



Crime Prevention for Truckers Survey

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November 9, 2022



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Background

- Several years ago, Women in Trucking (WIT) approached FMCSA regarding addressing the harassment of women truckers.
- It was determined that a survey regarding personal safety of truck drivers, particularly women and minority drivers, was a logical first step to better understand the nature and prevalence of the situation.
- In this study, harassment is defined as the threat of, or actual physical harm, against a truck driver, their possessions, vehicle, or cargo.
- Given current truck driver supply challenges, identifying the scope and seriousness of the issue can facilitate the development of solutions to help drivers to better protect themselves, more broadly improve the working environment for commercial drivers overall, and increase the recruitment of women and minority drivers into the industry.

Online Survey

- FMCSA-sponsored surveys conducted between 1/12/22 and 2/22/22
 - Conducted by Battelle under contract to FMCSA
 - 40 questions posed
- Overall survey content:
 - Screening questions for eligibility
 - Background, demographics, and information pertaining to their profession
 - Nature and frequency of these crimes
 - Where and when these incidents occur
 - Characteristics of the aggressors
 - How many of these incidents go unreported and reasons why
 - How respondents heard about the survey
- 653 truckers responded to the survey (201 women, 167 minority male, and 285 non-minority male)
 - Project team partnered with trucking organizations and carriers to recruit participants

Survey Findings

- Harassment against truck drivers is prevalent.
- Women truck drivers are exposed to far more sexual harassment.
- Harassment often happens at truck stops and at pickup/drop-off depots

Harassment or Crime Type	Women	Minority Male	Non-Minority Male
Being called a name they did not like	59%	52%	51%
Received words that threatened to hurt them	38%	40%	44%
Truck or cargo got vandalized	17%	26%	25%
Got pushed or hit or physically hurt	15%	7%	13%
Got threatened with a weapon, like a gun or a knife or a wrench or a tire thumper	14%	25%	24%
Got touched inappropriately	33%	8%	14%

Where Did It Happen?	Women (n=66)	Minority Male (n=28)	Non-Minority Male (n=51)
On my company's property	21%	18%	4%
At a place where I picked up or delivered	33%	25%	31%
At a truck stop	50%	57%	49%
At a fueling station	24%	18%	18%
At a public rest area	9%	14%	20%
At a weigh station or border crossing	3%	4%	0%
At an overnight parking location other than a truck stop or rest area	15%	14%	12%
While I was driving	35%	29%	35%
While I was riding in the truck and somebody else was driving	12%	4%	6%
Prefer not to answer	5%	4%	0%
Someplace else [a blank to fill in]	11%	7%	10%

Survey Findings

- Women truck drivers are more likely to experience harassment than other truck drivers:
 - at their company
 - and by other drivers, trainers
- About half of the harassment incidents go unreported. Reasons given include:
 - Did not think it would make a difference
 - Have to deal with it regardless

Who was the Aggressor?	Women (n=66)	Minority Male (n=28)	Non-Minority Male (n=51)
Another driver at my company	26%	21%	0%
Somebody who was training me	20%	7%	0%
A boss at my company	3%	7%	0%
Some other employee at my company	14%	11%	0%
Somebody at a customer's place	17%	25%	12%
A truck stop employee	5%	4%	2%
Some other driver	55%	46%	39%
Somebody else	21%	25%	22%
Don't know	14%	21%	31%
Prefer not to answer	5%	7%	8%

Attacks or Threats Reported?	Women	Minority Male	Non-Minority Male
Yes	36 (55%)	9 (32%)	24 (47%)
No	28 (42%)	16 (57%)	26 (51%)
Prefer not to answer	2 (3%)	3 (11%)	1 (2%)

Survey Findings

- Top ten states in terms of frequency of reported incidents against women
- 32 percent of women survey respondents answered the question:
 - *“Which State did this happen in? (Choose more than one State if it happened more than once)”*
- Urban locations were slightly higher than rural for reported harassments (53 percent vs. 44 percent)
- 34 percent of women survey respondents answered the question:
 - *What type of area did it happen in? (Choose all that apply)*

State	Women (n=63)
California	14
Illinois	8
Michigan	7
Ohio	7
Florida	6
Georgia	6
Indiana	6
Pennsylvania	6
Kentucky	5
Oklahoma	5

Type of Area the Harassment Happened	Women (n=66)
Rural	29
Urban	35
Other	16
Prefer not to answer	3

Survey Participant Feedback/Suggestions

- Enhance safety at existing trucking facilities
 - Need adequate lighting/security features in parking lots, fueling stations, truck stops, and docking areas.
 - Presence of safety patrol and law enforcement is beneficial for safety.
- Need additional parking facilities
 - Majority of participants stated that many crimes that happen against truckers are the direct result of limited parking availability
- Improve communication within the trucking industry
 - Safe and efficient travel plans need to be developed as delays in schedule often force truckers to park in unsafe locations.
- Provide personal safety training to truck drivers
 - Many respondents indicated that they have never received training on personal safety.
- Develop educational materials to increase awareness to address how to recognize, prevent, interject, and report crimes.
- Allow personal protection devices onboard the vehicle
 - Many respondents mentioned that they would feel safer if they were allowed to carry personal protection devices—including firearms.
 - Policies of many trucking companies, shippers, and receivers do not allow truckers to carry firearms in their trucks.

Agency Recommended Next Steps

- Provide findings to the Women of Trucking Advisory Board (WOTAB)
- Develop and distribute outreach materials to amplify the study.
 - Posting on FMCSA website
 - Social media
 - Presentations at other conferences.
- Review CDL training requirements for potential changes to reduce potential for harassment of women drivers by trainers.
- Work with States to develop/enhance safety/security plans for truck parking facilities.
- Facilitate stakeholder discussions on safe routing.
- Work with FHWA, industry and States to increase availability of safe truck parking
- Work with industry to improve safety culture within the carrier organizations