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# Behind Closed Curtains on Eighteen Wheels: The Risk Factors and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence in Female Long-Haul Truck Drivers

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Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/kim-bourne/4/>

## Purpose

- The purposes of this presentation are to describe the risk factors associated with intimate partner violence (IPV) and the physical, psychological, and workplace consequences of IPV; and to compare the characteristics of female long-haul truck drivers with the risk factors of female victims of IPV in the general population to determine if female truck drivers are at a higher risk for intimate partner violence than the general female population. This information will be used to guide future research.

## Search Method

- Search terms
  - Intimate partner violence, Women, Workplace
- Databases
  - PubMed, CINAHL, PsycInfo, MedLine
- English, Peer-reviewed journals
- 1993-2014
- Inclusion criteria
  - Adult females
- Exclusion Criteria
  - Only males
  - Medical personnel
- Abstracted for review
  - Prevalence rates
  - Associated factors
  - Experiences
  - Physical and psychological health consequences

## Intimate Partner Violence

- “Intimate partner violence describes physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014)
- 1.3 million women each year
- 1 in 3 women
- 50% of female homicides
- Attacker known to victim in most cases
- Underreported



Photos taken by K. Bourne

## Risk Factors

- Young to middle age
- Racial minority (African Americans-highest rate)
- Not married (single, cohabitating with partner, or divorced)
- Low socioeconomic status
- Less education
- Prior history with abuse

## Physical, Psychological, and Workplace Consequences

- Physical
  - Headaches
  - Generalized chronic pain
  - Somatic symptoms
- Psychological
  - Depression
  - Anxiety
  - Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Workplace
  - lost work days
  - decreased productivity
  - increased turn-over rates
  - \$4.1 million in physical and mental health costs



Truck driven by R. & K. Bourne  
Photo taken by K. Bourne

## Truck Drivers

- 3.5 million long-haul truck drivers
  - 5.7% female
  - Majority are Caucasian, male
- Travels thousands of miles throughout 48 contingent states, Canada, and Mexico
- On the road for days to months at a time
- Can drive solo or as part of a team

## Female Truck Driver Characteristics

- 30-50 years old, average
- 75% Caucasian
- 66% drive as team
  - 75% drive with spouse or intimate partner
  - With partner 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week for weeks to months
- Average income \$30,000-\$50,000 per year
- Less than 50% have college education

## Future Research...

- Phenomenological study of the lived experiences of female truck drivers
- Compare similarities and differences in risk factors for female long-haul truck drivers and women in non-male dominated professions
- Examine relationship between risk factors and incidence rates in female long-haul truck drivers
- Examine relationship between length of time on the road and increased risk for female drivers
- Evaluate relationship status between team drivers and incident rate
- Evaluate the prevalence of physical and psychological consequences in female drivers who are at an increased risk

## Contact Information

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- Additional references available upon request.