



**SUMMARY
FINDINGS
FACT SHEET**

Health and Safety Attitudes and Behaviours Survey – 2014

Understanding how attitudes and behaviours contribute to injury and harm in New Zealand workplaces is key to improving health and safety practices so everyone comes home healthy and safe. The only way to get this understanding is to ask workers and employers about their views and what happens in their workplaces. To get this information, WorkSafe commissioned the research company Nielsen to carry out a comprehensive survey, as part of a three-year survey programme.

More than 3,700 workers and 1,900 employers took part in the survey. The survey covered the **four high-risk sectors** WorkSafe is focused on – agriculture, forestry, construction and manufacturing. It also covered the high-risk commercial fishing sector which is a focus for Maritime New Zealand, who part-funded the 2014 survey. The findings for the commercial fishing sector can be found at www.maritimenz.govt.nz/hse

The survey also included workers and employers from lower-risk occupations for comparison.

KEY CONCLUSIONS AND RESULTS FOR THE FOUR HIGH-RISK SECTORS INCLUDE:

1

KEY CONCLUSION

WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS GIVE **PRIORITY** TO HEALTH AND SAFETY BUT THIS COULD BE EVEN HIGHER AND CARRY THROUGH TO SAFER BEHAVIOUR.



1/2

of employers said health and safety was the most important consideration in their business

Note: Workers and employers were asked what the top three considerations were.



1/3

of workers said this was one of the top three considerations in their work

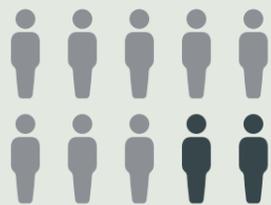
Note: It ranked fourth overall.

2

KEY CONCLUSION

LEADERSHIP, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND A POSITIVE WORKPLACE CULTURE ARE IMPORTANT IN ENSURING HEALTHY AND SAFE WORKPLACES BUT COULD BE STRENGTHENED.

OVER
8 OUT
OF 10



Over 8 out of 10 employers (86%) and workers (84%) felt that workers themselves had a very big responsibility for their health and safety at work.

Fewer workers (57%) and employers (58%) saw top management having this level of responsibility and fewer still thought that government, industry bodies and unions should play a big role.

3

KEY CONCLUSION

WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS IN THE FOUR HIGH-RISK SECTORS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY ARE IN **RISKY INDUSTRIES** BUT THEY DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE POTENTIAL FOR HARM IN THEIR OWN WORKPLACES.



WORKERS



EMPLOYERS

Only 17% of workers and 6% of employers in the four WorkSafe high-risk sectors thought that there was at least a moderate risk of a worker/workmate getting seriously hurt in their workplace in the next 12 months.

4

KEY CONCLUSION

THERE IS A **MISMATCH** BETWEEN WORKERS' AND EMPLOYERS' PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT HAPPENS IN THE WORKPLACE, WITH EMPLOYERS MORE POSITIVE ABOUT HEALTH AND SAFETY THAN WORKERS.*

THERE IS ALSO A **MISMATCH** BETWEEN WORKERS' VIEWS ABOUT HOW SAFE THEY ARE AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH SERIOUS INJURIES AND NEAR MISSES OCCUR.

* Refer to Appendix 1.0

94%

of workers said they felt safe at work

22%

of workers said they had experienced a serious harm incident in the last 12 months

To view the full reports available visit www.worksafe.govt.nz/research

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KEY CONCLUSION

THERE IS A LOT OF **GOOD PRACTICE** BUT IT COULD BE BETTER.



Note: Only 45% of workers and 48% of employers said PPE was *always* used when it should be.

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KEY CONCLUSION

WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS ARE AWARE TO SOME EXTENT OF, AND RESPOND TO, **CAMPAIGNS** RUN BY WORKSAFE BUT AWARENESS COULD BE HIGHER AND RESPONSES MORE WIDESPREAD.

Quad Bike Campaign



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KEY CONCLUSION

KNOWLEDGE OF WORKSAFE IS LIMITED (THIS FINDING IS NOT SURPRISING, AS WORKSAFE HAD ONLY BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR AROUND 9 MONTHS WHEN THE 2014 SURVEY WAS CARRIED OUT).



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OTHER KEY FINDINGS:

Around two-thirds of workers said they were confident they knew their legal responsibilities (63%) and rights (65%) and a similar proportion of employers said they were fully aware of their health and safety obligations (67%) and were confident that they knew how to comply with these obligations (62%). This still leaves a substantial proportion of both groups who lack confidence about these critical aspects of health and safety. There may also be a question of whether this reported confidence and knowledge is sound.

APPENDIX 1.0 - RISKY BEHAVIOURS IN THE WORKPLACE BY WORKERS

% SAYING FROM TIME TO TIME OR A LOT	WORKERS	EMPLOYERS	PERCENTAGE POINT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WORKERS' AND EMPLOYERS' RESPONSES
Work when sick or injured	57%	29%	28
Work when they are overtired	53%	31%	22
Make a mistake by being careless or not having their mind on the job	43%	38%	5
Take a risk or shortcut on purpose (eg to save time)	41%	27%	14
Make a mistake from being under pressure by the boss to get the job done	31%	22%	9
Make a mistake because they have been working too long or too hard without a break	30%	11%	19
Get put at risk by working in conditions when work should have been stopped (eg bad weather, not enough people on the job)	26%	10%	16
Do a risky job that they don't have the right skills for	22%	7%	15
Get put at risk by something outside of their control (eg a freak accident)	20%	15%	5
Get put at risk from not having proper supervision	17%	6%	11
Get put at risk because our processes or ways we are told to do things are not safe	17%	6%	11
Work when hungover or stoned	17%	6%	11
Get put at risk by a machinery or equipment fault or breakdown	16%	6%	10
Number of responses (from the four high-risk sectors)	(2266-2280)	(1342-1349)	

Questions:

Workers - How often does someone in your workplace (you or anyone you work with)...

Employers - How often does a worker in your business...