

Poster: 0162

Risks for Workplace Violence in Long Haul Truckers

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Significance of problem: Seventeen workers are murdered and an estimated 33,000 workers experience a non-fatal assault in the U.S. each year (NIOSH, 2004). The transient nature of trucking increases the risk for experiencing workplace violence (Renner, 1998).

Purpose: To investigate the incidence and distribution of workplace violence among long-haul truck drivers. Specific aims: (1) identify the types of violence experienced by long-haul truck drivers; (2) identify risk factors that contribute to the violence; (3) differentiate the risks of work-related stress among distinct socio-demographic groups of truckers; (4) determine the prevalence of domestic violence experienced by long-haul truck drivers; and (5) identify work environment factors that place truck drivers' at risk.

Method: A quantitative survey has been conducted with a non-probability sample (N=987) recruited at truck shows and truck stops across the U.S. Data were collected on violence-related variables (e.g. harassment, weapons, assault, rape, worksite security, psychological strain, and substance abuse). Qualitative data on violence at the worksite is continuing to be collected via phone interviews with a purposive sample of 30 female and 30 male participants.

Data Analysis: Descriptive statistics will be compiled as appropriate for the level of measurements of the variables. Dependent on the specific aim, bivariate relationships, logistic regression, discriminant analysis, Cronbach's alpha, and ANCOVA will be used. Constant-comparative methods and content analysis matrices will be used to describe, analyze, and interpret the qualitative data.

Preliminary Findings:

- N = 987 truckers surveyed
- 90.45% Caucasian (C); 6.26% African-American (A-A); and 3.28% other races
- Majority of both groups male (C = 80.7%; A-A = 96.72%).
- African-American truckers were more likely to be unmarried (A-A = 24.6%; C = 14.1%)
- 44.4 years median age of the Caucasian truckers; 39.5 years median age of the African-American truckers
- 12% Caucasian truckers and 13% African-American truckers surveyed do not maintain a residence outside of their trucks

Abstracts

	Variable
	% of Caucasian subjects
	% of African-American subjects
Robbery	6.92
	13.11
Physical Assault	7.27
	3.28
Sexual Assault	2.50
	0.00
Had an incident (robbery, physical assault, sexual assault)	10.56
	19.67
Carried a weapon	44.67
	45.45

Conclusion: Preliminary results indicate that long-haul truckers are a group at risk for workplace violence. Safety measures at truck stops, rest areas, and delivery sites are needed to decrease workplace violence experienced by this occupational group. There are disparities in the type and amount of workplace violence dependent on gender, race, and occupation. Because of the disparities, research is necessary to determine the best practices for a diverse workforce.

Keywords: Workplace violence, long-haul truckers, occupational health

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