2.1	6.4	100%
Medium	80.8	2.7	16.4	100%
High	86.2	1.7	12.1	100%
Chi-square* n=178				
Structural				
Low	88.4	0.8	10.7	100%
High	80.9	5.9	13.2	100%
Chi-square* n=189				
Functional (Money)				
Low	26.5	80.0	31.8	100%
Medium	42.0	0.0	40.9	100%
High	31.5	20.0	27.3	100%
Chi-square*, n=189				
Functional (Care)				
Low	22.2	80.0	31.8	100%
Medium	46.3	0.0	40.9	100%
High	31.5	20.0	27.3	100%
Chi-square*, n=189				
Normative				
Low	89.8	1.7	8.5	100%
Medium	89.7	0.0	10.3	100%
High	80.6	5.6	13.9	100%
Chi-square* n=189				

*Chi-square not completed due to cell size of less than 5.

CHAPTER 5 DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this exploratory study was to examine the concept of intergenerational solidarity (IGS) as it relates to grandtravel. Specifically, IGS was examined in relation to likelihood of grandtravel, support for grandtravel, previous experience with grandtravel, and grandtravel decision-making. In order to develop an overview of respondents, demographic, travel-related, and decision-making profiles were presented. The organization of this chapter is as follows: (a) Summary of Procedures and Treatment of Data; (b) Summary of Findings; (c) Conclusions; (d) Discussion and Implications; and (e) Recommendations for Future Research.

Summary of Procedures and Treatment of Data

A sample of 252 Villages residents was surveyed for this study. Participants were selected as a convenience sample of social club members, Life Long Learning College Students, and users of one of The Villages Recreation Centers. The instrument used for this study was a self-administered questionnaire comprised of six sections: (a) intergenerational solidarity; (b) perceptions of grandtravel; (c) past experience with grandtravel; (d) likelihood of grandtravel; (e) decision making; and (f) demographics.

Profiles of intergenerational solidarity (IGS), demographics, grandtravel tendencies, and decision-making tendencies were developed using frequencies. The relationships between IGS and past experience with grandtravel, and decision-making were determined using crosstabs and chi-squared statistics. The relationships between

IGS and likelihood of grandtravel IGS and support of grandtravel was determined using an analysis of variance. In order to better understand the relationship between the six IGS domains and likelihood of grandtravel and the relationship between the six IGS domains and support of grandtravel, stepwise regression was run between the different variables.

Summary of Findings

The following section summarizes the original research questions followed by the results. Areas discussed include: a profile of intergenerational solidarity, a respondent profile, the relationship between IGS and likelihood of grandtravel, IGS and experience with grandtravel, IGS and support of grandtravel, and IGS and decision-making as it relates to grandtravel.

Intergenerational Solidarity

Overall, grandparents indicated high levels of affectual and consensual solidarity. These grandparents tended to contact their grandchildren (either in-person, phone, email, or letters) every 2-3 months. Moreover, over 62% of respondents stated that their grandchild lived in a different region of the country. Typically, grandparents provided 1-12 hours of childcare for their grandchild and usually provided between \$101-500 in child support.

Interestingly, this study indicated higher levels of psychic or emotional relations than functional relations. This may be explained by the fact that many grandchildren did not live close to their grandparents. Roberto, Allen and Blieszner (2001) found that the proximity of family households influences the frequency of association and exchange of assistance and support between grandfathers and grandchildren. The current study found that the majority of grandparents live in a different region of the country than their

grandchild. However, this distance is not surprising because Florida is regarded as a retirement state and many middle aged and older adults relocate to the state each year.

The highest percentages of respondents had medium levels of IGS for affectional, associational, and consensual solidarity. High levels of IGS were most common on structural (measured low or high) and normative solidarity. Finally, lower levels of solidarity were most likely for functional solidarity.

These findings are similar to Cherlin and Furstenberg's (1992) companionate style of grandparenting. This style of grandparent described themselves as playful companions, and the givers and receivers of love and affection. These grandparents enjoyed being able to spend time with their grandchildren without having a large amount of responsibility for them. Similarly, grandparents in the current study indicated that they felt emotionally close to their grandchildren (receivers of love and affection) but they did not provide much financial support or childcare (responsibility). In addition, these findings are consistent with Wearing's study (1996) which found that as level the levels of responsibility for the grandchild increased, the amount the grandmother considered the grandparent role leisure decreased.

Respondent Profile

The travel-related profile indicated that the majority of grandparents would consider traveling with their grandchildren, although more than half had never done so. The percentage of respondents who have traveled with their grandchildren is consistent with Curry's study (2001), which also found that 43% of grandparents had traveled with their grandchildren. The idea of traveling with grandchild was supported as 43% said they would strongly support this idea and 37.5% said they would support this idea. Although no previous studies have asked grandparents their opinions on grandtravel,

studies have found that seniors consider spending time with their family an important reason to travel (Huang & Tsai, 2003).

Almost two-thirds of respondents were females and the majority of favorite grandchildren were female. Also, the majority of favorite grandchildren were the children of daughters. While Mills, Wakeman, and Fea (2001) found that grandchildren feel emotionally closer to their maternal grandparents than they do to their paternal grandparents, the current study suggests that perhaps grandparents also feel more emotional closeness toward their maternal grandchildren.

The majority of grandparents had between two to five grandchildren with an average of five grandchildren. Almost all respondents were white and were married. The fact that almost all respondents were white is a limitation similar to those that have taken place in other grandparent studies (Dubas, 2001). Like these studies, the present study was unable to examine relationships between African-Americans or Mexican Americans.

The decision-making profile indicated that four of the decisions; where to go, when to go, how much money to spend, and where to stay, were most likely to be dominated by the grandparent. Of these decisions how much money to spend was the most grandparent dominated followed by where to stay. When to travel was dominated by grandparents and where to go was dominated by grandparents. The remaining two decisions, what to do and what to eat were most likely to be shared between both parties. Overall, these findings indicate that the grandparent has the most say in decisions that involve large amounts of money (how much money to spend and where to stay) and less say in decisions involving food and activities. These findings are consistent with previous decision-making studies (Nelson, 1979) that found children play a large role in deciding

where to eat when going out to eat but parents have the final say in how much money to spend.

Relationship between the Six Domains of Intergenerational Solidarity and Likelihood of Grandtravel

A One-Way Analysis of Variance indicated that there were no significant relationships between any of the six intergenerational solidarity domains and likelihood of grandtravel. Results of stepwise regression also indicated that the relationship between the individual domains of IGS and likelihood of grandtravel are not significant. It is predicted that there may be variables other than the IGS domains that affect a grandparent's likelihood of grandtravel.

First, respondents had a mean age of 66. We do not know how recently these individuals retired, but their ages indicate that they may have retired within the last five years. These grandparents may now be at the age where they want to spend time taking part in activities that they were not able to take part in while they were working such as hobbies and social clubs. Additionally, The Villages is a retirement community with an immense amount of activities and social clubs in which residents can take part. Respondents may be more likely to want to stay in The Villages taking part in these activities rather than traveling with their grandchildren. Respondents may be considering their retirement years "my time" or "our time as a couple," rather than time to "baby sit" their grandchildren.

Several respondents stated that they would like their grandchildren to visit or often have their grandchildren visit The Villages. Respondents stated that this is a perfect area for their grandchildren to visit because of the large numbers of activities and great weather. Instead of traveling with their grandchildren, these grandparents may find that

inviting their grandchildren to their homes and taking part in The Villages activities is as good of an experience as traveling. Therefore, they may do not find it necessary to travel.

Residents of The Villages are mostly couples that have moved to Florida from some other region of the country. Therefore, they may not be able to spend much time with their own children; the parents of their grandchildren. These grandparents may have high levels of the different IGS domains, but may not be interested in grandtravel because they would like all three generations to be together. These families may only have a few weeks out of the year to spend together, and instead of the grandparents spending this time alone with their grandchildren, these families may prefer to travel with grandparents, children, and grandchildren together. This is similar to Shoemaker's (1989) cluster of "family travelers," and Backman, Backman and Silverberg's (1999) study, which found that older seniors want to visit friends and relatives as the main purpose of their trips.

Grandparents may not be in good enough health or may be caring for a spouse who is not in good health, making it impossible to travel with their grandchildren. These grandparents may like to idea of grandtravel, but are unable to do so. In addition, grandparent's reasons for not traveling with their grandchildren may be due to the child, of the immediate family. For example, the child may not be interested in this type of travel, or the child may be too busy with school or work activities. The parents of the child may not agree to this type of travel because they may consider the money spent on the trip to large of a gift, or the parents might be divorced with one parent not agreeing to the travel situation.

Data were gathered during this study in the survey question “what would prevent you from traveling with your grandchild?” would help to answer this question, however data related to this question were not analyzed for the current study (see Appendix B).

Relationship between the Six Domains of Intergenerational Solidarity and Past Experience with Grandtravel

Cross-tabs indicated that those with the lowest levels of the six IGS domains were the least likely to travel with their grandchildren. In contrast, those with the highest levels of the six domains of IGS were the most likely to travel with their grandchildren. This finding indicate that grandparents with high levels of the different IGS domains are likely to have traveled with their grandchildren and those with low levels of the IGS domains are not likely to have done so.

Relationship between the Six Domains of Intergenerational Solidarity and Support of Grandtravel

Results indicated that four of the six domains of intergenerational solidarity, affectional, consensual, normative, and associational, had a significant effect on grandparents support of grandtravel. Significant differences between low levels of solidarity and high levels of solidarity were found on all four domains. Significant differences were also revealed between medium and high levels of IGS for affectual solidarity and low and medium levels of IGS for normative solidarity.

These findings indicate that grandparents who feel emotionally closer to their grandchildren (affectual solidarity) are also more likely to support traveling with their grandchildren. Similarly, grandparents who feel they agree with their grandchild (consensual solidarity) and feel support from their grandchildren (normative solidarity) are the most likely to support traveling with their grandchildren. Of the six domains of solidarity, these four domains (affectual, consensual, normative and associational) most

closely describe how well grandparents get along with their grandchildren. Grandparents can provide high levels of financial support (functional solidarity) to their grandchildren or live close to their grandchildren (structural solidarity) without necessarily getting along well or have a close relationship with the children. These findings are similar to those of Roberto, Allen and Blieszner (2001) who found smaller geographic distances between grandfathers and grandchildren did not guarantee the formation of a close relationship.

In order to better understand the relationship between the six domains of IGS and support of grandtravel and stepwise regression was run between the different variables. Results indicated that affectual solidarity was the only IGS domain that had a significant relationship with support of grandtravel. The adjusted R squared value indicated that six percent of a grandparents support of grandtravel can be explained by their level of affectual solidarity. These results however do not indicate what explains the remaining 94% of a grandparents support for grandtravel. This is further discussed in the conclusions and discussion section.

Relationship between the Six Domains of Intergenerational Solidarity and Decision-making Behaviors Toward Grandtravel

Overall, no significant findings were discovered when comparing intergenerational solidarity levels to decision-making patterns. However, some patterns were uncovered. For the decision of where to go, across four of the IGS domains grandparents were most likely to dominate in this decision. However, if grandparents had high levels of affectual solidarity or high levels of consensual solidarity, they were most likely to evenly split this decision with their grandchild. No matter what the domain or level of IGS, grandparents were always the most likely to dominate in the decision of when travel. For both the

decision what to do and what to eat, a split decision was the most likely scenario. Similarly, previous literature indicated that children play significant roles in the decisions of where to go to eat (Nelson, 1979) and what activities to take part in while on vacation (Nickerson & Jurowski, 2000). This was true no matter what the domain or level for the decision of what to do. However, grandparents with medium levels of solidarity were the most likely to split the decision of what to eat with their grandchild.

Conclusions and Discussion

Considerable amounts of research have examined senior travel in relation to likelihood of travel, reasons for travel, benefits sought from travel, locations of travel etc (Blazey, 1987; Gibson, 2002; Guinn, 1980; Shoemaker, 1989; Teaf & Turpin, 1996; Zimmer, Brayley & Searle, 1995). Similarly, studies have examined intergenerational solidarity as it relates to the gender of the grandparent, the relation of the grandparent, and the differences between grandparents views and grandchildren's views (Roberto, Allen & Blieszner, 2001; Mills, Wakeman & Fea, 2001; Giarrusso, Feng, Silverstein & Bengston, 2001). However, there have not been any studies that have looked at grandparents traveling with grandchildren and the relationship with intergenerational solidarity.

This study revealed that there are some significant relationships between intergenerational solidarity and support of grandtravel, specifically within affectional, consensual, normative, and associational solidarity. Additionally, this study revealed that there are not statistically significant relationships between any of the IGS domains and likelihood of or past experience with grandtravel. Results did however indicate that grandparents with higher levels of the IGS domains were more likely to have traveled with their grandchildren. None of the intergenerational solidarity domains had a

significant relationship with grandtravel decision-making tendencies, although grandparents with higher levels of the IGS domains tended to allow their grandchildren to share more in the decision than those with low levels of the IGS domains. This is consistent with the decision-making studies conducted by Nelson (1979) and Lackman and Lanasa (1993) the decision of what to eat and what to do were the decisions most likely to be shared with grandchildren.

Grandparents tended to rate the solidarity domains that involved feelings (affectual, consensual, and normative) higher and rate solidarity domains that involved actions (associational, structural, and functional) lower. Perhaps this is best explained by the issue of proximity, in that grandparents who live closer to their grandchildren may be more likely to associate with their grandchildren. However, as stated by Roberto, Allen and Blieszner (2001) the amount of contact between grandparents and grandchildren does not guarantee the formation of a close relationship.

Findings indicate that grandparents support or strongly support the idea of traveling with their grandchildren and say they are likely to do so, even though under half of grandparents have actually traveled with their grandchildren. The large majority of respondents indicated that they would consider taking part in grandtravel, and supported the idea of grandtravel. Previous studies have identified an interest in grandtravel, such as Maxwell (1998) who found that 16% of grandparents had vacationed with their grandchild in the past month. Consistent with these findings, the current study found that just under half of the respondents indicated that they had previously taken part in grandtravel. These findings indicate that there is definitely an interest and a market for

travel providers interested in providing grandtravel. With such a large interest in grandtravel, there is also a need for further research examining this travel niche.

Grandparents with high levels of affectional, consensual, normative and associational solidarity are more likely to support grandtravel than those with low levels of these IGS domains. Affectional, consensual, and normative solidarity are all forms of feeling close to your grandchild, not acting. This is consistent with support for grandtravel. Support is a feeling, not an action. Those with positive solidarity feelings are also likely to have positive feelings towards grandtravel.

Grandparents with high levels of the IGS domains are likely to travel with their grandchildren while grandparents with low levels of the IGS domains are not likely to do so. These findings may indicate that grandparents who feel close to their grandchildren are the most likely to want to spend time with their grandchildren. Grandparents with good relationships with their grandchildren would like to further enrich these relationships through spending time with their grandchildren. However, those who do not have strong relationships with their grandchildren are not likely to improve this relationship through travel. The academic community will want to take note that generally high levels of the IGS domains result in a higher likelihood of grandtravel. This may indicate that high levels of the IGS domains result in other recreational activities with grandchildren.

There is something to be said for the fact that many results were not significant. For example, there was no significant relationship between the IGS domains and past experience with grandtravel. This is an important finding for the travel industry. Travel providers may inherently assume that grandparents traveling with their grandchildren

have a close relationship. Although there is a trend, results indicate that this is not statistically true. Those providing grandtravel may want to be aware that there may not be as strong of a relationship between grandparents and grandchildren as may have been assumed.

The findings for likelihood of grandtravel and support of grandtravel both indicated that the large majority of grandparents either would like to travel or support the idea of traveling with their grandchildren. However, when asked about past experience with grandtravel, more than half of grandparents said they had never done so. This demonstrates that grandparents like to think they would do something with their grandchild. However, actions are different than thoughts. Saying you support something or that you would like to do something is different than actually doing it. Again, this trend demonstrates that there is a difference between actions and words.

Grandparents tend to favor children of daughters over children of sons. Results indicated that almost two thirds of respondents stated that their favorite grandchild was the child of a daughter. This indicates that other research concerning IGS may relate more to children of daughters than children of sons. Specific studies may be necessary to examine the relationship between grandparents and the children of their sons.

There may be several reasons for this, first in American society once sons are married, they tend to be emotionally pulled toward the families of their wives. This may mean that when the couple has to choose to spend a holiday or vacation with either the husband's parents or the wives parents, they will be most likely to spend the time with the wives parents. Results of this would mean that grandparents with both sons and daughters might be more likely to spend time with the children of their daughters than the

children of their sons. Therefore, grandparents may feel closer relationships with these children, not necessarily because they consider them “favorites” but because they are able to see these children and interact with them more than the children of their sons. Specific research may be necessary to examine relationships with children of sons.

It is interesting to take note of the heavily female dominated results of this study. Many of these results are predictable, including that fact that many more grandmothers took part in the study than grandfathers did. Because men tend to die earlier than women, female participants dominate many studies on grandparenting and few studies have been conducted specifically on grandfathers (Roberto, Allen & Blieszner, 2001). Even though the domination by grandmothers may be predictable, it was not predictable that more the majority of grandparents would state that their favorite grandchild was the child of a daughter. There are several considerations that may account for this. First of all, maybe mothers are more attached to their daughters and since mostly grandmothers took part in the study, it would make sense that their favorite grandchild was the child of a daughter. Possibly, respondents had more female children than male children. Another explanation may be that when men get married and have children, they tend to go with their spouses to be close either physically or mentally with her parents. There is no exact explanation for this trend, but this may shed light, onto the issue of extended families. Overall, these findings are consistent with those of Mills, Wakeman and Fea (2001) who found that grandchildren feel emotionally closer to their maternal grandparents than they do to their paternal grandparents.

The decision-making findings indicate that grandparents want to be, or at least think that they are, in control of all decisions. There is no way to measure how much

subconscious influence a child has on a grandparent. For example, a child may influence the grandparent to travel to Disney World. Even though the child is not making this decision him/herself, there is a definite influence that is taking place. Grandparents may or may not be aware of the influential part their grandchild plays in making this, and other travel related decisions. In this study, grandparents were asked how much of a decision they themselves make, versus the amount of the decision they allow their grandchild to make. Grandchildren being “allowed” to make a decision and grandchildren influencing the grandparent into making a decision may be two different concepts. If this study was reversed and the grandchildren were asked how much influence they have on decisions, as in Nickerson and Jurowski’s decision-making study (2000), results might be drastically different.

This study indicated that grandparents dominate the decision of where to go, when to go, how much to spend, and where to stay. They are evenly split on the decision what to do and what to eat. This demonstrates that for decisions involving the, grandparents are most likely to make the decision. Grandparents with high levels of the six IGS domains are more likely to share decisions with, or give a higher percentage of a decision to their grandchildren. Several of the domains of solidarity involve agreeing with your grandchild. This may indicate that grandparents with higher levels of solidarity are likely to agree with their grandchild, and therefore feel comfortable handing over large portions of travel related decisions to their grandchildren. However, there are no significant relationships between the six IGS domains and decision-making tendencies.

Along with the above discussion, it must be noted that The Villages is an area populated by middle to high income white Americans. Grandparents of different race,

ethnicity, and income may result in dramatically different outcomes. For example, Mexican-American families are known to have closer family ties throughout different generations (Giarrusso, Feng, Silverstein & Bengston, 2001). Where the grandparents surveyed for this study live far away from their grandchildren, Mexican-American grandparents may live in the same household as their grandchildren. This family structure is likely to dramatically effect support of, likelihood of, and past experience with grandtravel. Similarly, data gathered from grandparents with lower income than those in The Villages would likely have a dramatic impact on results. Those likely to travel are also those with the highest incomes (Hawes, 1998). Because The Villages is a high-income area, these grandparents may be more likely to support, be likely to take part in, and/or have past experience with grandtravel. Grandparents with lower incomes may not be able to spend the amount of money necessary to participate in grandtravel, therefore dramatically lowering their support, likelihood of and past experience with grandtravel.

These findings have several implications for the tourism industry. First, operators of grandtravel programs will want to take note that grandparents may not necessarily want to hold a large amount of responsibility over their grandchildren. Currently, several tour operators such as Elderhostel, based in Boston, MA and Holbrook Travel, based in Gainesville, FL expect that grandparents participating in grandtravel/intergenerational programs will take full responsibility over their grandchildren in terms of childcare. These findings associated with structural and functional solidarity may indicate that grandparents do not want this level of responsibility. Therefore these tour operators may want to consider having a “babysitter” as part of the travel package. These decision-

related results indicate that marketers targeting children may want to focus on vacation activities and meals because children are most likely to play a large part in these decisions. In contrast, marketers will want to keep materials related to how much money to spend, where to go, and where to stay focused on the grandparents.

Recommendations for Future Research

The following recommendations are made in regard to the need for more information dealing with grandparents traveling with their grandchildren.

In order to best measure overall affectual solidarity, it is recommended that all variables be measured on a six-point scale rather than measurements with varying scales. It is also recommended that all domains of Intergenerational Solidarity be measured using consistent scales. This would make comparing the different IGS domains to a dependent variable such as grandtravel more viable.

When asking grandparents about their grandchildren, it is recommended that future researchers do not use the term favorite grandchild. The researcher found that several grandparents were offended by this term, or simply returned their surveys stating that they “did not have a favorite grandchild.” Instead it is recommended that future researchers simply ask respondents to think of only one grandchild while responding to the questionnaire.

A large amount of data was gathered for this study that was not reported. Future studies should report other aspects of grandtravel not presented in the current study such as where grandparents would like to travel, what would prevent them from traveling, what they would like to do etc (see Appendix B). This information would provide a better overall view of grandtravelers.

Recognizing that this sample is not representative of the entire population of grandparents, it is recommended that future studies make an effort to study grandparents populations other than middle to high income white grandparents. Intergenerational solidarity and grandtravel tendencies may be vastly different from one demographic to the next. These differences are not accounted for in this study.

APPENDIX A
SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Thank you for taking part in this survey. Please only take part if you are a grandparent. Please answer all of the following questions thinking about one particular grandchild for the entire survey, possibly your favorite grandchild. We understand most grandparents do not have “favorites.” This word is used only to ensure that respondents answer all questions thinking of only one grandchild.

1. How well do you get along with your favorite grandchild? (Circle one)

Not at all well	Not too well	Somewhat well	Pretty well	Very Well	Extremely Well
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2. How well do you feel you understand your favorite grandchild? (Circle one)

Not at all well	Not too well	Somewhat well	Pretty well	Very Well	Extremely Well
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3. How well do you feel this grandchild understands you? (Circle one)

Not at all well	Not too well	Somewhat well	Pretty well	Very Well	Extremely Well
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4. Overall, how well do you and your favorite grandchild get along together at this point in your life? (Circle one)

Not at all well	Not too well	Somewhat well	Pretty well	Very Well	Extremely Well
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5. How is communication between you and this grandchild – exchanging ideas or talking about things that really concern you at this point in your life? (Circle one)

Not at all good	Not too good	Somewhat good	Pretty good	Very good
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6. Taking everything into consideration, how close do you feel is the relationship between you and your favorite grandchild? (Circle one)

Not at all close	Not too close	Somewhat close	Pretty close	Very close	Extremely close
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7. In the past year, approximately how many times were you in contact with your favorite grandchild? (Write number in blank)

In person _____
 Over the phone _____
 Letters _____
 Email _____

8. In general how similar are your opinions and values about life to those of your favorite grandchild's at this point in time? (Circle one)

Not at all similar	Not too similar	Somewhat similar	Pretty similar	Very similar	Extremely similar
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9. How close does your favorite grandchild live to you?

- ___ Within the same city
- ___ Within the same state
- ___ In the same region of the country (ex. Southeastern United States)
- ___ In a different region of the country
- ___ In a different country

10. In the past year, how much financial support have you provided for your favorite grandchild?

None	\$50 or less	\$51 - \$100	\$101-\$500	\$501-\$1000	Over \$1001	Over \$10,000
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11. In the past year, how much childcare have you provided for your favorite grandchild? (Circle one)

1-12 hours	1-3 days	4-7 days	2-3 weeks	1 month	2-3 months	4-6 months	More than 6 months
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12. Looking toward the future how much do you expect that your favorite grandchild will feel a sense of family obligation toward you? (Circle one)

None at all	A little	Some	A good amount	Quite a bit	A great deal
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13. What do you think about the idea of traveling with your favorite grandchild without the parents of that child?

1. Do NOT support
2. Somewhat support
3. Neither support nor do not support
4. Support
5. STRONGLY support

14. If you were to travel with your favorite grandchild without the parents of this child, what would you like to do?

15. If you were to travel with your favorite grandchild without this child's parents, where would you like to go?

16. How long would you like such a trip to last? (Circle one)

1-2 nights	3-4 nights	5-6 nights	1 week	1 ½ weeks	2 weeks	More than 2 weeks
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17. What types of activities would you like to take part in during a trip with your grandchild without the parents of that child? (Please check all that apply)

1. Sightseeing
2. Educational experiences
3. Visit an amusement park
4. Visit a place of historical significance (such as Washington D.C.)
5. International travel
6. Visit family/friends
7. Sports
8. Arts and Crafts
9. Shows (Theater, dance, etc.)
10. Shopping

- 11. Outdoor activities (canoeing, hiking etc.)
- 12. Other _____

18. Have you ever traveled with your favorite grandchild without the parents of that child?

- 1. Yes (go to question #19)
- 2. No (go to question #20)

19. If you answered yes to the above question, did you enjoy yourself? (Circle one)

None at all	A little	Some	A good amount	Quite a bit	A great deal
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20. If you answered no to question #18, would you consider traveling with your favorite grandchild without the parents of that child? (If you answered yes to question #18, skip to question #21)

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

21. What would prevent you from traveling with your favorite grandchild without the parents of that child?

- 1. No interest in doing so
- 2. Not able to financially
- 3. Not enough time
- 4. Not in good enough health
- 5. Could not cope with the child by myself
- 6. Other _____

22. If you have traveled with your grandchild without the parents of that child, how many times have you done so? (Circle one) If you have not traveled with your grandchild, skip to question #28.

Once	Twice	3 times	4 times	More than 4 times
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23. If you have traveled with your grandchild without the parents of that child where did you travel? (Check all that apply)

- 1. Somewhere in the state

2. Out of state, but in the same region of the country
3. To a different region of the country
4. Internationally

24. Please tell specifically what places you traveled to with your grandchild without the parents.

25. Have you traveled with your favorite grandchild without the parents of that child in the last 12 months?

1. Yes
2. No

26. If you answered yes to the above questions, how long was your trip?

1-2 nights	3-4 nights	5-6 nights	1 week	1 ½ weeks	2 weeks	More than 2 weeks
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27. What was your favorite place that you traveled to with your favorite grandchild without the parents of this child?

28. Of the following topics please indicate the percent of the decision you made, versus the percent of the decision you allowed or would allow your grandchild to make while traveling.

Topic

Deciding where to go

___% Grandparent (You)

___% Grandchild

Deciding when to go

___% Grandparent (You) ___% Grandchild

Deciding what to do while on the trip

___% Grandparent (You) ___% Grandchild

Deciding what to eat

___% Grandparent (You) ___% Grandchild

Deciding how much money to spend

___% Grandparent (You) ___% Grandchild

Deciding where to stay

___% Grandparent (You) ___% Grandchild

- 29. What is your gender? Male or Female
- 30. What is the gender of your favorite grandchild? Male or Female
- 31. In what year were you born? _____
- 32. How old are you? _____
- 32. How old is your favorite grandchild? (Years) _____
- 33. How many grandchildren do you have? _____
- 34. What is your race/ethnicity? (Circle one)

White	White/Hispanic	Black	Black/Hispanic	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American
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- 35. What is your average yearly income? (Circle one)

Less than \$10,000	\$10,001- 30,000	\$30,001- 50,000	\$50,001- 100,000	\$100,001- 500,00	More than \$500,000
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- 36. What is your marital status?

___ Single (never married)
___ Married (first marriage)

- Widowed
- Divorced
- Remarried after divorce or death of a spouse
- Living together as if we were married

37. How is your favorite grandchild related to you?

- Child of a son
- Child of a daughter
- Child of a son-in-law
- Child of a daughter-in-law

☺ You have now completed the survey.
Thank you very much for taking part in this study! ☺

APPENDIX B
UNUSED DATA

Question #16

How long would you like such a [grandtravel] trip to last?

Response	<u>n</u>	%
1-2 nights	28	12.2
3-4 nights	25	10.9
5-6 nights	11	4.8
1 week	68	29.7
1 ½ weeks	18	7.9
2 weeks	48	21.0
More than 2 weeks	31	13.5

Question #17

What types of activities would you like to take part in [during grandtravel]?

Response	<u>n</u>	%
Sightseeing		
No	54	22.7
Yes	184	77.3
Education		
No	83	34.9
Yes	155	65.1
Amusement Park		
No	91	38.2
Yes	147	61.8
Historical		
No	102	42.9
Yes	136	57.1
International Travel		

Question #17 Continued

Response	<u>n</u>	%
No	176	73.9
Yes	62	26.1
Family/Friends		
No	134	56.3
Yes	104	43.7
Sports		
No	147	61.8
Yes	91	38.2
Arts/Crafts		
No	163	68.5
Yes	75	31.5
Shows		
No	114	47.9
Yes	124	52.1
Shopping		
No	133	55.5
Yes	105	44.5
Outdoor		
No	127	53.4
Yes	111	46.6

Question #19

Did you enjoy yourself [while traveling with your grandchild]?

Response	<u>n</u>	%
Not at all	1	0.9
A little	1	0.9
Some	1	0.9
A good amount	4	3.7
Quit at bit	25	22.9
A great deal	77	70.6

Question #21

What would prevent you from traveling with your grandchild?

Response	<u>n</u>	%
No Interest		
Yes	9	4.8
No	177	95.2
Financial		
Yes	30	16.1
No	156	83.9
Time		
Yes	40	21.5
No	146	78.5
Health		
Yes	36	19.4
No	150	80.6
Cope with child		
Yes	9	4.8
No	177	95.2

Question #22

How many times have you traveled with your grandchild?

Response	<u>n</u>	%
Once	24	21.6
Twice	16	14.4
3 times	21	18.9
4 times	9	8.1
More than 4 times	41	36.9

Question #23

Where did you travel [with your grandchild]?

Response	<u>n</u>	%
In state		
Yes	77	67.5
No	37	14.7
Out of state same region		
Yes	43	37.7
No	71	62.3
Different region		
Yes	37	32.5
No	77	67.5
Internationally		
Yes	9	7.9
No	105	92.1

Question #25

Have you traveled with your grandchild in the last 12 months?

Response	<u>n</u>	%
Yes	53	35.1
No	98	64.9

Question #26

How long did the [grandtravel] trip last?

Response	<u>n</u>	%
1-2 nights	14	26.9
3-4 nights	7	13.5
5-6 nights	3	5.8
1 week	15	28.8
1 ½ weeks	3	5.8
2 weeks	5	9.6
More than 2 weeks	5	9.6

APPENDIX C ADDENDUM

After completing this study, and after careful consideration of the statistical tests conducted and datum gathered for this study, several issues have been raised. First, it has become evident that there are several problems with the questionnaire that was used to gather the datum for this study. First, all of the questions regarding affectual solidarity should have been measured on a six-point scale. The fact that one question was measured on a five-scale was a mistake by the researcher. If all questions would have been measured on a six-point scale, the measures for affectual solidarity could have been added together and measured on a scale from 1-36. Second, the way the intergenerational solidarity data was analyzed may have caused problems. For example, the responses to the two survey questions regarding functional solidarity (financial support and childcare) were added together and combined into one variable. This was not appropriate as financial support and childcare not correlated enough to be added together. Associational solidarity also had problems; the amount of contact over four different mediums (in-person, phone, email, and letters) was added together assuming that no one type of contact was more important than another. This may be a false assumption as more time is spent with a person when contacting them in-person than when contacting them via email.

Statistical issues may have resulted from the sample size of this study. A sample size of 252 was gathered for this study. In several cases, statistical tests such as cross-tabs and regressions could not be run due to small cell sizes. Additionally, several

questions such as likelihood of grandtravel were the result of directional questions. Before reaching the likelihood question on the survey, grandparents were asked about their past experience with grandtravel. If they did not have past experience with grandtravel they were directed to the likelihood question. If they did have past experience with grandtravel they were directed to skip the likelihood question. This resulted in an even smaller sample size for the question of likelihood of grandtravel.

The above issues may have caused several problems with the statistics associated with this study. Additionally, all six domains of intergenerational solidarity were collapsed into three categories; low, medium, and high. This was done so that all six variables could be easily compared. However, doing this took away much of the variance within these different variables. For example, responses regarding consensual solidarity showed that 36.2% of grandparents believed their opinions were “pretty similar” to their grandchildren’s and 25.5% believed their opinions were “very similar.” Over 61% of grandparents fell into these two categories, showing moderately high levels of consensual solidarity. However, when consensual solidarity was collapsed into low, medium, and high, 29.8% were low, 36.2% were medium and 34.0% were high. By looking at the collapsed results the previous statement that over 61% of grandparents had moderately high levels of consensual solidarity is no longer evident. This problem is likely an issue for the other domains of intergenerational solidarity as well.

Collapsing the intergenerational solidarity variables into low, medium, and high may not have only taken away variances; it may have also influenced the results of this study. If these variables were not collapsed, and different statistical tests were conducted, results of the relationships between the different intergenerational solidarity domains,

likelihood of, support of, and past experience with grandtravel may have been different. The current study indicated that there were very few significant relationships between the intergenerational solidarity variables and the dependent variables. However, academicians and travel-professionals examining this study will want to be aware that this may not be the case. If the statistics for this study were analyzed differently and different statistical tests were run, results may have show significances that the current study does not.

This study did not examine the relationship that the different domains of intergenerational solidarity may have on each other. For example, normative solidarity may influence affectual solidarity and associational solidarity and affectual solidarity may influence associational solidarity. Together, these relationships may influence support of or likelihood of grandtravel.

Statistical regression of the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and support of grandtravel was conducted controlling for socio-demographic variables. This test indicated that socio-demographic variables (age of grandparent, gender of grandparent, income, marital status) explain nine percent of a grandparent's support of grandtravel. The socio-demographic variables were blocked together; therefore we do not know which variables had the most influence. The regression also indicated that 11% of support of grandtravel can be explained by normative solidarity. However, these results are questionable as normative solidarity is general umbrella term. Additionally, this question asked grandparents how much obligation (filial piety) they expected their grandchildren to feel toward them. Ideally, this question should have asked how much family

obligation or filial piety the grandparent felt toward the grandchildren. No other independent variables explained any amount of grandparents support for grandtravel.

Logistical regression was conducted with the six domains of intergenerational solidarity and likelihood of grandtravel, controlling for socio-demographic variables. This test indicated that within functional solidarity, amount of financial support provided to the grandchild was the only significant predictor of likelihood of grandtravel. No other independent variables showed a significant influence on likelihood of grandtravel. It should be reiterated that because likelihood of grandtravel of a directive question, the sample size was only 144. Additionally, for this logistic regression the 16 “maybe” responses were thrown out resulting in a sample size of 128. Due to this small sample size not regressions had enough responses to create large enough cells to run the logistic regression.

Although this study does suffer from the above issues related to the six domains of intergenerational solidarity, there are several findings presented in this study that are not only statistically sound, but important to academics and travel professionals. These findings include descriptive statistics that prove a strong support of and likelihood of grandtravel. Additionally, decision-making results showed the large differences in the tendency to share or not share travel related decision with grandchildren. Grandparents strongly dominate in the decisions of how much money to spend and where to stay but are likely to share with their grandchildren the decision of what to eat and what to do. It is disappointing that the results relating to intergenerational solidarity are not stronger, but other important results of this study should not be forgotten.

Notes from the researcher

With the completion of this thesis, I have learned that a thesis is not only about what you learn from the results of your study, but about the process you have to go through to get to the end. If I were to start this project over there are several things I would do differently. I would pilot test my survey to prevent respondent confusion. I would closely plan my statistical analysis in conjunction with the development of my survey. This would prevent the majority of data analysis problems. I would work more closely with all professors on my committee to ensure that what was being done was what they wanted and expected which would prevent or minimize confusion at the end of the project. It has been mentioned that for the good of my future career I should know specifically how the different intergenerational solidarity domains affected grandtravel. I agree that this is important, unfortunately from our attempts at regression and with the data problems stated above, it looks like this will not be possible. However, intergenerational solidarity aside, I have no doubt that my future career, and my future in general will be positively influenced by the knowledge, experience and persistence I have learned from completing this project.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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