



A Snap Shot of The PSW Health & Safety Matters Survey Results

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Background

The following are preliminary findings that provide a flavor of the PSW Health & Safety Matters Survey research study funded last year by the Ministry of Labour.

We are currently conducting PSW qualitative interviews along with carrying out conference presentations and consultations over the Next 6 months to understand the data and its potential to inform community PSW health and safety healthcare practice.

PSW Laurie

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Research Advisory Committee:

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Catherine Brookman, CB Consulting
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PSW Kalsang



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PSW Portia

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PSW Christine

Demographic Characteristics

2,341 Respondents to the PSW Health & Safety Matters Survey

- Average age of respondents was **49 years**
- Most (94%) of respondents were **female**
- Most (90%) reported they had a **PSW certificate**
- Average number of years **working as a PSW in the community** was 9 years



PSW Naomi

Demographic Characteristics

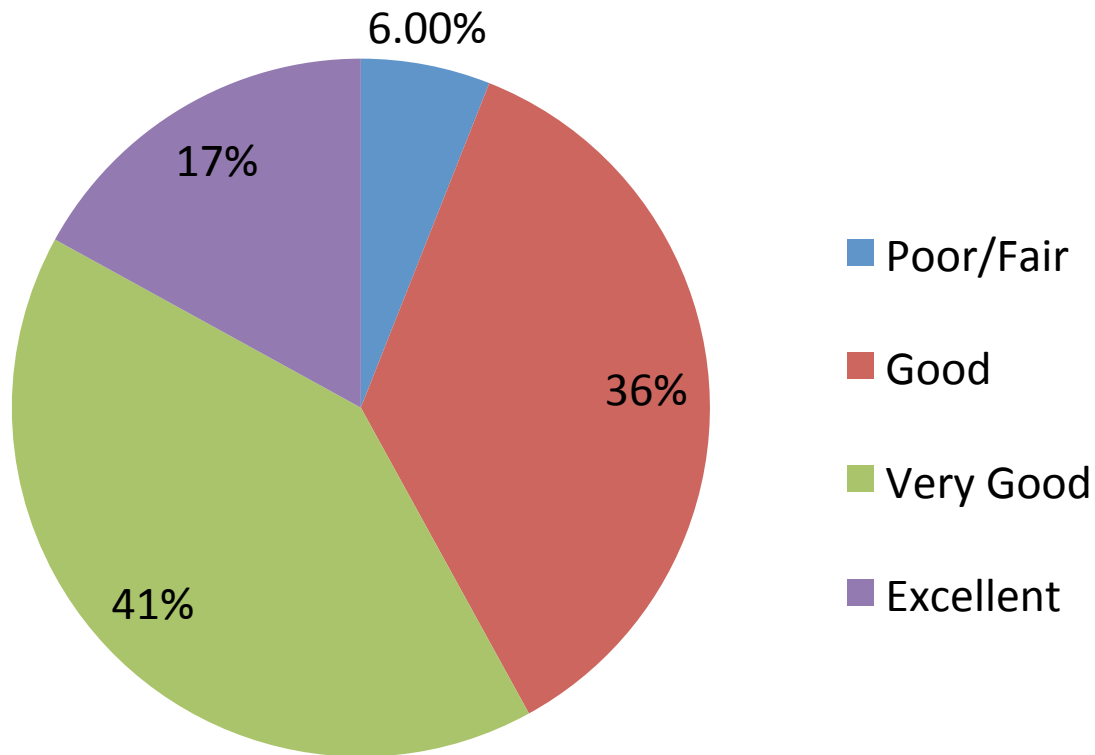
Highest Level of **Education**

- Less than high school 3%
- High school diploma or equivalent 13%
- Trade Certificate or diploma 12%
- College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma (other than trades certificate or diploma) 58%
- University certificate or diploma below the bachelor's level 5%
- Bachelor's degree and above 11%



PSW Hensigne

Self - Reported Health of Community-Based PSWs



PSW Letecia



Health of Community-Based PSWs (Long-term Conditions Diagnosed by a Health Professional)

- 19% reported having **allergies**
- 16% reported having **back problems**
- 16% reported having **high blood pressure**
- 16% reported having a **repetitive strain injury**
- 12% reported having **arthritis**
- 11% reported having **migraine headaches**

PSW Colleen



Stress

Thinking about the amount of stress in their lives

- 23% reported that most days are quite a bit or extremely stressful

In the past 12 months

- 25% reported that most days at work were quite a bit or extremely stressful



PSW's Medina & Rachel

Stress

During the past month, PSW reported feeling:	Most or all of the time (%)
Burnt out from work	17%
Exhausted at the end of the day	38%
Like there is nothing more to give	9%
Able to sleep through the night	55%

PSW Laurie



Musculoskeletal Disorders Question Responses

How often have you had each of these conditions in the past 3 months	Most or all of the time (%)
Back Pain	17%
Pain or discomfort in your neck or shoulder	20%
Pain or discomfort in your arm, elbow or hand	14%

PSW Kalsang



Work-related Injuries In the Past 12 Months

- 16% reported that they were injured at work in past 12 months

Of those 16% who reported a work related injury in the past 12 months:

- 56% reported in the past 12 months they had work-related injuries due to **repetitive strain**
- 53% reported in the past 12 months having **missed days at work** because of a work related injury



PSW Portia

Workplace Violence & Harassment

Definitions

Workplace violence may be thought of as either the threat of, attempt to, or exercise of physical force against you. This may be physical (i.e. scratching, pinching, pushing, spitting, slapping/hitting, kicking, biting, punching, restraining) or sexual violence.

Harassment is defined as any behaviour that demeans, humiliates, annoys, alarms or verbally abuses you and that is or would be expected to be unwelcome. This includes words, gestures, intimidation, bullying, or other inappropriate activities.

- **21%** of respondents reported that in their job as a PSW in the community, in the past 12 months, they have been the victim of **physical or sexual violence or harassment** at work

PSW Christine

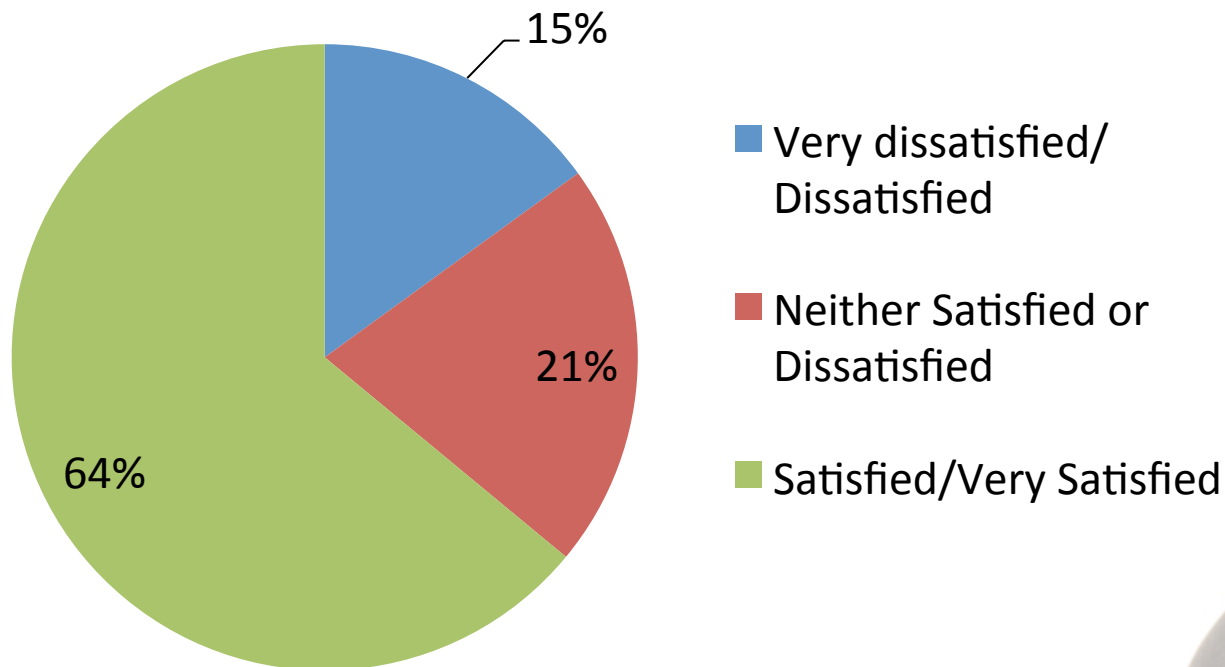


Hazards at Work Question Responses

	% Agree/ Strongly Agree
You work in unsafe neighbourhoods or home/apartments (i.e. high crime areas, drugs, alcohol).	23%
You contact colleagues during workday for support or consultation about a shared client.	44%
You are exposed to poor physical conditions in clients' homes (i.e. cleanliness, hoarding, cockroaches, bedbugs).	56%
Client homes are excessively hot.	48%
You are exposed to hazards in clients' homes and neighbourhoods (i.e. ice, dim lighting, dogs, scatter mats etc.).	51%
You do not have enough time to travel safely between clients' homes.	36%
You are exposed to second-hand smoke in clients' homes.	46%
You have allergic reactions to pets or second-hand smoke in clients' homes.	33%
You are at risk of needle stick injuries in your job.	22%

Training Question Response

How satisfied are you with your opportunities for job related training provided or supported by your organization?



PSW Naomi

Health & Safety Training & Prevention Question Responses

	% Agree/ Strongly Agree
Your organization offers you work-related training to help you retain and update your skills.	80%
You have enough training to perform the tasks required to do your job.	84%
Your organization has assessed and communicated potential risks that exist in the particular client home/apartment.	66%
Your supervisor provides you with a process to access assistance when your health and safety is at risk.	71%

Training & Equipment Question Responses

	% Agree/ Strongly Agree
Your organization provides you with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (i.e. masks, gloves, gowns, cell phones, panic button).	83%
Your organization provides you with enough training on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (i.e. masks, gloves, gowns, cell phones, panic button).	83%
You have the cleaning products you need provided by your employer or the client.	67%
Your organization provides you with alcohol base hand rub.	83%

Training on Safe Lifting / Transferring Question Responses

	% Agree/Strongly Agree
Your organization provides you with enough training on safe lifting/transferring techniques.	77%
Your organization provides you with the ability to seek assistance when faced with heavy client lifting demands.	68%
You have access to assistive devices to assist you in carrying/lifting heavy loads (i.e. wheeled carts).	56%

Delegated Tasks & Training Question Responses

	% Agree/Strongly Agree
You get enough training to perform delegated tasks from nurses or PSW supervisors.	61%
You get enough training to perform delegated tasks from physiotherapists or occupational therapists.	52%

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Currently 20 PSW qualitative interviews are taking place. This data will be thematically analyzed and contribute to the final report.
- Webinars will be held throughout January - April 2016 to solicit feedback on project results.
- Results will be presented to employers, government policy makers, unions and health and safety associations in order to improve the occupational health and safety of community based PSWs.
- Watch the homepage for announcements.



PSW Hensigne

WHAT'S NEXT ?

If you have any questions on this information please contact:

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in a Changing World Of Work”

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PSW's Medina & Rachel