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Uber, Lyft Drivers Accused of 92 Sexual Assaults During Summer of 2017: News Reports Uber's New CEO Should Stop Company's Opposition to More Rigorous Driver-Screening Efforts Happening Across U.S.

As Uber's new Chief Executive Officer, Dara Khosrowshahi, focuses on maximizing the company's core taxicab business in order to eventually take Uber public, the corporation's longest-running controversy continues to threaten Uber's passenger safety, reputation and business: driver background checks.

According to news reports compiled by 'Who's Driving You?' [here](#), Uber and Lyft drivers have been involved in four previously unreported deaths, 92 sexual assaults and 12 physical assaults during the 2017 summer season from June 21 to Sept. 22, 2017. The vast majority of assaults are attributed to Uber drivers.

Moreover, as of August 23, 2017, Uber had been sued [435 times](#) in 2017 with many of these [lawsuits](#) involving well-substantiated claims that Uber prioritizes driver capacity over the safety of its background checks. This incredible number of lawsuits is not a trend that Uber's investors—and those seeking to gain from Uber's initial public offering—will wish to see continue or increase.

Sexual assault by drivers and driver background checks remain a substantial reputational concern for Uber. [London](#), which is five percent of Uber's entire user base, recently announced it will not renew Uber's operating license for its mishandling of alleged sexual assaults by drivers and driver background checks. Despite Uber's formidable lobbying presence in California, the state recently [tightened background checks](#) likely in response to a spate of alleged [Uber driver](#) assaults against passengers. (See below for a list of states and cities weighing strengthened background checks).

In the past, Uber's former CEO, Travis Kalanick, [famously and belligerently opposed](#) fingerprint-based criminal background checks conducted by law enforcement. Ironically, the same company sued by the Federal Trade Commission for systematically deceiving its active drivers, was [claiming](#) to oppose fingerprint checks out of concern for injustice to its potential driver pool.

"London's announcement could embolden other regulators. Will Uber's new CEO stop fighting states and cities trying to protect their citizens through rigorous driver screening? In the past, Uber's well-funded and vehement opposition to fingerprint background checks has contributed to passenger

assaults, grounds for lawsuits, and a terrible reputation,” said Dave Sutton, spokesperson for ‘Who’s Driving You?’

New Efforts Under Way to Improve Uber and Lyft Driver Screening

- [California’s](#) Public Utilities Commission—as part of its Phase III for improving regulations for Uber and Lyft—is hearing [testimony](#) concerning fingerprint-based criminal background checks for Transportation Network Company drivers. Uber and Lyft recently opposed the measure in testimony.
- [Wisconsin](#) Senators Chris Larson (D-Milwaukee) and Kathleen Vinehout (D-Alma) have introduced legislation that would create uniform regulations for all for-hire transportation companies in Wisconsin including Uber, Lyft, taxicabs and limousines. The proposed bill would shift implementation of driver background checks from Uber and Lyft to a third party.
- [Chicago](#) Transportation Committee head, Alderman Anthony Beale, has reintroduced the idea Uber and Lyft drivers should undergo fingerprint background checks for the safety of passengers. Uber and Lyft have opposed this measure.
- [Massachusetts’](#) Department of Public Utilities’ government-conducted background checks have thus far rejected 12,735 already approved Uber and Lyft drivers from a total applicant pool of 122,000—more than 10 percent. Uber and Lyft have previously testified in opposition to the state’s more rigorous background checks. [Senator Linda Darcena Forry](#) has introduced [Bill S.1919](#) requiring Uber and Lyft drivers to undergo fingerprint-based criminal background checks conducted by law enforcement.

ABOUT US:

‘Who’s Driving You?’ is a public safety campaign promoting for-hire vehicle safety and highlighting the risks of Uber and Lyft. It is an initiative of the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association, a non-profit trade association of and for the private passenger transportation industry whose extensive membership spans the globe to include 1,000 taxicab companies, executive sedan and limousine services, and industry vendors. For more information, visit www.WhosDrivingYou.org, follow us on Twitter ([@WhosDrivingYou](https://twitter.com/WhosDrivingYou)) and follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou)

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