

Women's personal safety in public transport

ELLA SE MUEVE SEGURA
mujeres & transporte

CAF DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA

FIA FOUNDATION

Surveys made to more than 2,700 transport users in Buenos Aires, Quito and Santiago de Chile show the differences in how men and women perceive security in public transport and provide relevant information for the definition of transport policies that ensure equal access of women and girls to cities while maximizing the benefits of improved mobility for all.



In general, **women** make more trips than men but travel shorter distances and have more limited access to motorized transport, making them **more dependent on public transport**



The feeling of insecurity comes from observing, hearing or experiencing a sexual harassment incident.

More than 60% of respondents feel unsafe while using public transport

If we consider women users of public transport, the number rises to **70%**

Women feel more insecure while using public transport under the following conditions:



OVERCROWDED TRANSIT VEHICLES



TRAVELING ALONE



TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN OR THE ELDERLY



TRAVELING WITHOUT DAYLIGHT

BUENOS AIRES

Women disproportionately carry the responsibility for meeting children's travel needs, and, among those users who are mothers, **8 out of 10** feel unsafe while using public transport

The sustainability of transport is at risk as women often shape the travel patterns and attitudes of their children

Out of the total of users surveyed...

Buenos Aires

71% OBSERVED situations of harassment
27% EXPERIENCED situations of harassment

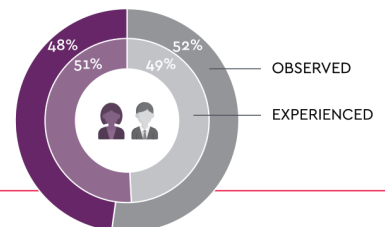
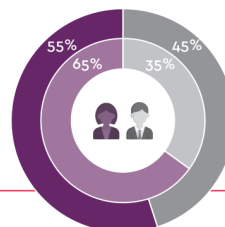
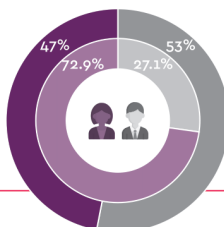
Quito

35% OBSERVED situations of harassment
11% EXPERIENCED situations of harassment

Santiago

95% OBSERVED situations of harassment
85% EXPERIENCED situations of harassment

Even as women experience harassment in a greater dimension than men, these recurring events are still largely ignored by transport authorities, operators, and society at large.





Few victims of sexual harassment in public transport file complaints due to lack of trust in the system and fear of reprisal.

"I am not going to go out unless I am accompanied with someone that I know I can come home with"

Woman in Focal Group Discussion, Center of Santiago de Chile

"All of my sister's friends have had these type [harrasment] of experiences... I have heard of some situations, but I thought it was something that does not happen normally"

Man in Focal Group Discussion, Quito

"It's hard for someone to help you, usually nobody does"

Woman in Focal Group Discussion, Quito



3 out of 5 women changed their travel behavior after seeing or having experienced a sexual harrasment incident.



This stressful setting causes many women to feel compelled to change their travel patterns and transportation modes.



3 out of 5 women users of public transport affirm they will prefer to change transport modes, versus 1 out of 2 men.



Fear of harrasment in public transport and the public space can turn women into using private cars and taxis if and when they have the chance, compromising efforts to increase the share of public transport in Latin American cities.



AVOID TRAVELING ALONE

In Buenos Aires
7 out of 10 women, 2 out of 10 men



CHANGE OF TIME OF TRAVEL/ REDUCED TRAVELING AT NIGHT



CHANGE OF ROUTE OR AVOIDANCE OF SPECIFIC ZONES/NEIGHBORHOODS

In Santiago de Chile
1 out of 2 women, 2 out of 5 men



REDUCE THE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

In order to promote equality and inclusion in the transport system, cities can...

- ↓ Promote transport and public space policy that considers the concept of mobility as a capability for all types of individuals to access the city and its opportunities
- ↓ Collect, analyze and use sex-disaggregated data and gender sensitive data for the planning, design and operation of safe transport systems
- ↓ Promote labor participation of women in the transport sector, particularly in areas of leadership
- ↓ Include local communities in the process of designing new services and implementing accessibility interventions through the systematic use of participatory methods
- ↓ Facilitate the empowerment of women so that they take action against any type of gender-based violence in public space or transport through effective regulation
- ↓ Promote collective responsibility among private transport operators, government agencies, the academic sector, as well as civil society to promote lasting change



Women can become catalysts in achieving sustainable urban mobility