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Work and Health Survey 2017 Report

Introduction

Beginning with a pilot survey, from 19 September 2017 through until the end of November 2017, UnionsWA conducted an online Work and Health Survey. In total, one thousand and fifty-two responses were collected during this period, mostly from the UnionsWA email list.

There were three aims for the survey. These are to measure:

- The extent to which work and health issues are prevalent among working West Australians;
- The extent to which General Practitioners (GPs) are used in diagnosing and treating work-related health issues and the nature of the relationship between working patients and their GP;
- The extent to which work and health issues are the subject of claims for workers' compensation, the experience of claimants for compensation and whether or not employers sought to be represented in consultations with a GP.

The final survey instrument may be view here: http://www.unionswa.com.au/work_health.

This report presents the headline results from key questions in that survey with some selected discussion. Assistance for this survey was provided by a student of the University of Western Australia, Holly Dawson. Her assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

Summary of results

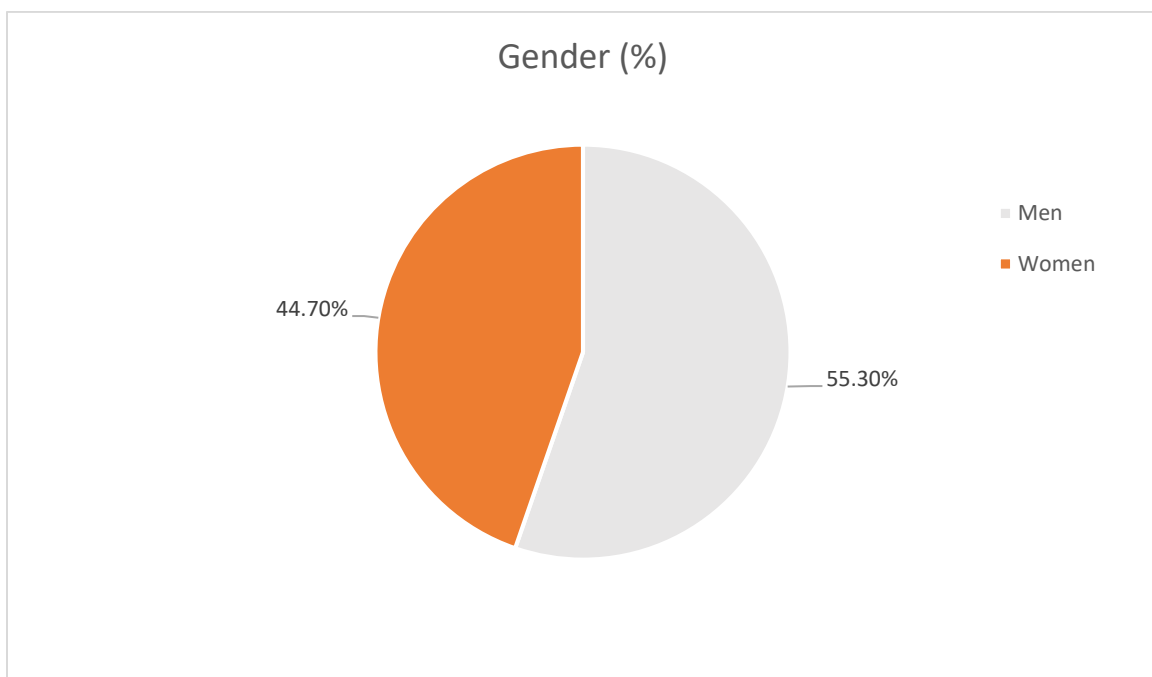
- The survey had more male than female respondents; 65% of respondents were aged between 45 and 65 years;
- 43.1% of respondents had been ill or injured at work, but the majority of those who were ill or injured saw a GP about that;
- Most respondents have a regular GP, and value the consistency and knowledge of an ongoing relationship with that GP;
- A majority of workers' compensation claimants found the experience good or straightforward but two out of five described the experience negatively;
- 11.4% of those that had made a claim for workers' compensation reported that their employer had or sought to have a representative present during a medical appointment.

Methods

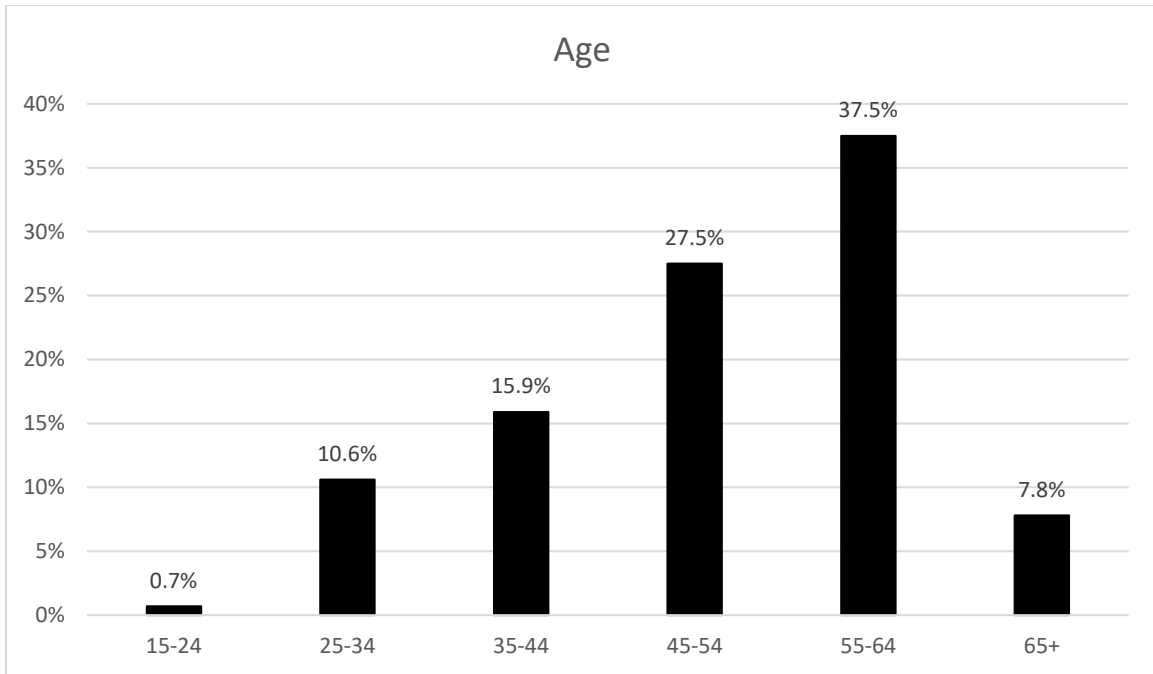
- 1,052 people responded to the survey, with number of answers for each question reported below as “n = ”; 894 people completed all questions
- In total the survey was sent to around 14,000 union members and other supporters on the UnionsWA email list as well as via affiliated unions;
- WA ethics regulations and UnionsWA privacy policies were followed;
- Results were assessed anonymously.

Results

Demographic of Respondents

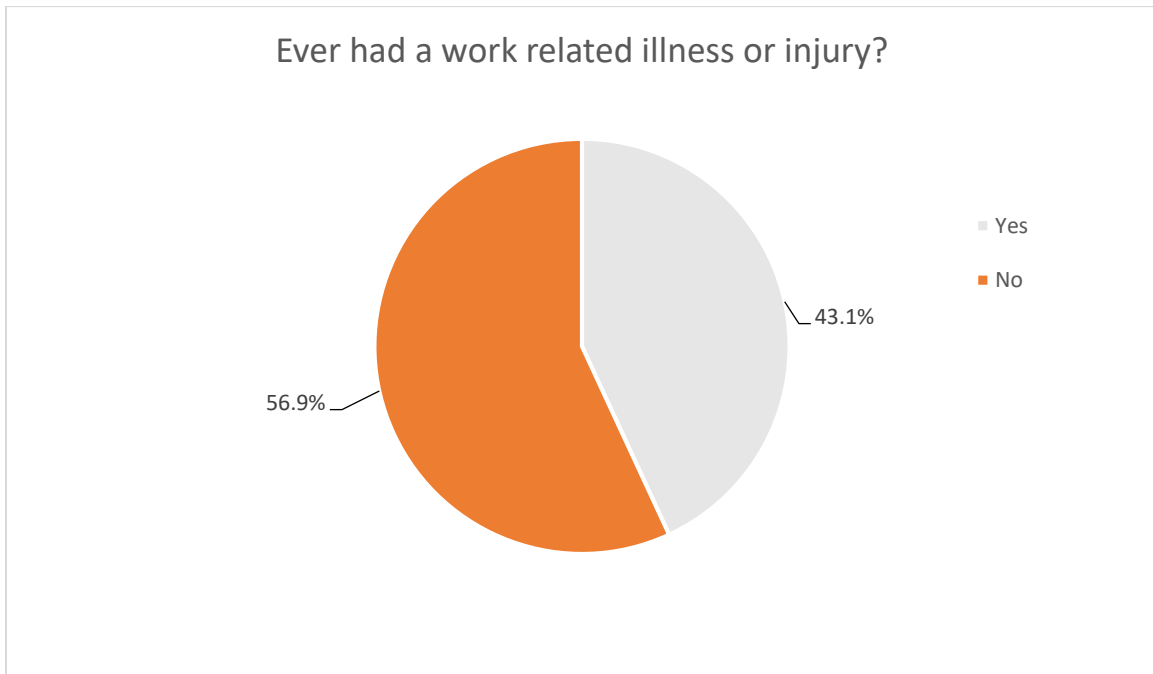


n = 901



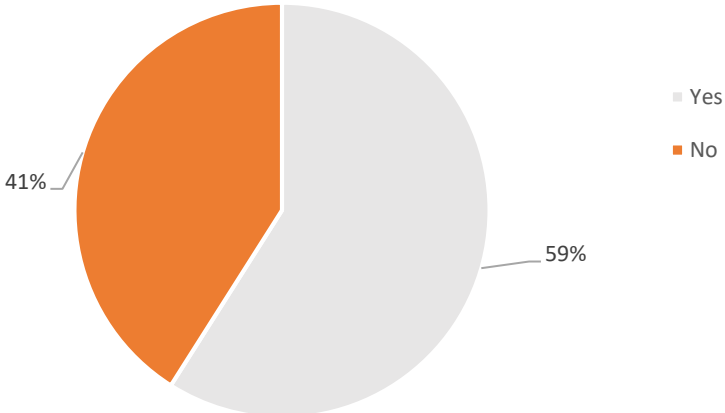
n = 901

Work and Health History



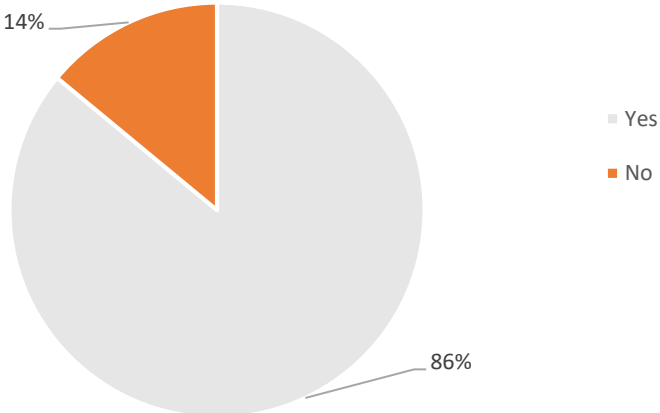
n = 1,052

See a GP for most recent work related illness or injury?

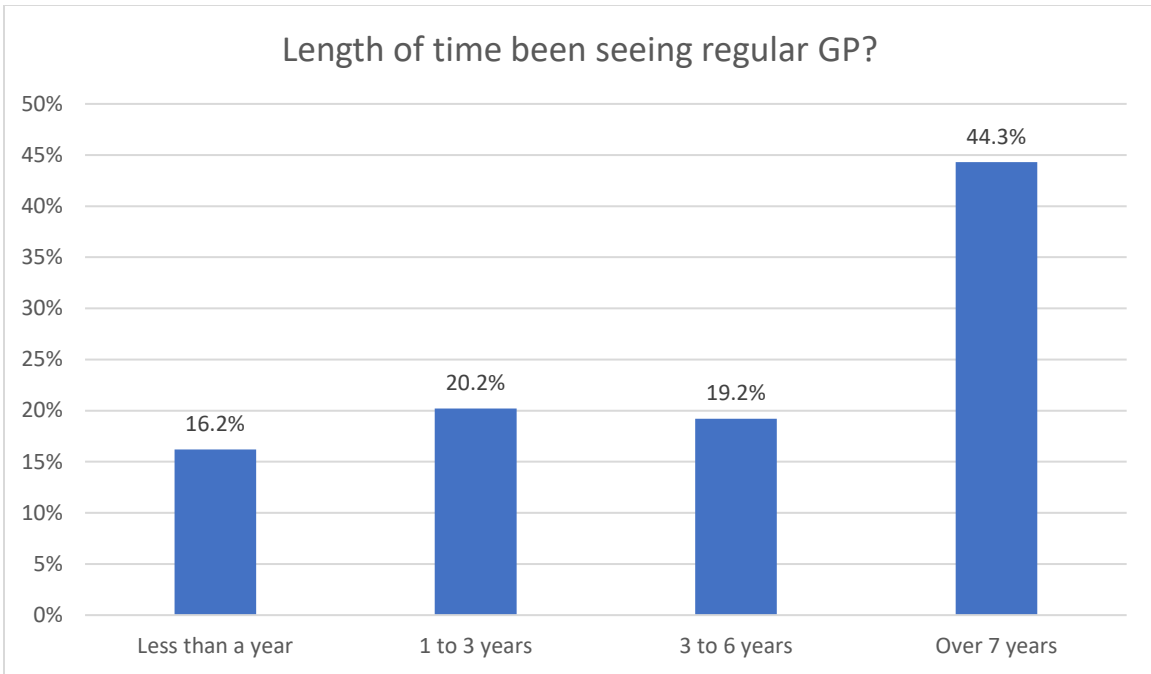


n = 976

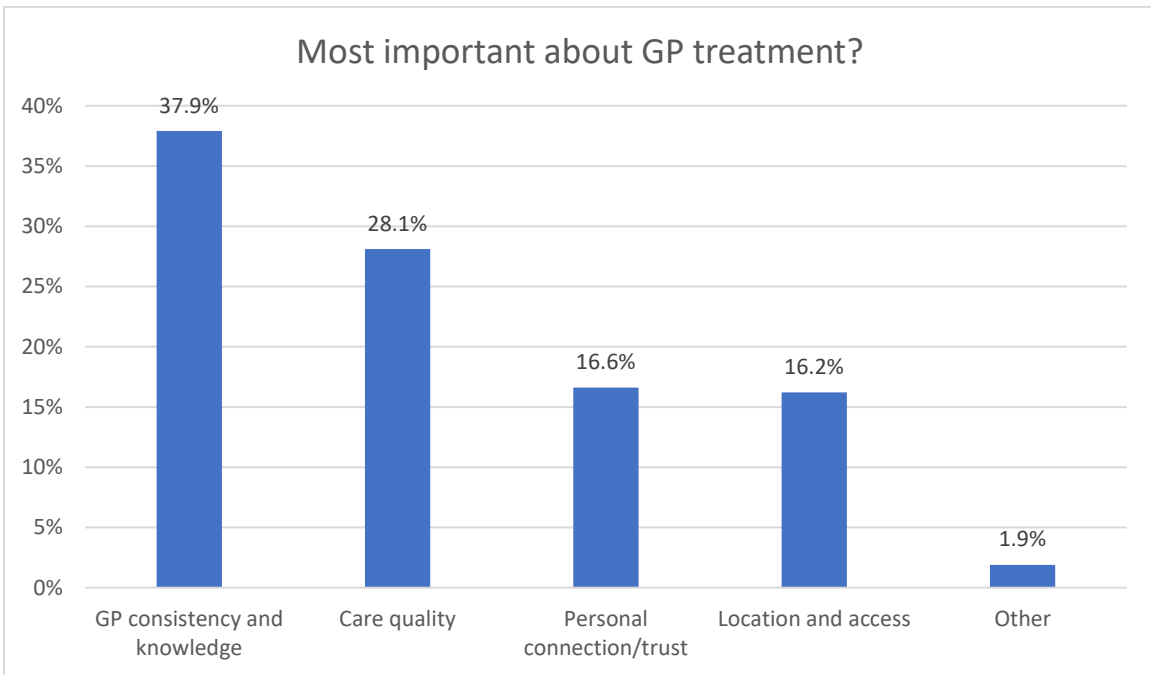
Have a regular GP?



n = 987

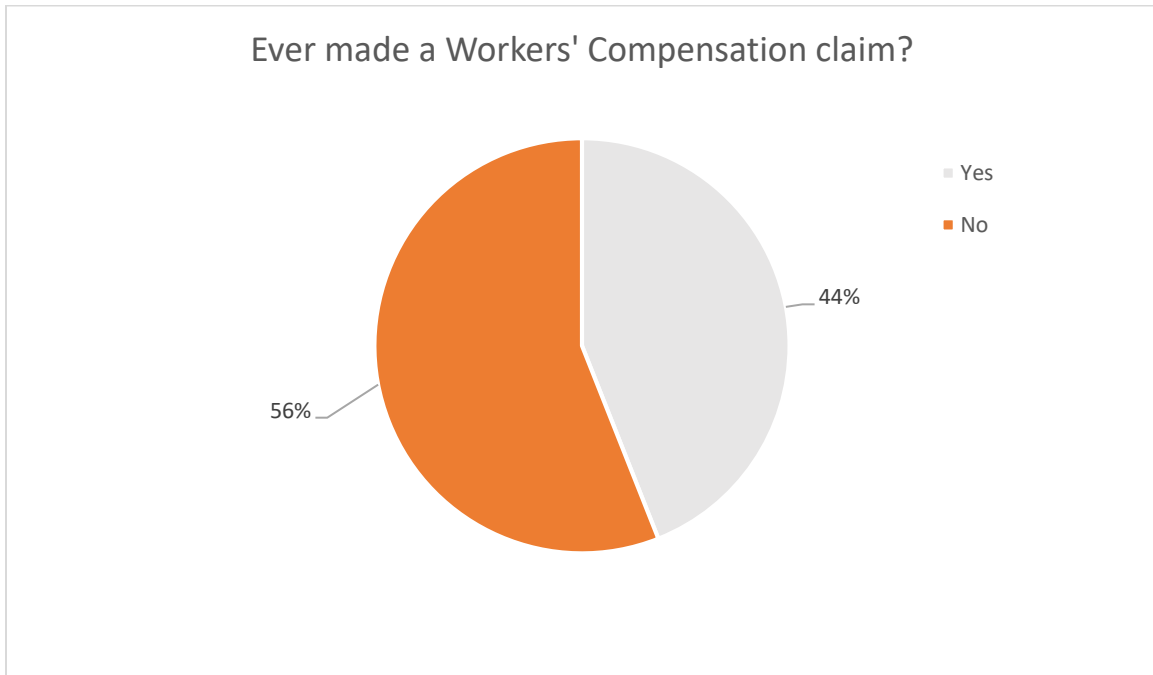


n = 905

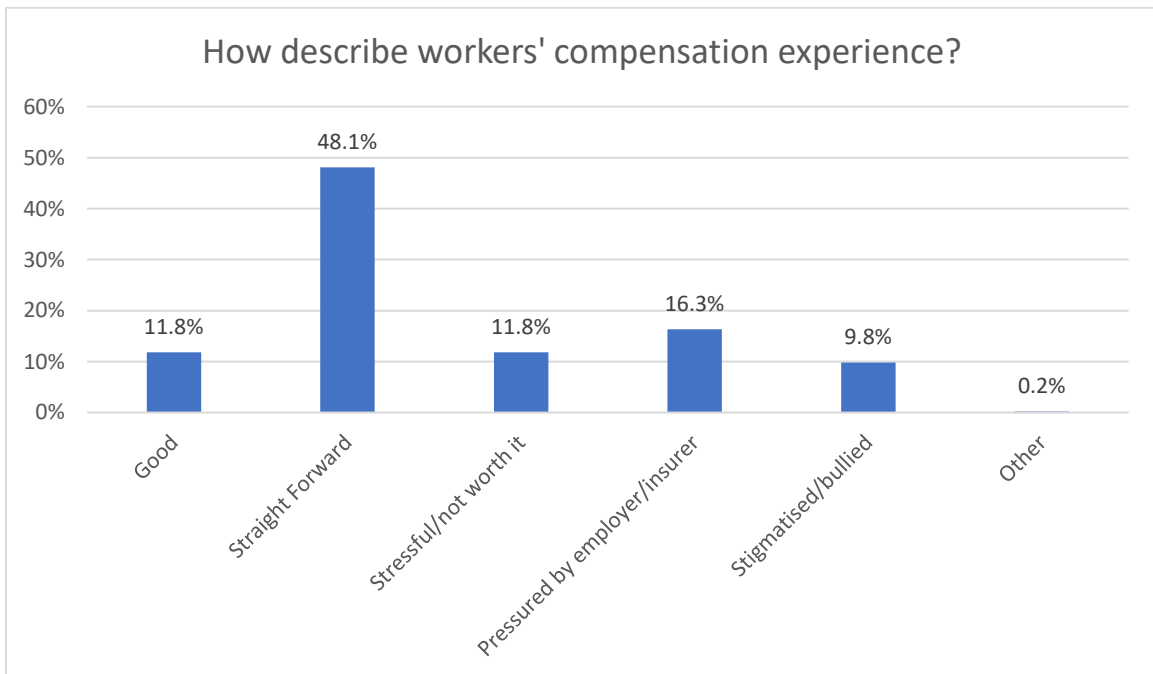


n = 840

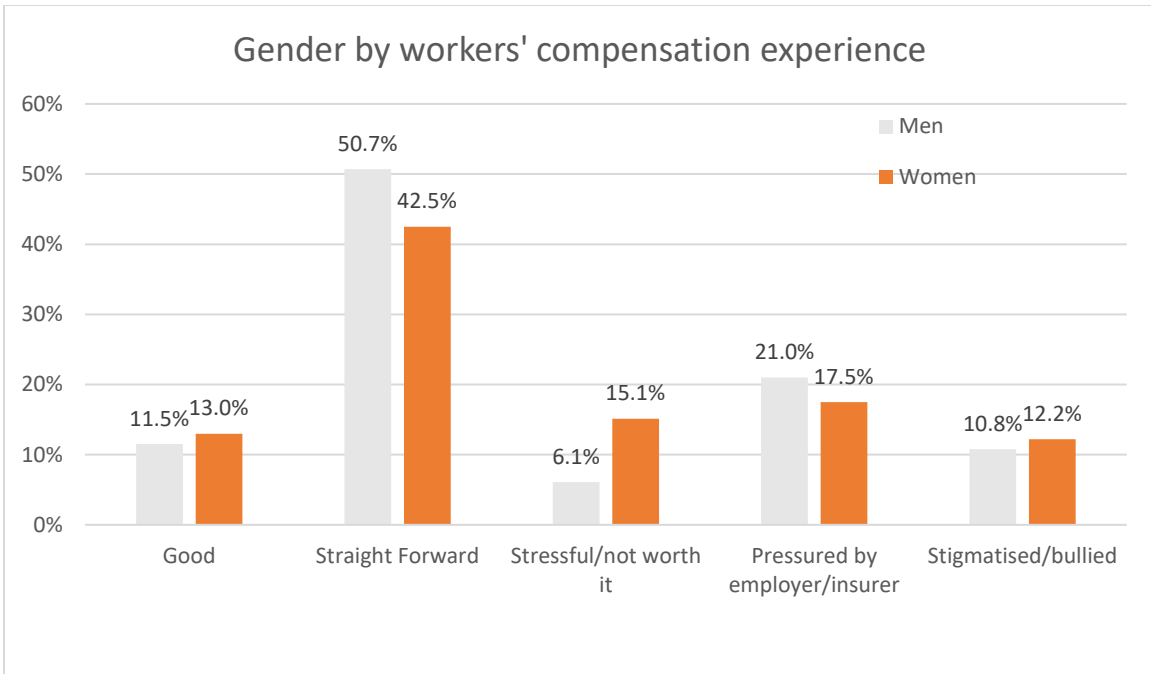
Workers' Compensation Experience



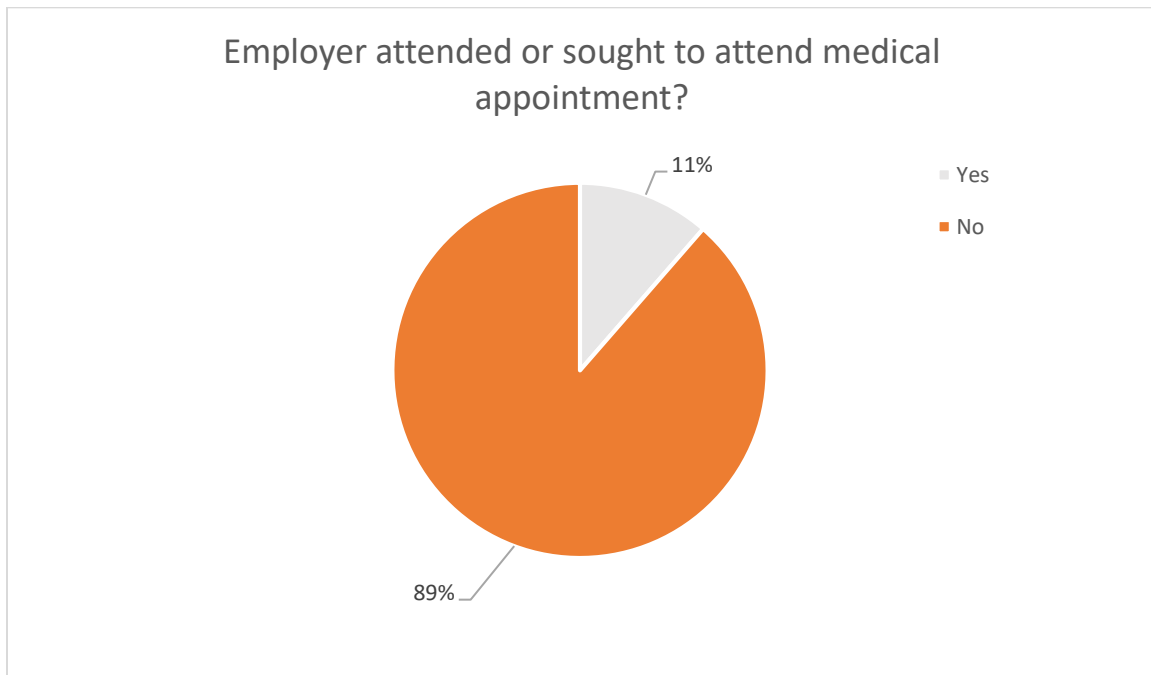
n = 869



n = 397



n (men) = 148 n (women) = 139



n = 661