

Studying A Mobile and Hard-To-Reach Population: Survey of Long-Haul U.S. Truck Driver Safety and Health

Transportation Research Board 88th Annual Meeting
January 2009



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE



Survey Objectives

- ❖ Provide baseline data about long-haul truck drivers' health and safety, including prevalence of selected health conditions and risk factors.
- ❖ Identify the risk factors associated with poor health and safety outcomes within the long-haul truck driver population.
- ❖ Provide information to drivers, the trucking industry, and the transportation research community that will guide health and safety promotion, interventions, and future research directions.



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE



Survey Methods

Study Design:

- ❖ Intercept study of long-haul truck drivers stopping at truck stops or other locations
- ❖ Cross sectional study design
- ❖ Long-haul truck drivers to be interviewed at truck stops or other locations along freight transport corridors
- ❖ Stratification of interview locations into 5 geographic regions
- ❖ Number of truck stops selected in each region proportional to traffic load within that region



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE



Survey Methods (continued)

Study Eligibility:

- ❖ Must have been a long-haul driver for at least 12 months
- ❖ Must have driven a vehicle over 26,000 lb. (11,793 kg.) gross vehicle weight

Study Questionnaire:

- ❖ Content based on stakeholder input
- ❖ Most questions from other validated questionnaires
- ❖ Focus groups and cognitive interviews conducted
- ❖ 1 hour interviewer-administered questionnaire

Study Conduct:

- ❖ 2 pilot tests to be performed:
 - Test logistics and administrative strategies at locations
 - Test questionnaire administration procedures
- ❖ Estimate approximately 40 truck stops should be visited to obtain 2,000 completed questionnaires based on length of questionnaires, number of interviewers, and time spent administering at each location.
- ❖ Expected participation rate 80%
- ❖ Field phase expected 2009-2010 following OMB approval



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE



Example Questionnaire Content

Category	Risk Factor	Outcome
Demographics	Age, race, gender	All
Work History	Employment history Owner-operator Over the road vs. packet express	All
Driving Practice	Solo vs. team driving	All
Stress	Work organization Hazardous driving conditions	Driver injury Hypertension
Chronic Disease	Smoking, Alcohol Use, Obesity	Hypertension
	Smoking, Alcohol use Obesity, Hypertension	Diabetes, Cancer, Coronary Heart Disease
Occupational Injuries	Fatigue Sleep disorders	Driver injury Truck accident
Fatigue	Work and sleep schedules	Demotivation, Injury
Sleep disorders	Snoring, Obesity	Sleep apnea



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE

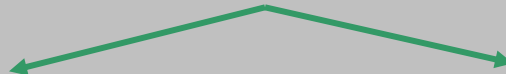


Study Plan at Truck Stops

Identify truck stops along U.S. freight corridors. Stratify by geographic region and traffic load. Systematic selection of truck stops for survey.



Preliminary interview to determine eligibility for survey.
If driver is eligible and agrees to participate:



Administration of short version of questionnaire
If driver's time is limited.

Administration of entire questionnaire if driver agrees.



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE



Stakeholder Input

- 11/1/2007 – Stakeholder Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.
- 11/2007 – 1/2008. NIOSH docket 110 on Internet to obtain comments. Comments and responses Available at:
www.cdc.gov/niosh/docket/nioshdocket0110.html
- 11/2007 – ongoing. NIOSH Science blog. Comments and responses available at:
http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/blog/nsb111907_truck.html
- 5/16/2008 – webinar held in conjunction with American Transportation Research Institute to get carrier input.



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE



Questionnaire Development/Survey Protocol

- 11/2007 – ongoing – development of survey questionnaire.
- 2/2008 – focus groups of long-haul truck drivers at truck show.
- 10/2008 – 12/2008 - cognitive interviews conducted at truck stop.
- Winter 2009 – draft survey protocol to be developed.
Proposed plan (for truck stops):
 - Identification of truck stops along interstate routes. Stratification by geographical region and size (number of parking spaces). Systematic selection of ~40 truck stops, 2000 interviews.
 - Short preliminary interview of truck occupants as enter truck stop area. Used to determine eligibility for survey and willingness to participate.
 - If not willing to participate and eligible for survey, short questions asked to get handle on non-participants.
 - If willing to participate, questionnaire administered by interviewer.
- Winter 2009 – Conduct Pretests
 - Two pretests to be conducted to focus on logistics and strategies for managing a truck stop/terminal survey to maximize efficiency. No questionnaire administration planned for pretests 1 and 2.
 - Third pretest includes questionnaire administration and all survey procedures.



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE



Submission Timelines (Tentative)

- Winter-Spring 2009 – OMB submission.
- 2010 – OMB approval and data collection.
- 2010 – Dissemination of results.



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE



Questions?



Karl Sieber
Principal Investigator

513-841-4231
WSieber@CDC.GOV

Audrey Reichard
Coordinator - Transportation,
Warehousing, and Utilities Program

304-285-6019
AREichard@CDC.GOV

The findings and conclusions in this presentation have not been formally disseminated by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.



SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE

