



# SEARCH

The National Consortium  
for Justice Information and Statistics

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SEARCH recently conducted an informal survey of its [Membership Group](#) to gauge the practices of different states in conducting background checks of drivers for transportation network companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft. The following are some survey highlights:

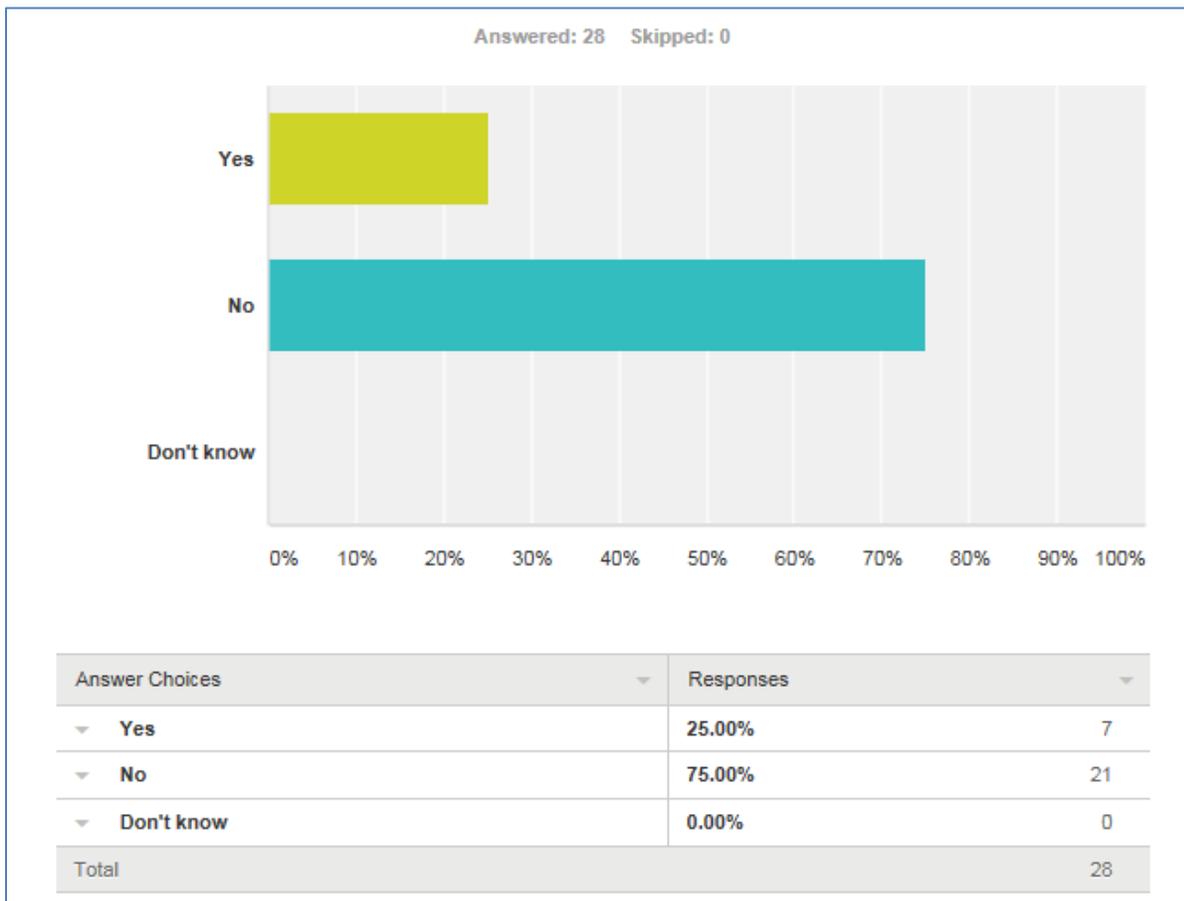
- 28 states responded
- Of the responding states:
  - 25 percent, or 7 states, do require background checks for TNC drivers
  - None of the 7 states require these background checks to be fingerprint-supported
  - 15 states said TNC applicants are not held to the same criminal-backgrounding standard as taxi and limousine drivers.
  - Three states reported having counties and/or municipalities in their state that require fingerprint-based background checks for TNC drivers.
  - None of the states reported using rap-back services to monitor TNC driver conduct.

The survey results are provided below. Please contact Becki Goggins, SEARCH Director of Law and Policy, at [becki.goggins@search.org](mailto:becki.goggins@search.org) if you have any questions or need more information about the survey. SEARCH extends its appreciation to all those who participated in the survey.

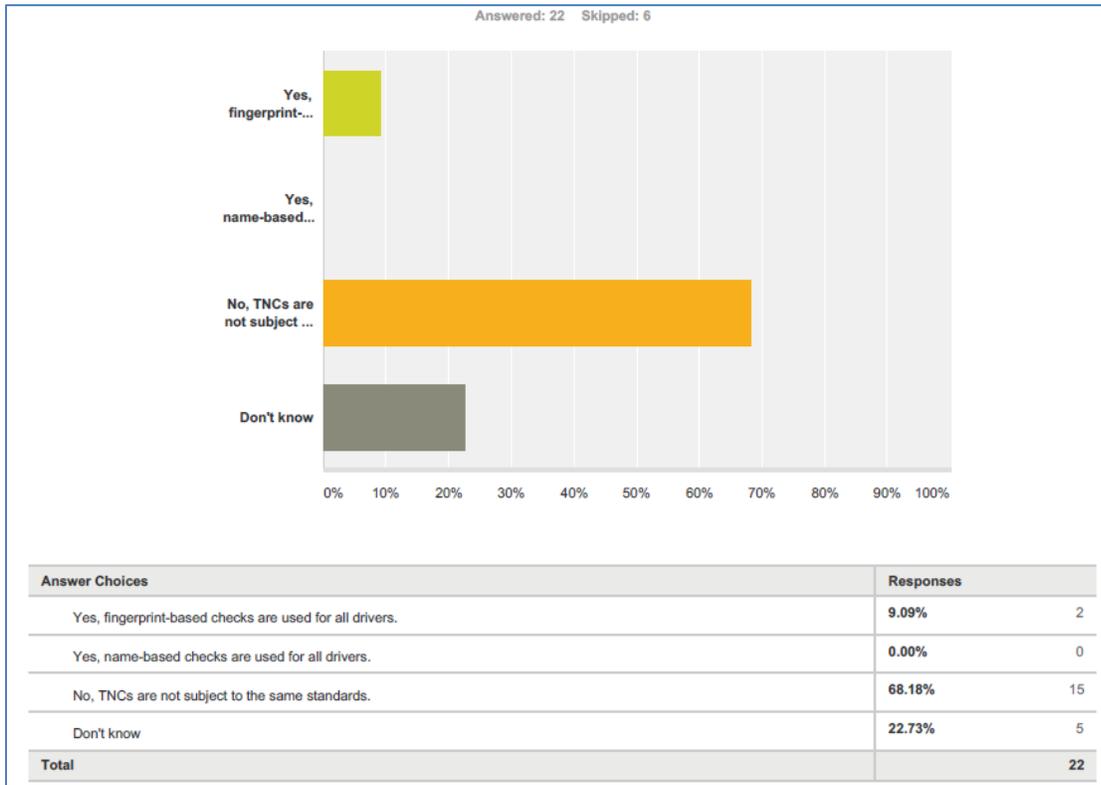
## Respondent information

- Responses received from these 28 States:
  - Alabama
  - Alaska
  - Arizona
  - Arkansas
  - Georgia
  - Hawaii
  - Idaho
  - Illinois
  - Indiana
  - Iowa
  - Kansas
  - Michigan
  - Minnesota
  - Montana
  - Nevada
  - New Hampshire
  - New Jersey
  - New York
  - North Dakota
  - Ohio
  - Oklahoma
  - Pennsylvania
  - South Dakota
  - Tennessee
  - Texas
  - Virginia
  - Washington
  - Wyoming

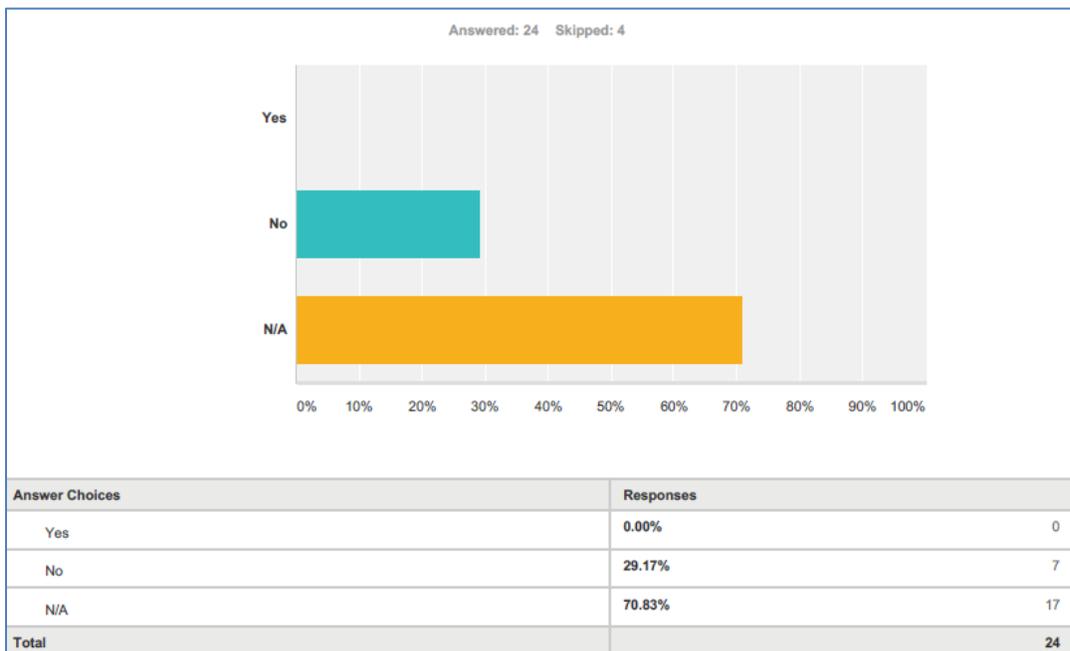
**Question: Does your state require background checks for Transportation Network Company (TNC) drivers such as Uber and Lyft?**



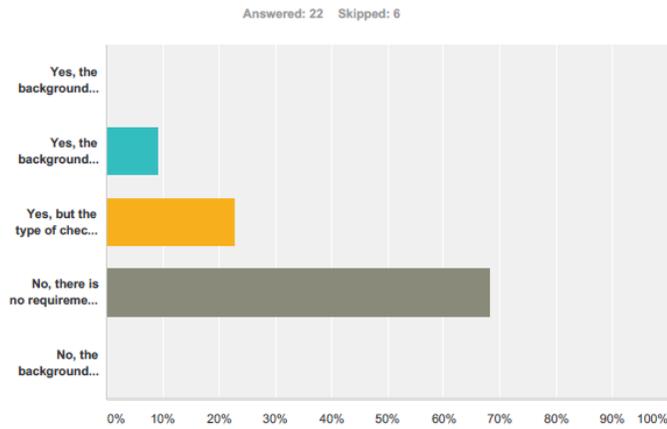
**Question: Does your state have a single standard for all drivers in conducting and evaluating criminal backgrounds of taxi, limo and TNC applicants?**



**Question: If your state requires background checks for TNC drivers, are they fingerprint-based?**

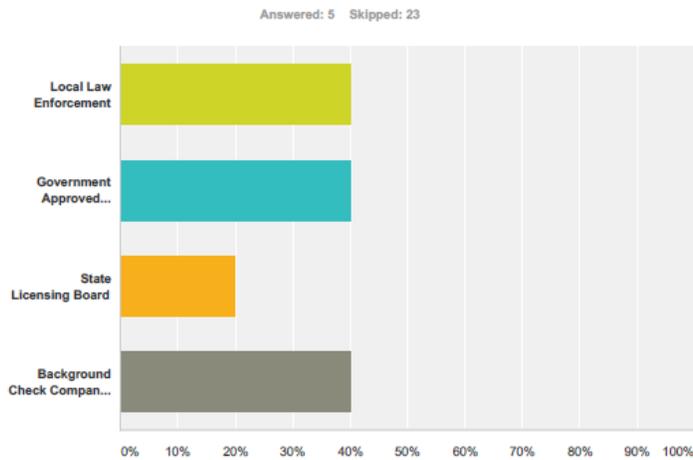


**Question: Does your state require the TNC to conduct a “national background check” through a background check company?**



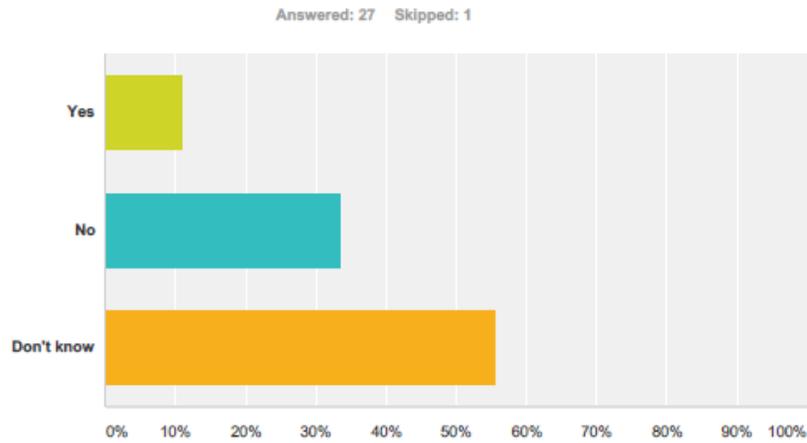
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, the background check company must perform a fingerprint-based check.	0.00% 0
Yes, the background check company must perform a name-based check.	9.09% 2
Yes, but the type of check the company must perform is not specified.	22.73% 5
No, there is no requirement for a background check company to perform a national check on behalf of the TNC.	68.18% 15
No, the background check must be performed by a government entity.	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

**Question: If your state requires fingerprint-based background checks for TNS drivers, who obtains and processes the checks?**



Answer Choices	Responses
Local Law Enforcement	40.00% 2
Government Approved Channelling Agency	40.00% 2
State Licensing Board	20.00% 1
Background Check Company (on behalf of TNC)	40.00% 2
<b>Total Respondents: 5</b>	

**Question: Do any counties and/or municipalities in your state require fingerprint-based background checks for TNC drivers?**



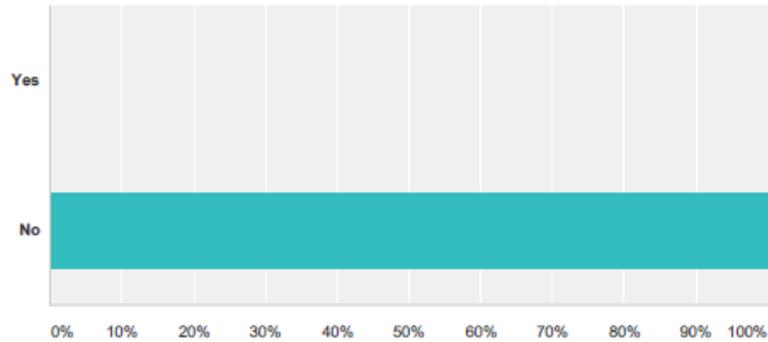
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	11.11% 3
No	33.33% 9
Don't know	55.56% 15
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

**Question: If counties and/or municipalities require fingerprint-based background checks for TNC drivers, which jurisdictions require them?**

- Anchorage, Seward and Homer for taxi drivers, State of Alaska checks only. It is unknown if Uber drivers are required to submit fingerprints for a state-only background check in any of these three locations.
- Must be over 100,000 in population to participate. Currently, Metro Nashville and Memphis participate in the program. (Tennessee)
- Birmingham Taxi. (Alabama)
- ...[D]uring testimony during our legislative session, the City of San Antonio indicated that they require the check and the City of Houston is looking to do so as well. (Texas)

### Question: Are rap-back services being used to monitor TNC driver conduct in your state?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	0.00% 0
No	100.00% 24
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

#### Additional comments included with the survey responses revealed:

- In Alabama, Alaska, Tennessee and Texas, there is no state requirement for background checks for TNC drivers; however, certain localities may require checks.
- In Georgia, a person operating a motor vehicle for hire in this state may obtain a private background check in lieu of obtaining a for-hire endorsement. The background check is conducted by the taxi service, limousine carrier, or ride share network service that employs such driver.
- Idaho state law allows for name-based checks of TNC drivers.
- In Illinois, the TNC has the responsibility to obtain the background check and not employ persons with certain backgrounds. TNCs may currently have their applicants submit fingerprints to the state identification bureau for a state-only check.
- New Jersey has pending legislation to address background checks for TNC drivers.
- Legislation related to background checks for TNC drivers is under discussion in Pennsylvania.
- North Dakota requires TNCs to conduct background checks; however, the law does not specify if they are to be name-based or fingerprint-based.
- Various state regulatory agencies provide oversight of TNC background checks, including Public Utilities Commission, Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Service Commission. In other states, local governments have regulatory control over TNCs.