

Gauteng

Walking to and from public transport

	Muggings	Crowds	Costs
Working professional	●	●	●
Student	●	●	●
Stay at home Mum	●	●	●
Informal trader	●	●	●
Expert	●	●	●

Problem description

Muggings were considered the type of crime most feared by all women we spoke to. It is common place to have personal belongings stolen both on the way to your hub, and while on the vehicle itself.

The overreliance of people using taxis means that there are often long queues, pushing and overcrowding. This can cause delays in their travels, as well as general discomfort.

There is often conflict between drivers and passengers when it comes to paying and receiving change. Passengers are expected to provide small enough denominations, and often miss out on change (something they cannot afford in their already vulnerable financial situations).

Strategies employed

- Women described traveling with others for company, and as a way to not be a vulnerable target.
- They also described hiding particular valuables in their underwear.
- When walking to their station, they avoid smaller streets if alone and walk in the middle of the street to not be ambushed from the side.

- When taxis are unavailable they might defer to other transport modes like buses but then expect a longer journey with more walking.

- Passengers described ensuring they had smaller denominations of notes or coins, or the exact amount.
- Passengers sometimes split the change between themselves.
- Women described sometimes asking the driver for their change but if the driver gets aggressive they accept the loss.

During the journey

	Sexual harassment	Aggressive drivers	Speeding	Other passengers	Police
Working professional	●	●	●	●	●
Student	●	●	●	●	●
Stay at home Mum	●	●	●	●	●
Informal trader	●	●	●	●	●
Expert	●	●	●	●	●

Women experience sexual harassment from both drivers and other passengers. This fluctuates between being verbally assaulted, and being aggressively persued.

Drivers are considered aggressive and disrespectful to all passengers, and women in particular. They are often referred to as "bullies" who use vulgar language.

Passengers are often at the mercy of drivers who can drop them off at an alternative stop, forcing them to have to reroute or walk longer distances.

Speeding becomes a double-edged sword, it's one of the biggest fears as drivers of taxis are reckless. On the other hand, in an unreliable public transport ecosystem, it helps to ensure passengers get to work on time.

Women experience a lot of frustration for the people who share their space. Beyond being pushed to make space or alight, younger women in particular are disrespected.

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- Women as part of the ridealongs were noted to move quickly during more dangerous areas or to slouch / hunch their bodies.

- Some more confident passengers may defend other passengers who are being bullied.
- Women we spoke to often make it clear to the driver where they need to travel to when alighting

- Passengers do sometimes ask drivers to slow down.
- Some women mentioned that they often notice passengers praying for their safety on the taxi.

- Accept the treatment to avoid conflict.

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- Passengers sometimes split the change between themselves.
- Women described sometimes asking the driver for their change but if the driver gets aggressive they accept the loss.