



Saskatchewan Association for
Safe Workplaces in Health

Home Operator Needs Assessment Survey Report

AUGUST 2025

SUMMARY

This report outlines the responses received as part of a virtual survey of personal care home operators and group home operators in Saskatchewan (hereafter "*home operators*"). The survey ran from August 15-29, 2025, and was hosted on SurveyMonkey.

PURPOSE

To better understand the needs for additional support to improve health and safety in care homes and group homes in the province. Survey participants were advised on the type of requests or initiatives SASWH could act on, and that comments regarding the licensure or regulation of homes, purchasing, staffing or labour relations fall outside of SASWH's purview as a safety association.

PARTICIPATION

A direct link to the survey was shared with a list of 428 unique email addresses for home operators in Saskatchewan, and 30 responses were received. Totals through this report may not add up to this sum as most questions allowed multiple answers to be selected.



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What type of services do you provide?

- Personal care home - **19**
- Group home - **12**
- Day program - **7**
- Supported living program - **6**

What home operator-specific initiatives are you most interested in?

- Dementia and memory care - **23**
- Occupational health and safety - **13**
- Psychological health and safety - **13**
- Emergency preparedness - **12**
- New worker orientation - **8**
- Occupational hygiene and infection control - **6**
- Violence - **4**
- Culinary services - **2**
- Environmental services - **1**
- Musculoskeletal injuries and ergonomics - **1**

#1 Dementia and memory care

#2 Occupational health and safety

#2 Psychological health and safety

#3 Emergency Preparedness

What would your preferred delivery method be for these initiatives?

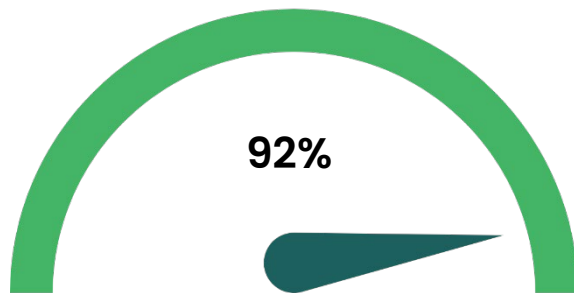
- Self-paced learning modules - **22**
- Printable resources – posters, safety talks, guidelines, checklists - **18**
- Videos or recorded webinars - **16**
- Live webinars – virtual with active participation and group discussions - **15**
- In-person workshops - **6**

Would you use or see value in any of these visual resources, specific to home operators?

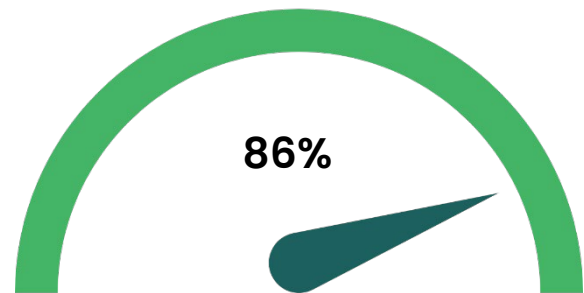
- A wall calendar with monthly safety talks - **21**
- Posters on workplace violence and harassment prevention - **20**
- Posters on emergency preparedness practices - **20**
- Posters on good body mechanics - **17**
- Posters on environmental hazards - **15**
- I am not interested in visual resources - **4**

Feedback was received from two respondents that they are not comfortable mounting posters in public areas where they are visible to residents. Creating poster resources that can be shared digitally with staff were suggested as a possible workaround.

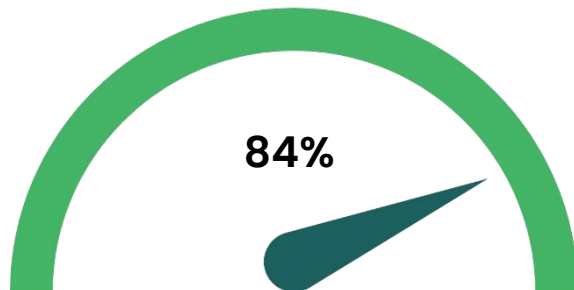
How safe do you feel while performing daily work tasks?



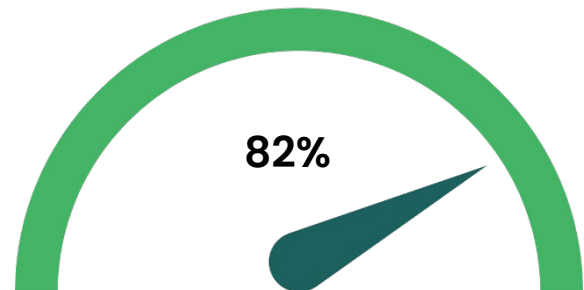
How responsive are you when safety concerns are reported?



How confident are you in the instructions and training you provide to workers regarding workplace safety procedures in your care home?



How confident are you in knowing the correct steps to take in the event of a fire or other emergency situation?



Which of the following safety hazards do you encounter most often during the course of your shift?

- Slippery or uneven floors – **11**
- Exposure to hazardous substances (cleaning products, chemicals, medications) – **11**
- Cluttered walkways – **5**
- Insufficient lighting – **4**
- Blocked emergency exits – **2**
- Faulty equipment – **2**
- Exposed electrical wiring – **1**
- Other:
 - Resident aggression
 - Insufficient training
 - Heavy workloads
 - Age-related infrastructure concerns (e.g., inefficient HVAC systems, wear and tear, floors which are worn but not slippery/uneven/cluttered)



Other comments and feedback for consideration:

- More openings for home support workers in SASWH's licensed programs – Transferring Lifting Repositioning (TLR®) and Professional Assault Response Training (PART®) – as these cannot be taken through other providers.
- Explore the feasibility of more training being offered in a hybrid model: online for classroom education, and in-person for technical components.
- Develop resources on violence for home support workers and employers who have patients with dementia or complex needs (addiction, history of violence, mental illnesses).
- More care home-specific Safety Talks.
- Safety orientation resources for new hires in home care environments.
- Learn-at-your-own-pace online education.