

At least 103 Uber drivers have been accused of sex assault or abuse



nypost.com/2018/05/01/at-least-103-uber-drivers-have-been-accused-of-sex-assault-or-abuse

By Aaron Feis

May 1, 2018

More than 100 Uber drivers have been accused of sexually assaulting or abusing their passengers over the last four years, according to CNN.

The alarming new report — culled from a review of police and court records from 20 major cities across the US — found that at least 103 drivers have either been arrested, are wanted or have been the subject of civil suits for sexually attacking riders.

At least 31 of the drivers have been convicted of crimes including rape, false imprisonment, and forcible touching, the audit found.

Dozens more criminal or civil cases are pending in court.

For San Francisco-based Uber — valued at \$70 billion and providing 15 million rides worldwide each day — the revelation stands in stark contrast to their branding as a safe way to get around, particularly for women heading home after a night out.

Many of the drivers' victims were intoxicated at the time of the attacks, CNN reported.

“You are pretty much hitchhiking with strangers,” one victim, who lives in Miami, told CNN. “How many people is it going to take to get assaulted before something is done?”

The problem is apparently so pervasive that some big cities — among them Los Angeles, Austin, and Boston — have started specifically tracking crimes involving rideshare drivers.

Lyft, one of Uber's biggest competitors, also had 18 drivers accused of sex crimes against riders over the last four years, CNN found.

Uber told CNN that they plan to step up driver background checks, and establish a “safety center” within the company's app, which riders can use to share trip details with emergency contacts, and press a button to call 911 without ever leaving the app.

“This is just a start and we are committed to doing more,” an Uber spokesperson said. “Sexual assault is a horrible crime that has no place anywhere. While Uber is not immune to this societal issue, we want to be part of the solution to end this violence forever.”