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16. Abstract

Until recently, flying cars have existed primarily in the realm of science fiction, although patents for such vehicles extend to the early years of aviation. However, recently there has been a rapid increase in interest in flying cars from companies ranging from large, international manufacturers to a variety of start-ups.

In addition to major technological, traffic-control, and licensing issues that still will need to be addressed, a big unknown is what consumers think of the concept of flying cars, and what the desirable parameters are for such a novel approach to mobility. Consequently, this study was designed to survey Americans regarding their views about flying cars. Among the issues examined were the likely benefits, major concerns, preferred source of energy, desirable minimum range, amount of flight-training required, takeoff and landing requirements, seating capacity, affordability, and overall interest in operating or using such vehicles.

The data consist of responses from 508 adults in the United States to an online survey. The report presents detailed summaries by gender and age that can be used to inform the decisions of designers and regulators of the initial generation of flying cars. The overall conclusion from the findings is that, despite the fact that most Americans are very concerned about the safety of flying cars, most would still ultimately like to use them.

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