

Do Dutch Workers Seek and Find Information on Occupational Safety and Health?

MDF Rhebergen¹, MSc; AF Lenderink², MD; FJH van Dijk¹, PhD, MD & CTJ Hulshof^{1,3}, PhD, MD



(1) Coronel Institute of Occupational Health, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 (2) Dutch Center for Occupational Diseases, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 (3) Netherlands Society of Occupational Medicine, Utrecht, The Netherlands



1 Background & Aim

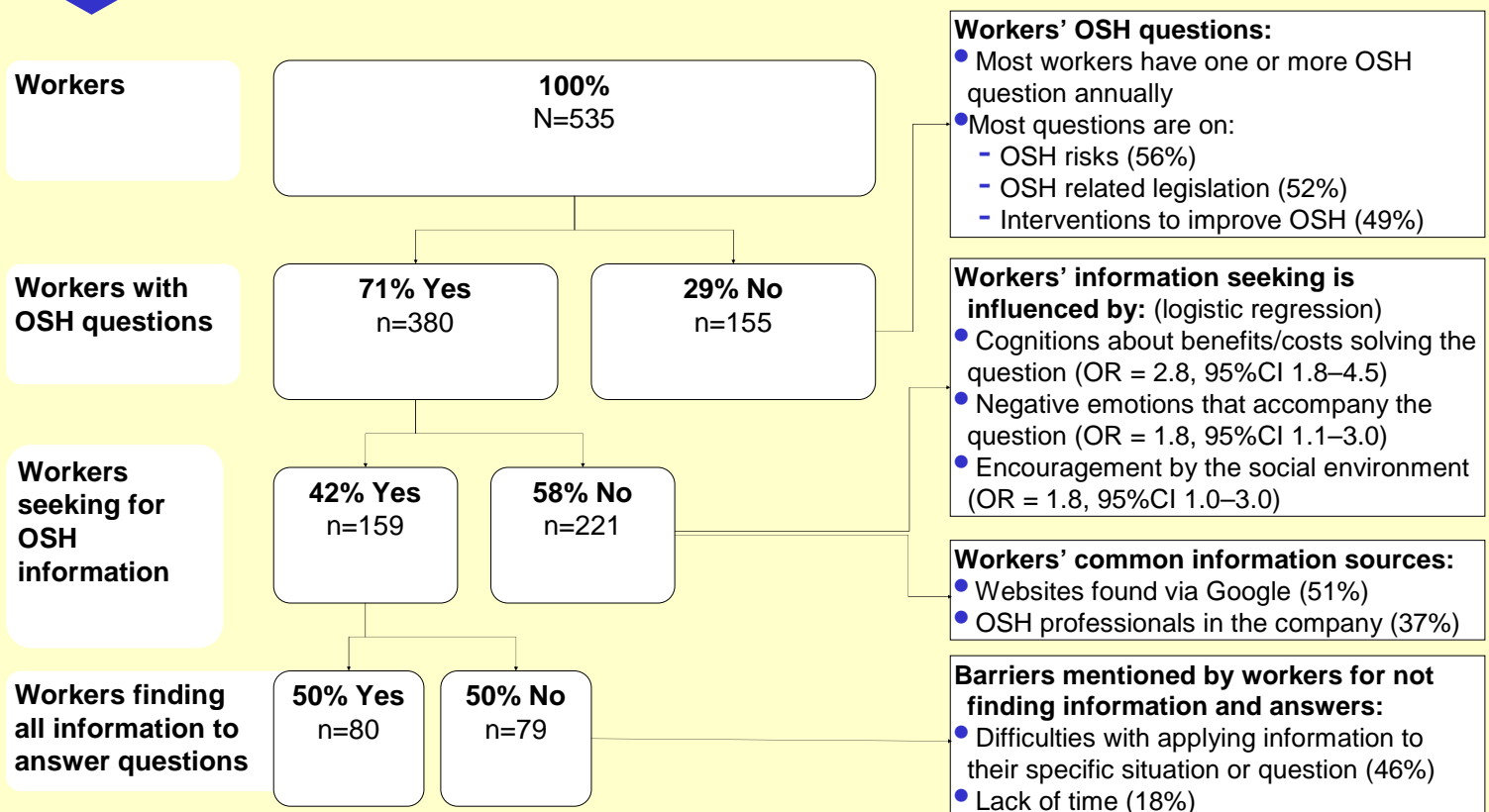
- Currently, little is known on workers' occupational safety and health (OSH) information needs and information seeking behaviour.
- Seeking and finding high-quality information and answers can facilitate workers to make correct decisions on their OSH issues, and, if needed, take action on actually improving OSH practice.

Aim: assessing the OSH information needs and seeking behaviour of Dutch workers.

2 Methods

- Random sample of 888 workers from a large business panel were sent an online questionnaire on their OSH information seeking behaviour in the last year.
- In total, 535 workers, presumably representative of the Dutch working population, returned the questionnaire (response rate = 60%).

3 Results



4 Conclusions and recommendations

- 1. Most workers have OSH questions, but only about 40% seek information or advice on their questions.**
 - Motivating the group of workers not seeking for information or advice might further contribute in improving OSH.
- 2. Up to 50% of the OSH questions from the workers who do seek for information remain unanswered.**
 - Workers' information seeking skills or motivation, and the OSH knowledge infrastructure need improvement.
 - Workers want tailored information of high quality they can easily find and apply, for example provided by independent (online) OSH expert advice facilities.

