

Janitorial Workload Newsletter



September 2020

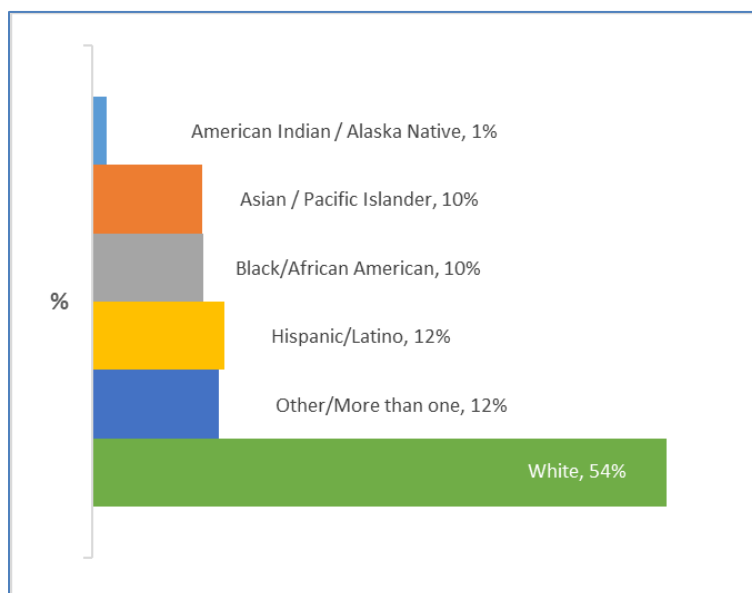
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The Janitorial Workload Survey was completed this year: We had 660 responses--with janitors from all over the State of Washington taking part online, by mail and telephone. Thank you to everyone who participated!

In this issue of the newsletter, we'd like to share some results and highlight some of the issues that came up that are especially important to your health while working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ABOUT OUR SURVEY RESPONDENTS:

- 660 janitors
- 56% female
- Average age: 45 years
- The survey was available in eight (8) languages.
 - Spanish and Vietnamese were the most common non-English languages used.
- 29% were union members





Some Preliminary Findings:

- Nearly 20% of janitors who responded to our survey said that they were injured on the job in the last 12 months.
 - This is more than usually reported by workers in other jobs
- Janitors also report working very hard and very fast, and with not enough chemicals/equipment to do their job well:
 - 91% report working “very fast”, sometimes or often
 - 17% report that they almost never, never or seldom have “enough time to complete their job”
 - 18% report that there are not enough people to get all the work done often or everyday
 - 15% reported that they were “likely or extremely likely” to slip, trip, or fall during their normal work activities
 - “Rushing” was one of the leading causes reported
 - 33% rated the quality of their tools or equipment as “poor” or “fair”
 - 35% reported that this negatively impacted their job (causing slowdowns, or making them work harder)
 - 14% reported they were not given adequate quality cleaning supplies

These findings are similar to a survey of over 500 Australian cleaners, where 91% reported having to rush their work, and 80% reported not having enough cleaning equipment to do a quality job (United Workers Union, Australia¹).

We will be looking more closely into these issues in the coming months.

We will study the full results of the survey and provide updates; these will be published on [the Janitorial Workload Study website](#), and announced in our newsletter – [sign up here!](#)

* Please note we have updated our numbering system – please refer to older publications by their unique publication numbers to avoid confusion. Thank you to our readers for their input!

¹ [Cleaner Survey: Not Enough Time to Deliver Essential Cleaning Work During Coronavirus; United Workers Union, Australia. May 2020.](#)