TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL TRAFFIC CONTROLLER SAFETY SURVEY

2023 Edition

Survey period: March 2023, published 11/10/2023.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
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1. PURPOSE

In March 2023, the Traffic Management Association of Australia (TMAA) launched the National Traffic Controller Safety survey aimed at assessing the safety of traffic controllers in their work environment. This annual survey aims to gather insights into the hazardous situations that traffic controllers face while on duty.

Participants were informed that their feedback would be instrumental in identifying areas that require improvement to enhance their safety at work. Additionally, the responses gathered would guide the development of communication campaigns, such as TV and radio ads, and social media posts to mitigate risks associated with their vital role.

The survey was completed by 198 Traffic Management Professionals and included three qualitative questions. After analysing the survey results, TMAA has compiled some key findings that are presented in this document.

2. RESULTS

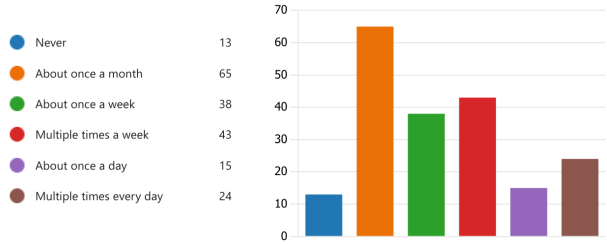
1. When managing traffic, how safe do you usually feel?

Scale: From 0 Extremely unsafe to 10 Extremely safe.

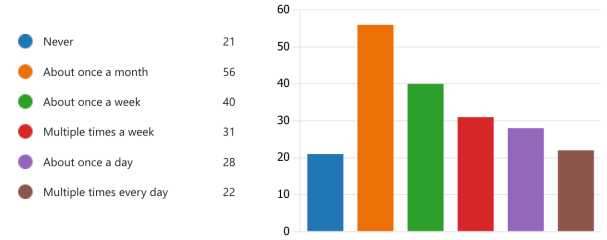
The calculated **average safety perception score stands at 6.3**. This results suggests a fairly low level of perceived safety for traffic controllers in their workplace.

2. In the last 12 months, how many times did you face the following situations?

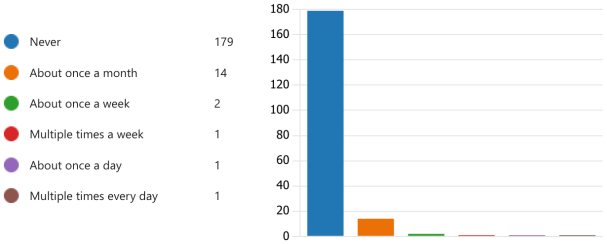
Driver refused to stop when instructed



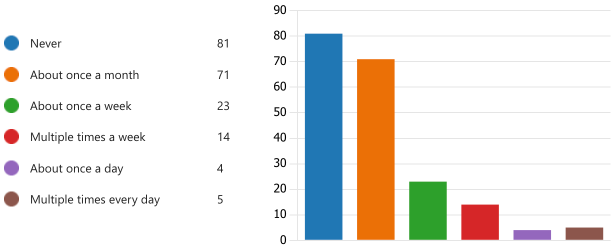
Road user verbally assaulted you



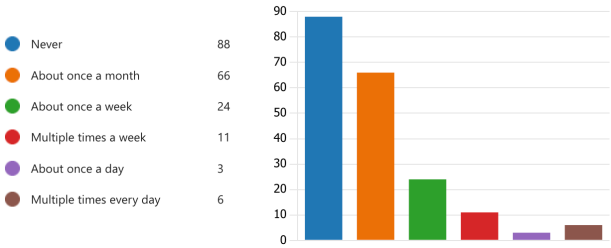
Road user physically assaulted you



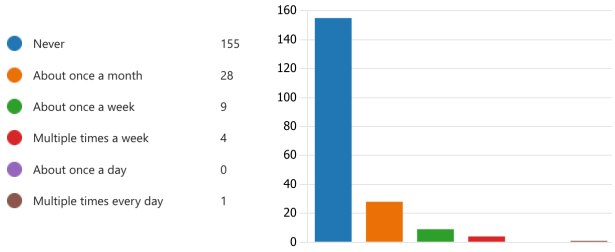
Struck or nearly struck by a vehicle where the driver was distracted



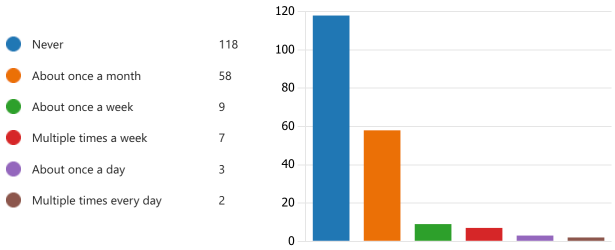
Struck or nearly struck by a speeding vehicle



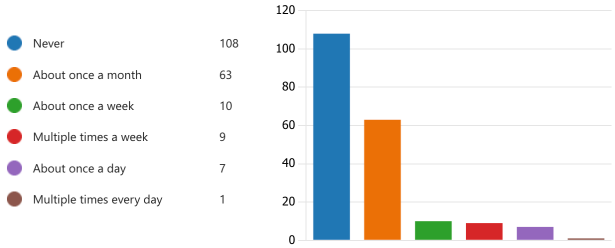
Struck or nearly struck by a construction vehicle on the road work site



Near miss due to low visibility / poor weather conditions

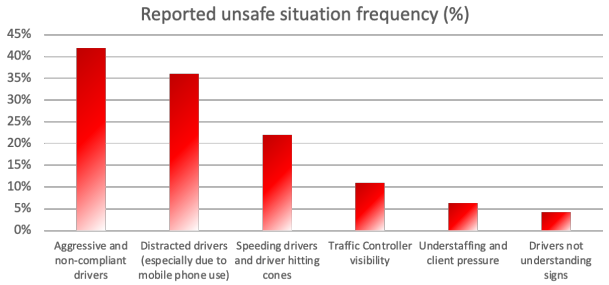


Near miss due to difficult road geometry / site conditions

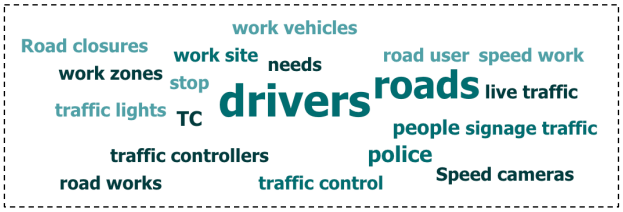


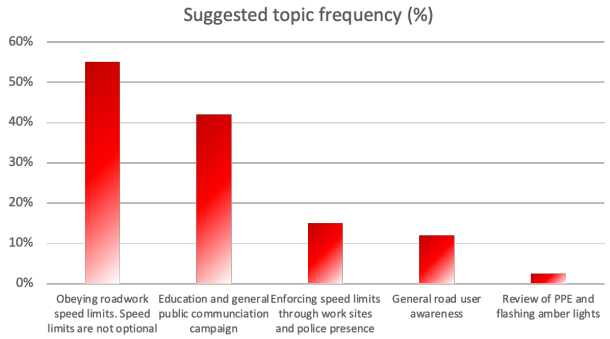
In your own words

Tell us more about the unsafe situation(s) you or one of you colleagues have faced

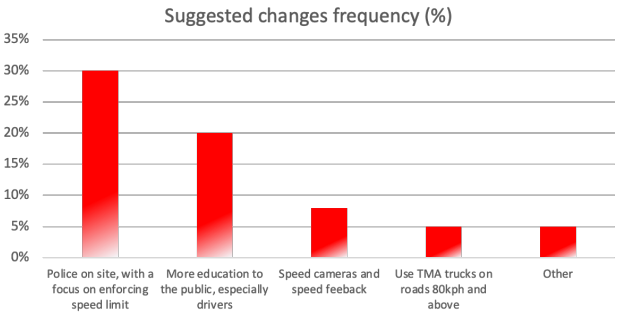


What changes could be made to reduce the likelihood of the above unsafe situation(s)?



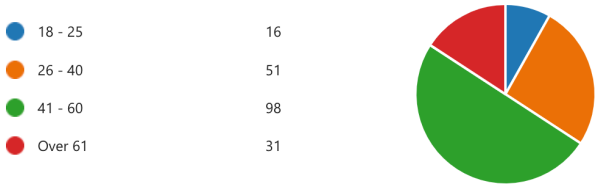


What do you think should be the topic(s) of our next Road Worker Safety Awareness campaign to improve the safety of traffic controllers and roadworkers?



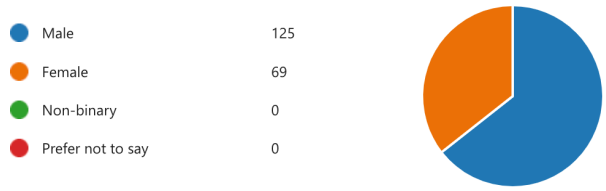
3. PARTICIPANTS

Age



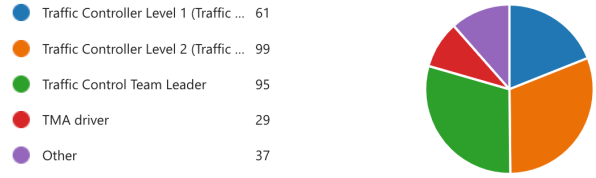
The largest group, comprising 50.5% of respondents, falls within the age range of 41 to 60, representing a significant mid-career group.

Gender



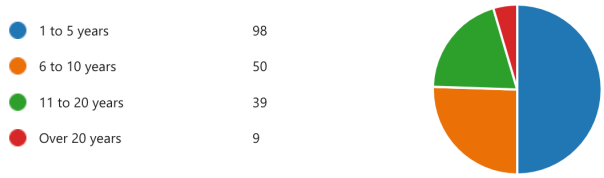
The respondents' genders are predominantly male, with a meaningful representation of female participants as well.

Main occupation



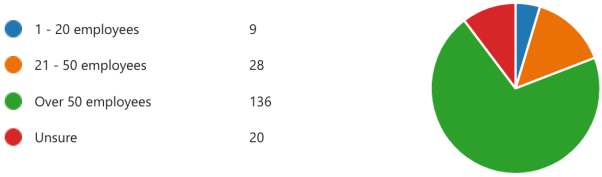
About half of the respondents stated that their main occupation is either Traffic Controller Level 1 (Traffic Control license) or Traffic Controller Level 2 (Traffic Management Implementation).

How long have you been in this occupation for?



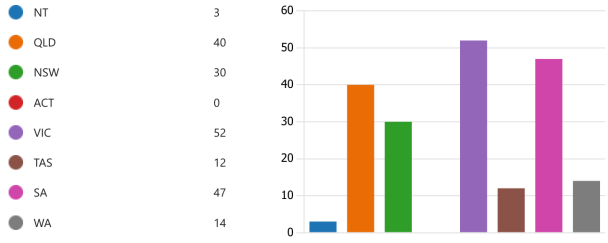
49.7% of respondents have been in their occupation for 1 to 5 years, signifying a substantial portion of relatively early career participants.

Company size



The largest group, comprising 71.1% of respondents, work in companies with over 50 employees, reflecting a significant majority in larger organisations.

Location



4. ADDITIONAL INSIGHT

Is there a difference in the safety perception score according to gender?

Descriptive statistics indicated that, on average, male respondents reported a safety perception score of 6.31 with a standard deviation of 2.118, while female respondents reported a score of 6.54 with a standard deviation of 1.605. An independent samples t-test was conducted under the assumptions of equal variances assumed and equal variances not assumed.

While the survey results seem to indicate that on average female traffic controllers feel safer in their workplace than their male counterparts, our analysis shows that there is no statistically significant difference in safety perception scores between male and female respondents. This implies that **gender does not appear to be a determining factor in how safe individuals feel when managing traffic.**

Is there a significant difference between safety perception score for different age groups?

An analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test was used to analyse the difference between the means of different age groups. The analysis does not provide significant support for the idea that safety perception scores differ significantly among the age groups.

This suggests that **age does not play a significant role in influencing how safe individuals feel when managing traffic.**

Is there a relationship between safety perception score and Year in occupation?

An analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test was used to analyse our survey results. Based on the ANOVA analysis, we can conclude that there is a statistically significant difference in safety perception scores among individuals with different years in occupation.

This indicates that **the number of years a person has spent in their occupation does play a role in influencing how safe they feel when managing traffic**.

An interesting finding is that traffic controllers with less experience on the job report feeling safer at work, while more seasoned controllers feel less safe on average. This suggests that **those who have worked in traffic management longer have a greater awareness and assessment of the dangers inherent in the profession.**

Is there a relationship between safety perception score and company size?

An analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test was used to analyse our survey results. Based on the ANOVA analysis, we can conclude that there is no significant difference in safety perception scores among the company size groups.

This indicates that **the size of the company does not seem to play a significant role in influencing how safe individuals feel when managing traffic.**

Is there a relationship between safety perception score and location?

An analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test was used to analyse our survey results. Based on the ANOVA analysis, we can conclude that there is a significant difference in safety perception scores among the location groups.

This indicates that **the location where individuals are working does play a role in influencing how safe they feel when managing traffic.**

More specifically, the survey results show that:

- Traffic controllers from WA and the NT feel less safe at work.
- Traffic controllers from SA and the TAS feel safer at work.

Is there a relationship between the age of the respondents and their gender?

An Chi-square test was used to test whether there is a relationship between the age of the respondents and their gender.

The results suggest that **there is a significant relationship between the age and gender** of the survey participants.

The results show that the percentage of male and female traffic controllers is fairly equal in the younger age group. However, the proportion of female controllers decreases in the older age groups. This points to **a majority of male traffic controllers among the older age ranges.**

Contacts

For more information about the TMAA National Traffic Controller Safety Survey, please get in touch with the Traffic Management Association of Australia at:

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