

Effectiveness of CDL Third-Party Testing

Kelly Stowe



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

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

2023

ANALYSIS,
RESEARCH, &
TECHNOLOGY
FORUM


VIRTUAL EVENT



Background: Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Testing and Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT)

The majority of States leverage **third parties** to conduct **CDL skills tests**

§ 383.75 Third party testing.
(a) Third party tests. A State may authorize a third party tester to administer the skills tests as specified in subparts G and H of this part, if the following conditions are met:



TRAINING
PROVIDER REGISTRY

Email Sign Up

HomeLearnEntry-Level DriversTraining ProvidersContactFind Provider

ELDT APPLICABILITY

Review the information below to determine which drivers are required to complete entry-level driver training.

What are the Entry-Level Driver Training regulations?

The ELDT regulations set the minimum Federal requirements for training that entry-level drivers must complete before being permitted to take certain commercial driver's license (CDL) skills or knowledge tests on or after February 7, 2022.

Who is considered an entry-level driver? Individuals applying to:

Obtain a Class A CDL or Class B CDL for the first time;

Upgrade an existing Class B CDL to a Class A CDL;

Obtain a school bus (S), passenger (P), or hazardous materials (H) endorsement for the first time.

The ELDT requirements apply to individuals who obtain a commercial learner's permit (CLP) on or after February 7, 2022.

The ELDT regulations are not retroactive; individuals who were issued a CDL or an S, P, or H endorsement prior to February 7, 2022 are not required to complete training for the respective CDL or endorsement.

Already completed training?

If you completed entry-level driver training with a registered training provider, you can [check your record](#).

ELDT Exceptions

The ELDT regulations do not apply to individuals excepted from the CDL requirements under part 383.

This includes:

■ Individuals applying under § 383.3(c), (d) or (e);

■ Individuals applying for a restricted CDL under § 383.3(e) through (g) or (h);

■ Military personnel who meet all requirements of § 383.77 or (h); or

■ Individuals applying for a removal of a restriction in accordance with § 383.135(b)(7) or (h).

Download the ELDT Eligibility Factsheet

FMCSA has established **minimum standards** for CDL training and CDL knowledge and skills tests

2023 FMCSA ANALYSIS, RESEARCH, AND TECHNOLOGY FORUM

2

Study Objectives

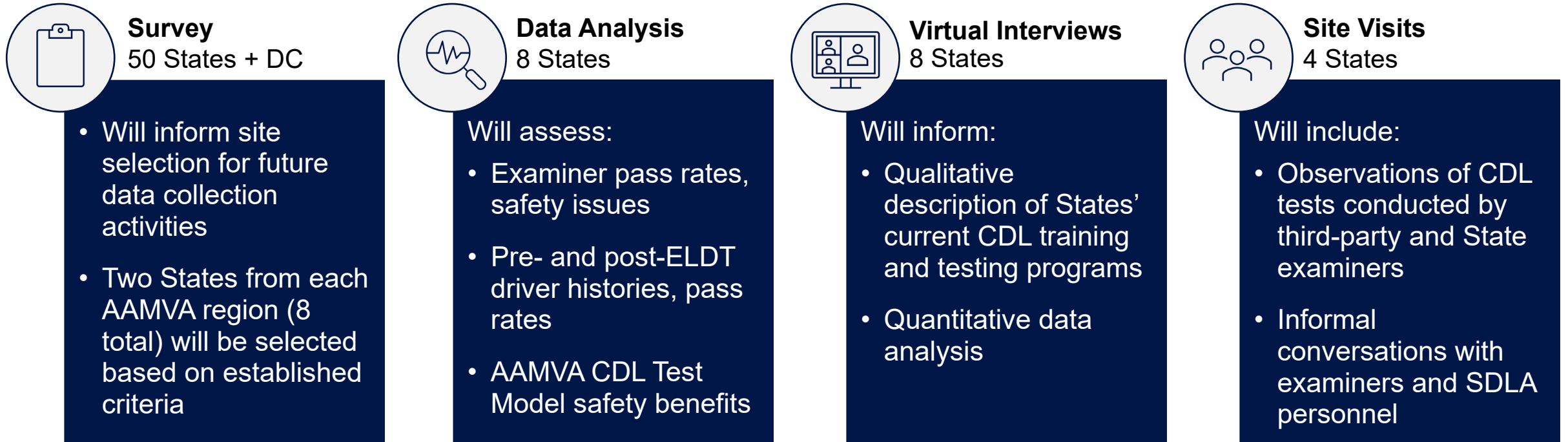
1

Determine the effectiveness of third-party testing programs for CDL skills tests

2

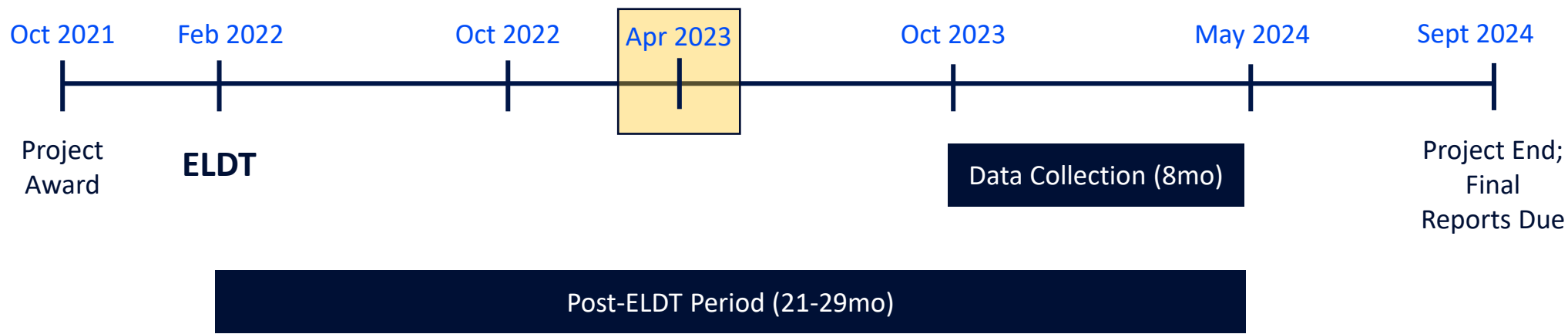
Determine the effectiveness of minimum training and testing standards for CDL knowledge and skills tests

Methodology



Next Steps

- FMCSA is awaiting approval from the Office of Management and Budget to collect information for this study.
- Data collection is expected to begin in October 2023.



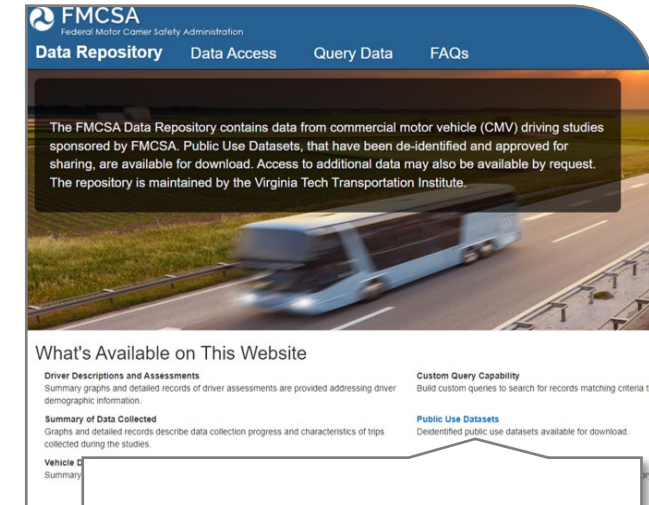
Anticipated Outcomes



Final report on effectiveness
of third-party CDL skills
testing



Final report on effectiveness
of minimum training and
testing standards



De-identified, public-use
dataset

Contact Information

Kelly Stowe

General Engineer, Research Division

Kelly.Stowe@dot.gov