

**Beyond the app: Rideshare driver health and safety**

*Dr. Brett Shannon of the Illinois Occupational Surveillance Program (IOSP) partnered with colleagues from Australia to conduct a survey to evaluate economic reasons for seeking employment with rideshare companies, the working conditions experienced by rideshare drivers, and self-reported adverse physical and mental health outcomes associated with their working conditions.*

**The Challenge**

Rideshare driving is a relatively new employment opportunity. While employment data are not publicly available, sales have increased 4-fold over the past 10 years and are expected to continue to grow. Because of the evolution of the industry, little is known about this working population. Occupational health professionals and policymakers must extrapolate information about the working conditions of rideshare drivers from similar more established occupations such as taxi drivers and other for-hire operators, who face known risks such as crashes and crime. The goal of the outreach and survey is to provide rideshare drivers, advocates and policy makers with actionable data to improve workplace safety in the rideshare sphere.

**The Response**

This project explored the feasibility of adapting and using existing survey instruments, including components from validated NIOSH surveys, to develop a comprehensive health survey to be disseminated in the United States and Australia to a large cohort of rideshare drivers (>500 participants) and provide needed information on issues related to the work conditions and priority health outcomes of drivers. A key to the project was the partnership with rideshare driver organizations.

"Without developing partnerships with rideshare driver organizations, it would not have been possible to successfully collaborate with this hard to reach worker group."

**-Brett Shannon, IOSP at UIC**

**The Impact**

The analysis of the survey identified numerous occupational hazards and adverse health outcomes including work-stress, precarious working conditions, motor vehicle safety, and depression among rideshare drivers. Our team worked with the Independent Drivers Guild in Illinois to develop several policy briefs and we completed an evaluation of international policy development outside of the United States. These analyses and collaborations with drivers has led to

identification of opportunities for intervention to reduce psychosocial hazards, occupational violence, discrimination, work-related injuries and motor-vehicle crashes in rideshare drivers. The survey results will be used to inform further work on occupational health and safety for drivers in the Midwest following the advancing of legislation in Illinois in March 2026 (HB 4743 – Illinois transportation Network Driver Labor Relations Act) that will allow drivers to unionize and collectively bargain.

**For more information, visit** <https://illinoisinjuryprevention.uic.edu/> **or contact the Illinois Occupational Surveillance Program, University of Illinois Chicago, Lee Friedman, [lfried1@uic.edu](mailto:lfried1@uic.edu).**