



Workplace Pulse Quarterly Survey: Safety training for white collar workers

April 2008

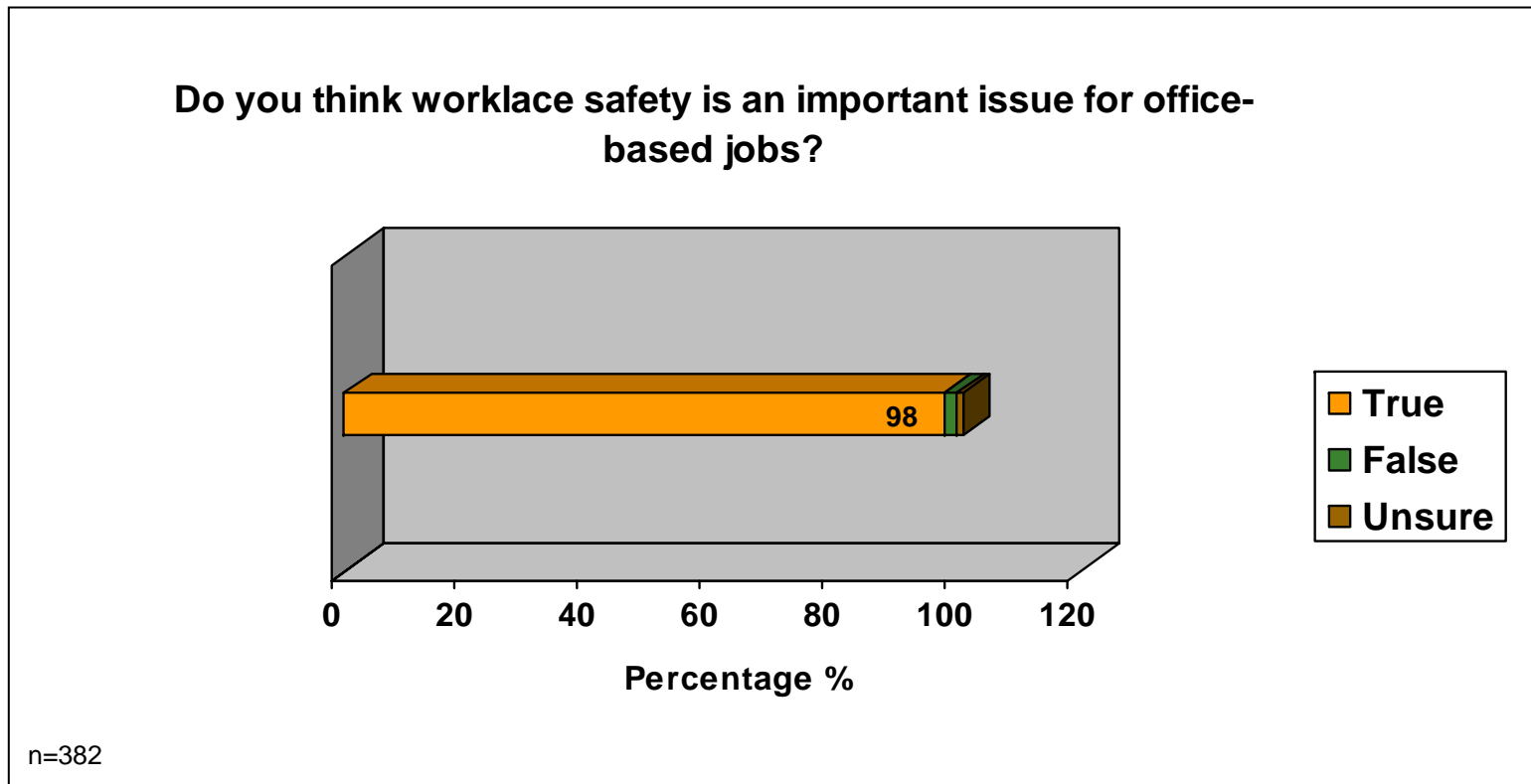
About the survey:

- WorkPro's second quarterly Workplace Pulse surveyed employees' and contractors experiences and beliefs about occupational health and safety training and induction for white collar work.
- The research was conducted among a sample of 388 clerical on-hire workers from recruitment agencies across Australia.
- The online survey was conducted between February and March 2008.

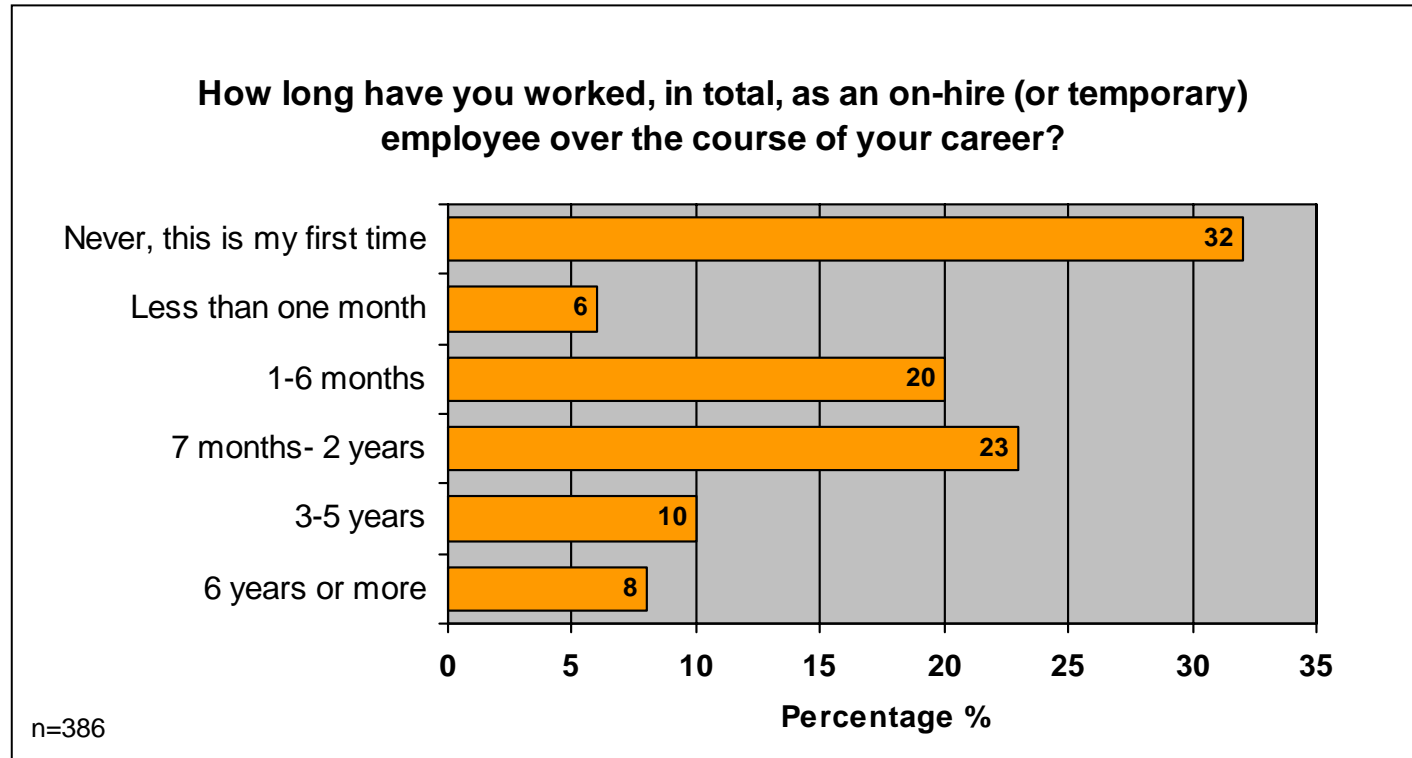
One third of respondents reported 'not knowing who to approach' as the main reason for them not to report a safety hazard in the workplace. A further 10 per cent feel reluctant to raise a safety issue if they suspect it wouldn't be acted upon.



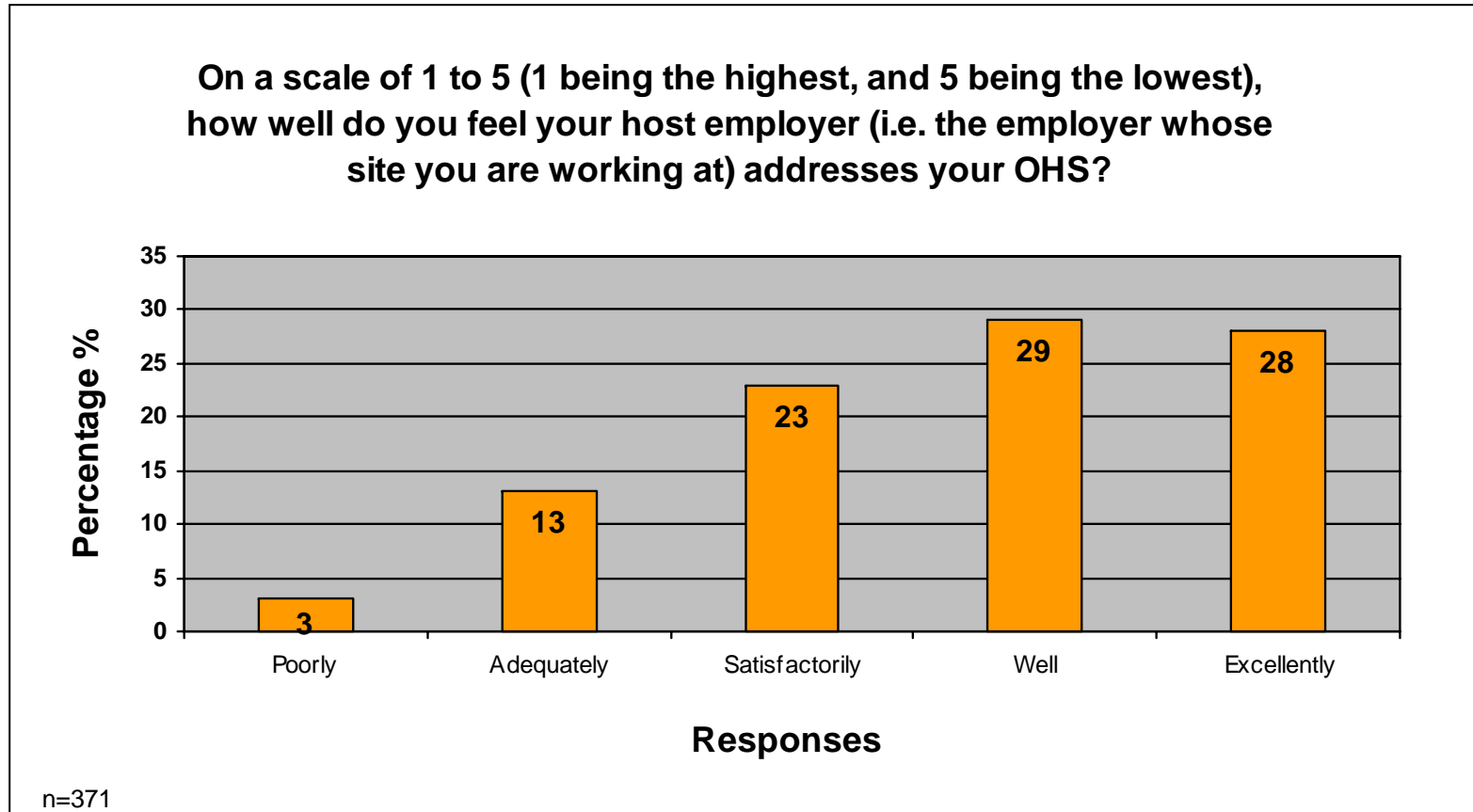
Almost 100 per cent of respondents do believe workplace safety is an important issue, despite being in white collar roles.



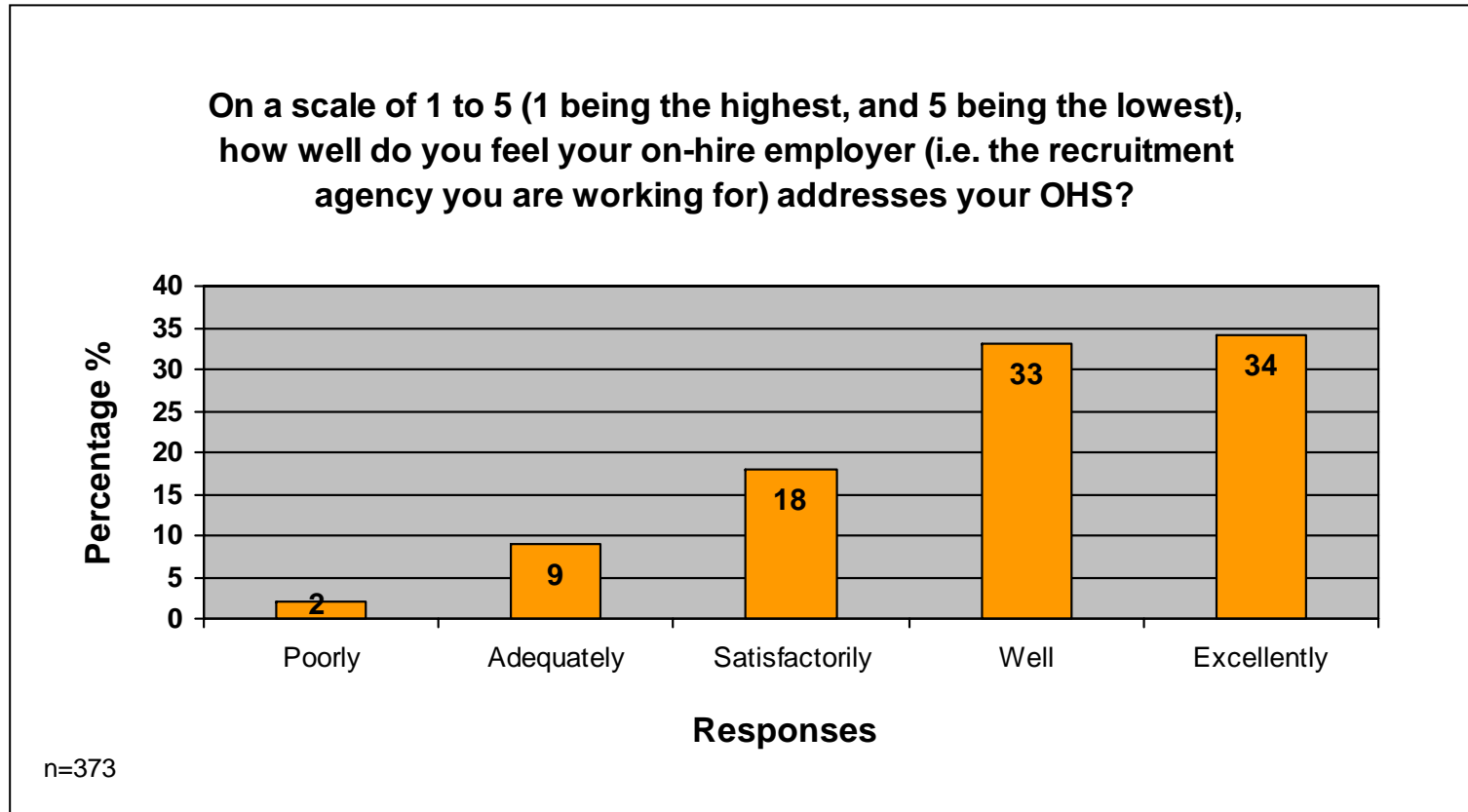
With over one third of survey respondents new to the on-hire industry, employers must assume temp employees commencing a new role have minimal knowledge of their OHS rights, responsibilities or procedures.



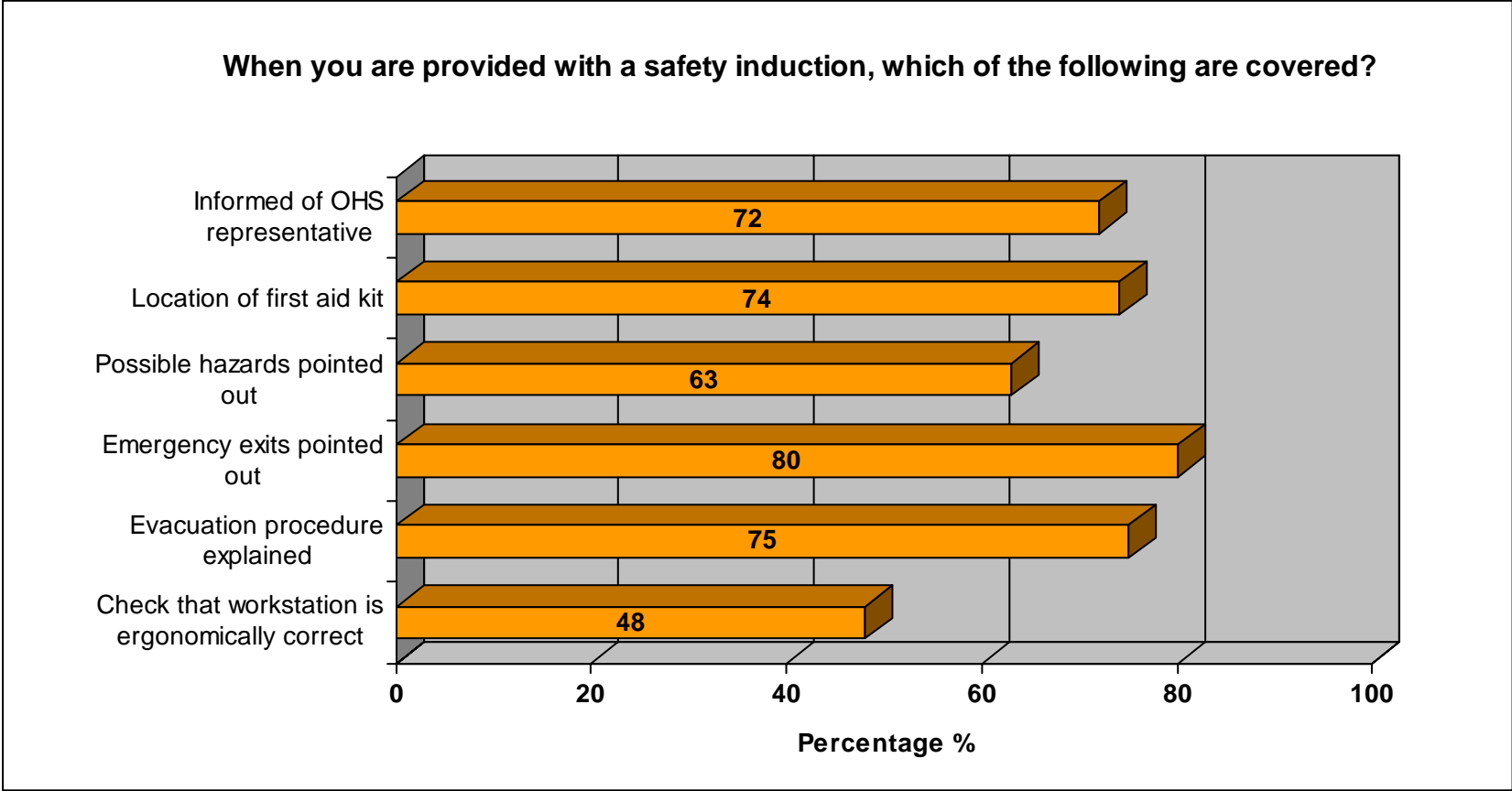
About half (57%) of respondents are impressed with the way their on-site employer addresses their OHS, while a further 36 per cent feel their needs are being either adequately or satisfactorily met, and 3 per cent expressing dissatisfaction.



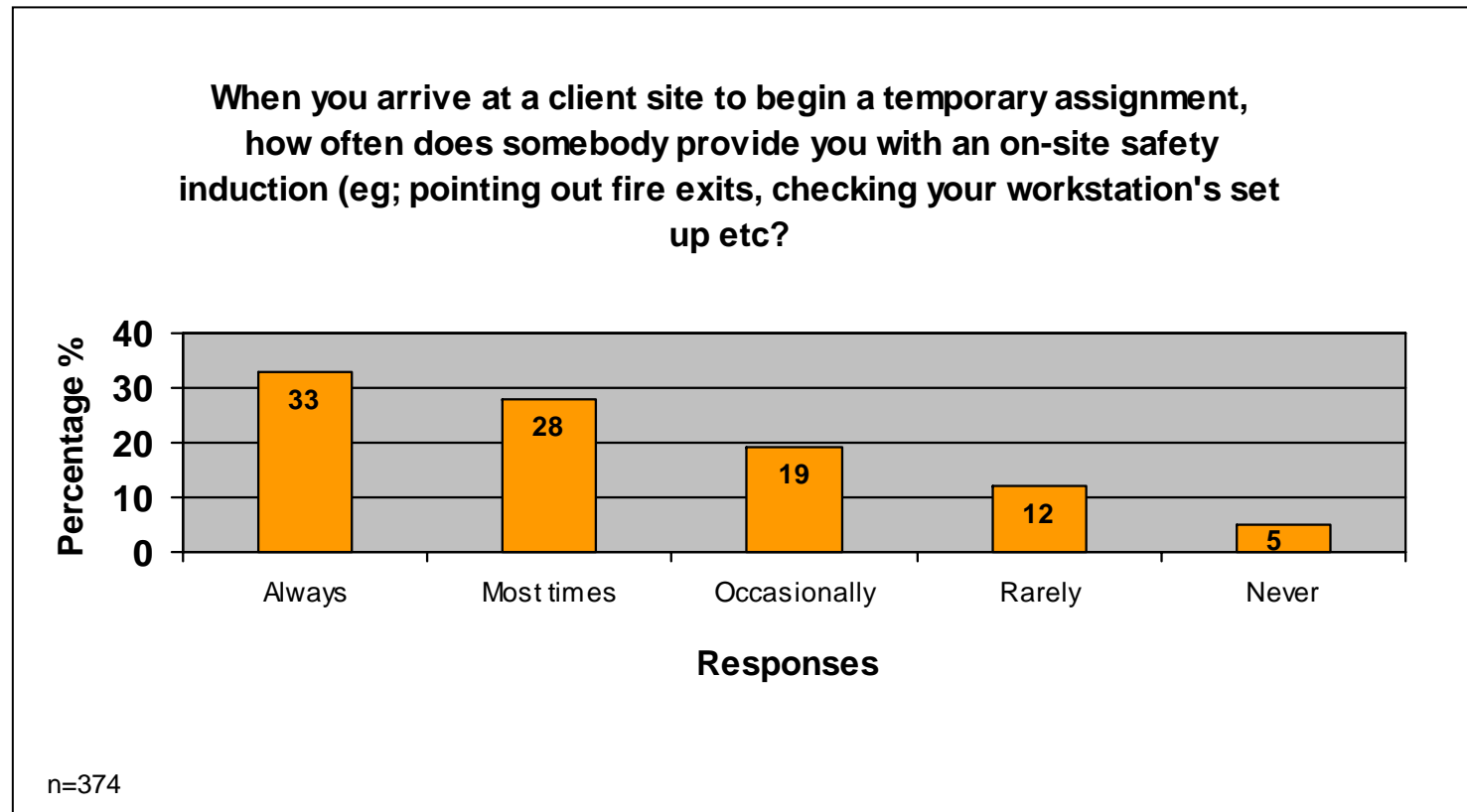
On-hire employers seem to be taking their OHS liabilities seriously- 67 per cent of respondents are highly impressed with their efforts and feel their OHS is being either well or excellently addressed. A further 17 per cent feel satisfied or that the issue is, at the very least, adequately addressed.



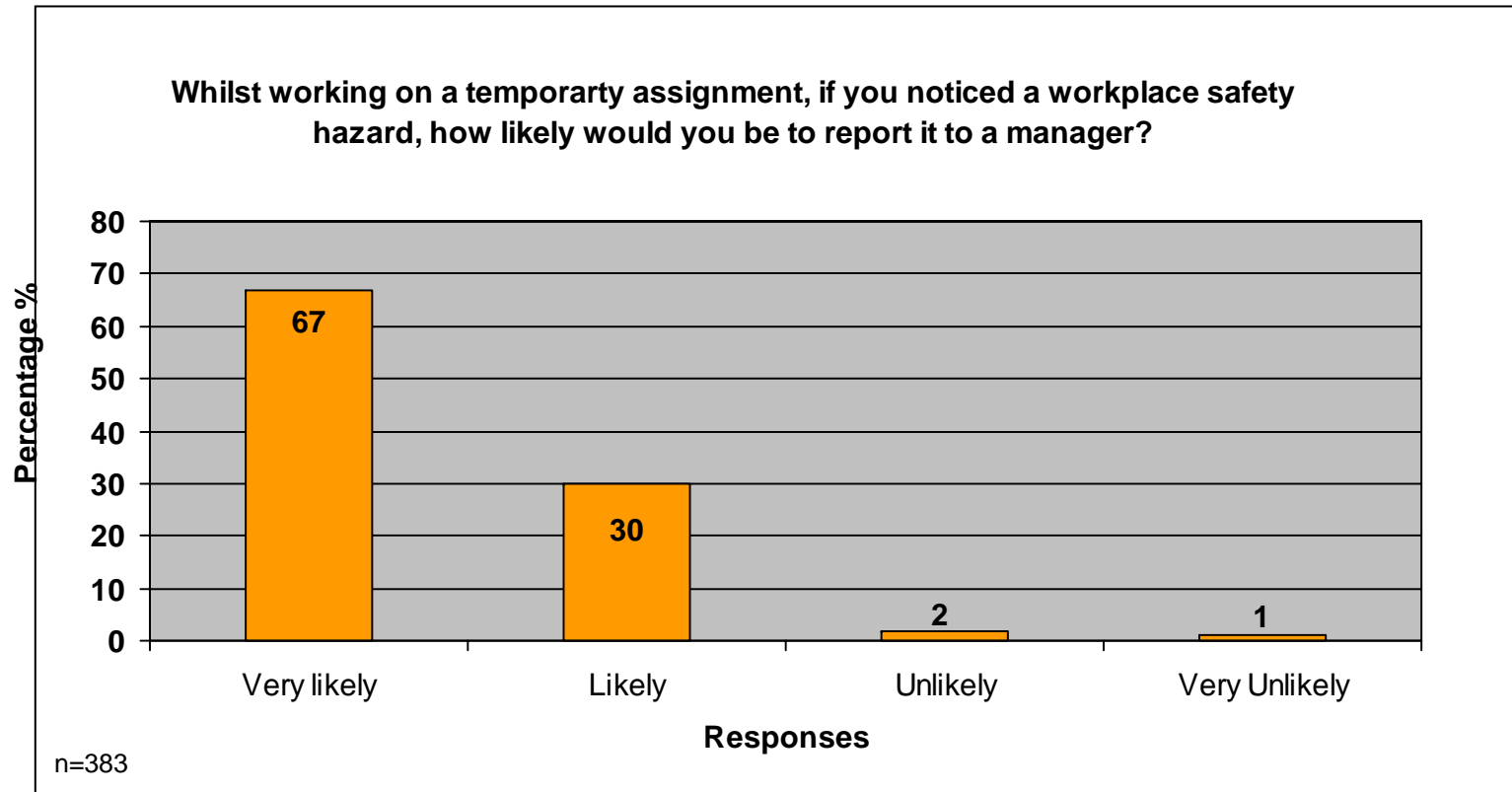
Respondents identified emergency exits (80%), evacuation procedures (75%) and the location of a first aid kit (74%) as the most commonly covered elements in a safety induction, but over half (52%) said their employers are failing to check that their workstations are ergonomically correct- one of the major causes of back and neck injury for white collar workers. The findings indicate that all proper safety checks and procedures are not being carried out 100 per cent of the time, despite employees feeling mostly satisfied or content with their employers' efforts.



Receiving a safety induction upon commencement of a new role is hit and miss for on-hire employees. Only one third (33%) of respondents say they are always provided with a safety induction, 28 per cent will receive one most times, while it's an 'occasional' occurrence for one quarter (19%) of respondents.



Employees and contractors feel empowered when it comes to looking out for their safety at work, the survey found almost all (97%) feel they would either be very likely or likely to report a safety hazard to a manager.



On-hire employees are under the wrong impression when it comes to who is legally responsible for their workplace safety. The majority (69%) believe their host employer and on-hire recruitment agency are equally responsible, with only four per cent correctly informed that the on-hire employer is solely responsible for any possible injuries that occur.

