

# Effectiveness of worksite visit by occupational health nurses

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## Backgrounds

- Nothing but health guidance for employees is stipulated as a duty of occupational health nurses (OHN) in Industrial safety and health (ISH) law in Japan.
- Although worksite visit (WV) is an important task for occupational health (OH) professionals, worksite visit by OHN is not stipulated by ISH Law in Japan.



Health guidance for employees (with a legal basis)



Worksite visit (without a legal basis)

## Objectives

- The objective of this study was to examine the situation of worksite visit by OHN and to investigate opinion of OHN and other OH professionals on this service.

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## Methods

- Questionnaires were mailed in 2010 to 270 OHN, 532 occupational physicians (OP) and 566 hygiene managers (HM) in Kyoto prefecture, in Japan.
- Contents of the Questionnaire
  - Frequency, Effects of worksite visit (WV), and Demand of WV by OHN, etc.
- Subjects
  - 111 OHNs (reply rate: 41%)
  - 187 OPs (reply rate: 35%)
  - 282 HMs (reply rate: 50%)

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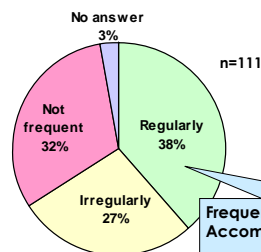
## Results Characteristics of OHNs

Sex	Women, 100%
Age	40-49 years, 37.8% 50-59 years, 28.8%
Years as an OHN	Less than 3 years, 21.6% More than 20 years, 21.6%
Type of employment	A regular member, 55.9% A part-time member, 32.4%
Number of employees	More than 1000, 28.8% 100-299, 22.5%

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## Results Frequency of WV by OHN

Do you visit worksite regularly?



- OHN (66%) visited worksite regularly or irregularly.
- Remaining OHN did not visit worksite primarily because it was excluded from tasks of OHN in their enterprises (49%) according to the condition in ISH law.

Frequency: 1.0/month (51%), 1.2/week (27%)  
 Accompanied by: OP (69%), HM (43%), alone (30%)

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## Results

### Effects of WV by OHN

Do you think WV by OHN is effective?



- Most of OHN thought worksite visit is effective to improve health condition of employees.
- They considered that
  - Understanding of work of employees and enterprise itself through worksite visit improves the level of health guidance (96%)
  - Multidisciplinary worksite visit supports communication between OH professionals (65%).

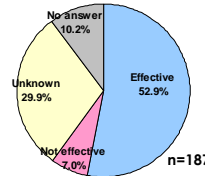
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## Results

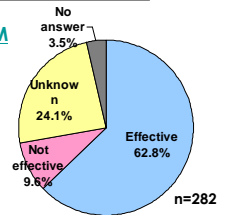
### Opinion by other OH specialists

Do you think WV by OHN is effective?

OP



HM



- A larger number of HM considered worksite visit by OHN was more effective than that by OP (HM: 63% vs. OP: 53%,  $p < 0.05$ ).
- More than 70% of them in both groups considered that understanding of work of employees and enterprise itself through worksite visit improves the level of health guidance.

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## Results

### Knowledge resource of WV for OHN

- OHN usually acquired knowledge of worksite visit from internet like website of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, lectures by prefectural occupational health centers, or publications (66%), and seldom asked OP for the knowledge (5%).
- Forty eight OHN (43%) gave concrete opinion to activate worksite visit by them.
  - A legal basis for worksite visit (25%) and support from other OH professionals (21%) were essential.

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## Conclusion

- Although most of OHN and other OH professionals thought worksite visit by OHN was effective for improvement of health of employees, implementation rate was not high in Japan.
- Revision of legislation and further support by other OH professionals, especially by OP should be considered to improve the situation.

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