

How Many People Use The Safe Ride Van?

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I've been seeing a lot of safe ride vans as of late, so I decided to conduct an observation on how many safe ride vans I see. I also observed how many people are in the van when they get out to determine an estimate on how many people actually use the van on ODU campus. The role of safe ride vans is to enhance campus safety and accessibility.

Method

The method I used to conduct this observational study was through observation. I was able to gather real-time data on how often the vans are utilized, where they are most commonly needed, and how effectively they contribute to creating a safer environment for ODU students. Additionally, I also observed the interactions between the drivers and students so it can better provide insights of the students' experience, any potential areas for improvement, and the overall perception of safety among the campus community. This method helps and provides details that surveys might miss, which is why I choose this approach for this topic.

Results

Based on the observations throughout the week during noon, See Figure 1. I noted a total of 18 vans. Each van typically had between two and three students. This brings the estimated total number of riders to between 36 and 54 for the week. If I break it down day by day, I can have a rough estimate of approximately 2.57 vans per day. This relatively consistent number of vans suggests routine or an operation occurring across the week. For a clearer perspective, please refer to the chart below, which visually represents the number of vans and the estimated number of riders throughout the week. This should help illustrate and provide a better understanding of the data I collected.

Figure 1

number of safe ride vans spotted throughout the week

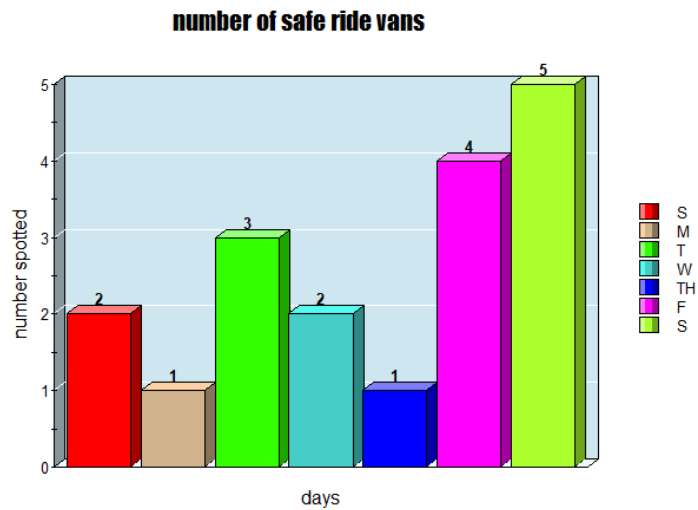


Figure 2

Monday	1	$1/18 \times 100 \approx 5.6\%$
Tuesday	3	$3/18 \times 100 \approx 16.7\%$
Wednesday	2	$2/18 \times 100 \approx 11.1\%$
Thursday	1	$1/18 \times 100 \approx 5.6\%$
Friday	4	$4/18 \times 100 \approx 22.2\%$
Saturday	5	$5/18 \times 100 \approx 27.8\%$
Sunday	2	$2/18 \times 100 \approx 11.1\%$

Note. Ranges from 5.6% to 27.8% of people riding safe ride vans depending on the day.

Now, there were a few biases and errors. When evaluating the biases or errors associated with the Safe Ride van service for ODU students, here were the few key issues that happened during the observation.

Biases

With sampling, the percentage of students using the service (ranging from 5.6% to 27.8%) may not accurately represent the entire student population. Factors like time of day, weather, or specific events could lead to varying usage levels, which can ruin the data. Availability and Accessibility is another bias. If the van service is not available or if its routes do not cover certain areas frequented by students, some may decide not to use it due to inconvenience. Another bias can be that not all students may be aware of the safe ride service. Perception of Safety could also be a bias because some students might not use the service due to perceived

a certain way or fear of judgment from peers for using a "van service," even if it's designed to promote safety. A big error I noticed is the day of the week which may significantly differ based on the day. For instance, weekends or nights during parties may see higher usage compared to weekdays, which might mess up the average percentages if not analyzed properly. Lastly, resource allocation is an error. If there are insufficient resources such as the number of vans, and drivers to meet demand on busy nights, this may lead to longer wait times, discouraging students from using the service. Understanding these biases and errors is crucial for improving the safe ride service and ensuring it meets the needs of all ODU students effectively.

Why this research is important

This research is important in determining the number of users for the ODU Safe Ride van for a number of reasons. First, it helps in estimating demand for the service-a key component of ensuring safety and well-being among students and staff at Old Dominion University. Statistics on usage will be helpful in providing administrators an understanding of how well the program serves the needs of the campus community. It also provides insight into possible trends of safety on campus, transportation habits, and the general awareness of available resources.

Whereas if the usage rate is high, it shows the students are making safe choices. Low usage rates may indicate areas where increased promotion or additional services are needed. Besides this, research can help raise resources and strategically plan for new transportation services with a potential increment in safety, convenience, and accessibility for all ODU students. Knowing the dynamics will serve not only the enhancement of present service but may also lead in guiding similar services in other universities or institutions as well.

It's interesting to know how many people use the ODU Safe Ride van for several reasons: it shows student behavior and attitudes towards safety on campus. If the numbers are high, it shows that students value the service and prioritize their safety during late hours. On the other hand, if the numbers are low, that may raise some questions about awareness or accessibility. Moreover, analyzing the time when the vans are used may give a pattern concerning the time of the year, events, or even weather conditions.

This would help ODU to get the students' needs and make proper decisions for extending services. The data I have found will support talking about the campus culture and safe transportation options. Research will make the university community more aware of resources offered and thus increase the intake among students for more options of travel safety. Generally, all of it creates a safer, much supportive environment on campus. I would like to extend my research by carrying out a Demographics and Behavior survey. Carrying out these

surveys will help me understand who uses the Safe Ride van and for what reasons. This may give insights into specific needs and preferences.

All in all, this is important to be able to determine the number of students using the ODU Safe Ride van. The information not only gives an indication of the safety habits and transport preferences of the campus community, but it also shows the need for available and accessible transportation. This research can help set a course in building a safe and supportive environment for all students, a vital component of their university experience.