



SafeCare BC

Assisted Living and Independent Living Needs Assessment

COVID-19 has made discussions around safety even more important. Injury trends in Assisted Living and Independent Living have been going up since 2015. SafeCare BC looked into what workplace safety concerns people had, and what they needed to create safer workplaces in the sector.



Background on Project Methodology

- ✓ Environmental scan conducted
- ✓ Interviews with 16 sector partners, which included unions, post-secondary institutions, advocacy groups, WorkSafeBC, and sector associations
- ✓ Interviews with 10 workers and 12 employers
- ✓ Sector interview (128 responses; 55% employer / 45% worker)

Most Common Injuries



Overexertion



Fall on the same level



Struck-by



Other bodily motion*

*These are also some of the most-common injuries seen in long-term care and home care

Sector Trends

Injury Rates

Up 29% from 2015-18

↑ **29%**

Workdays Lost

Up 57% from 2015-19

↑ **57%**

Claims Cost

Up 73% from 2015-19

↑ **73%**



Challenges in the Sector



Rising acuity (24% of AL residents receive a diagnosis of dementia within a year of moving into the residence)



Staff frequently work alone



Staff may need to respond to medical emergencies without the skills to do so



Limited coverage for staff to attend training



Lack of occupational health and safety knowledge among staff and managers, and managers often come from the hospitality sector, which means they have no health care experience



Lack of managers onsite



Staff aren't aware of residents' health status, which can put staff members at risk



Lack of occupational health and safety training in general, and a lack of sector-specific resources



Variation in room layout

Barriers to Education

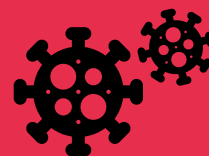
...for Workers

Not receiving information from their organization that training is available; not being paid to attend training; not having coverage for their shift / no time to attend training



...for Managers

COVID-19-related concerns/ limitations on in-person gatherings; location of training (not local or on-site); not having backfill for staff to attend; not having the funds to pay for training



Training Priorities

...for Workers

According to
Workers



Infection
prevention &
control



New worker
orientation



Musculoskeletal
injury prevention
/ safe handling



Reporting unsafe
conditions

According to
Managers



...for Managers



New worker
orientation



Communication
Skills



Incident investigations

Infection prevention
and control

Reporting unsafe
conditions

Training Preferences

...for Workers

In-person, hands-on, with co-workers is preferred, but online learning is OK in certain circumstances


...for Managers

Favour online learning or short, 1-hour in-person sessions for their staff

Overall – shorter is better in terms of training session length

Most workers have access to technology at work





How People Prefer to Receive Safety Information



Via website

(either WorkSafeBC or SafeCare BC)



Via email

How SafeCare BC Could Help the Sector During the Pandemic

...for Workers



Provide training on COVID-19



Provide information on infection prevention and control strategies



Provide better access to PPE



Provide training on donning/doffing of PPE

...for Managers

