

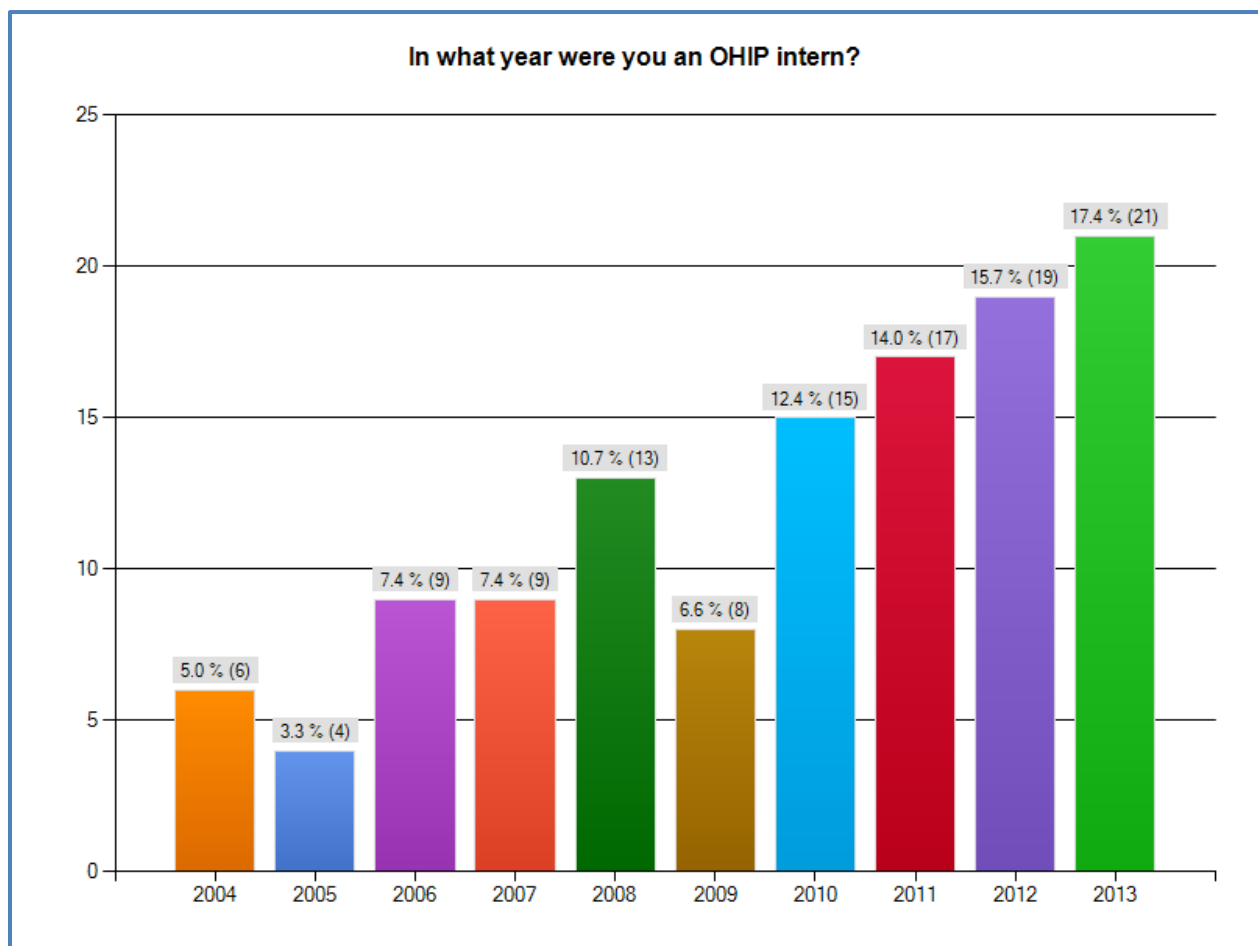


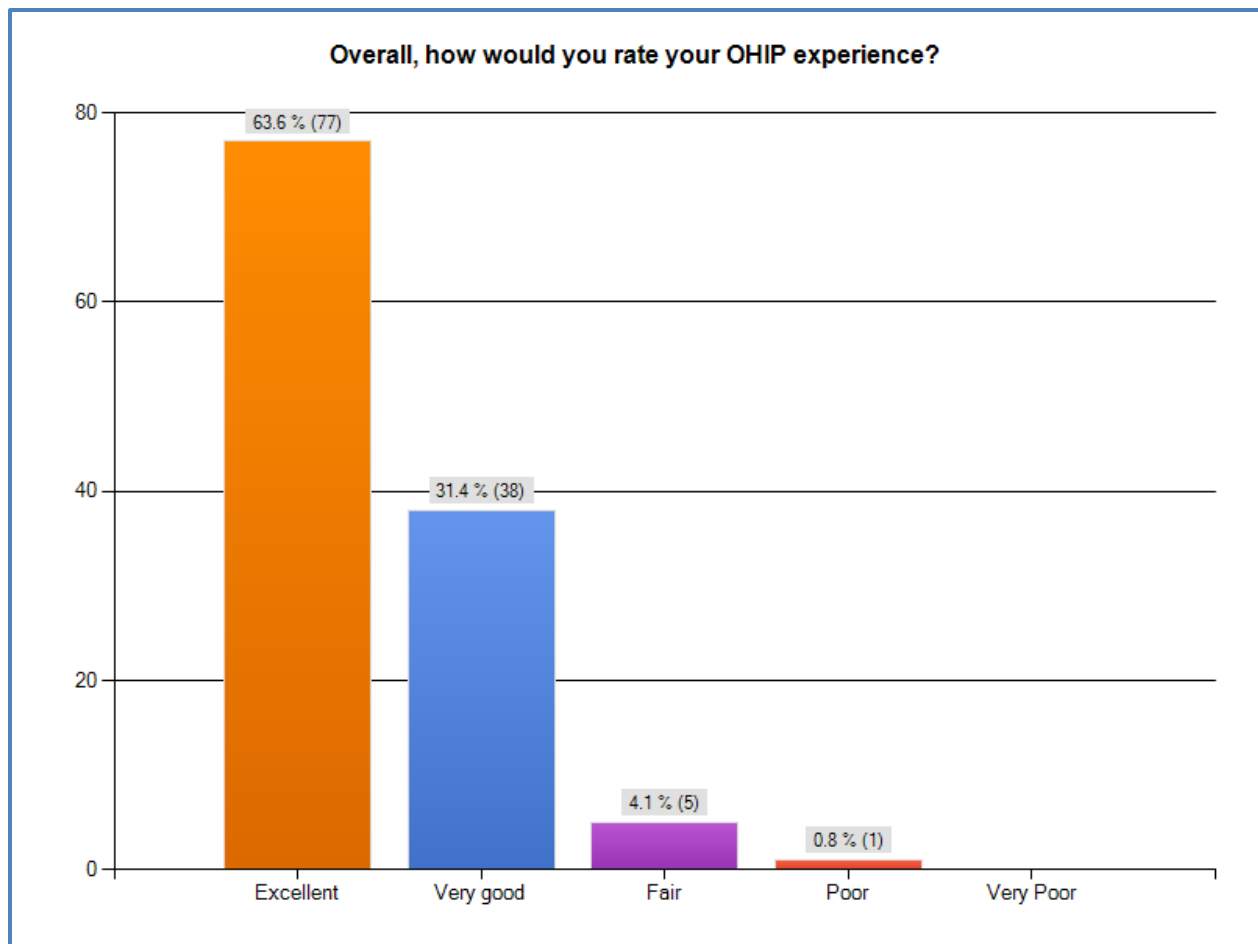
Occupational Health Internship Program

Former OHIP Intern Survey (2004-2013)

Summary Results

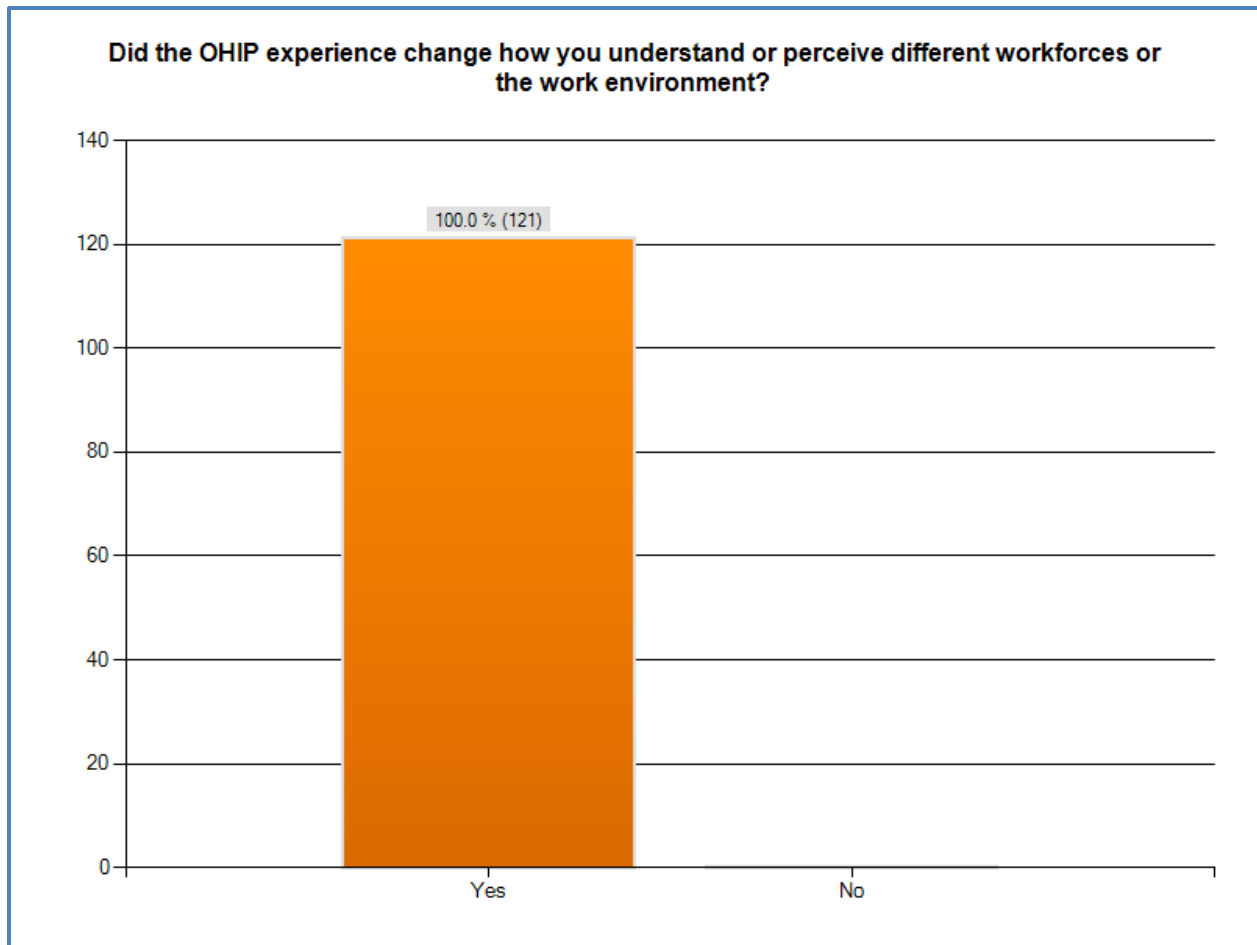
In October of 2013, survey questions were sent to student interns that participated in the Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP) from 2004-2013. The survey had a 66% (111 out of 167) response rate -- 10 alumni did not complete the survey, they are not included in the response rate. Below are the survey questions and a summary of the interns' responses:





Please explain your responses (89 total responses):

- “The OHIP experience gave me more confidence in pursuing my goals. I was kind of lost before the program and when Dr. Harrison spoke about his internship experience and the type of work he does as an occupational MD the light in my head finally turned on. I could finally say to myself that occupational medicine is what I want to do from here on out.”
- “OHIP was the first to expose me to the field of occupational health. Even though my community and family are affected by this topic, I never knew about this area of public health. OHIP exposed me to community and health experts on the topic--this was truly an invaluable experience. All in one internship I was exposed to community based participatory research and community organizing; few academic spaces have this flexibility and vision.”
- “I learned so much, and I got really great experience. My OHIP position even led me getting a job with the worker center I was placed in.”
- “I gained so much from this internship- education, experience, and connected with people from various fields and all walks of life that were dedicated to improving workers' health and safety. I really appreciated every part of this experience, especially the support that my co-intern, my mentors (both LOHP and ILWU), and the OHIP staff gave me.”
- “OHIP is one of those programs that does more than just give you a great summer with hands on experience, it transforms you and helps you become a better person, more informed and aware of issues that are very common but not paid attention to. OHIP has honestly been the best summer commitment that I have ever done and I would recommend it to anyone of any age, major, or career interest, because the world of labor is relevant to almost EVERYTHING!”
- “OHIP was a fantastic experience that cemented my desire to work in occupational health and safety. The entire program was well researched, planned and facilitated.”



Please explain your response (82 total responses):

“Yes, working with jackhammer workers from PG&E gave me a much greater appreciation for the physical labor that goes into maintaining our utilities and our infrastructure in general.”

“Having the opportunity to shadow hotel housekeepers and see firsthand the extent of their workload has given me a new perspective and respect for what they do.”

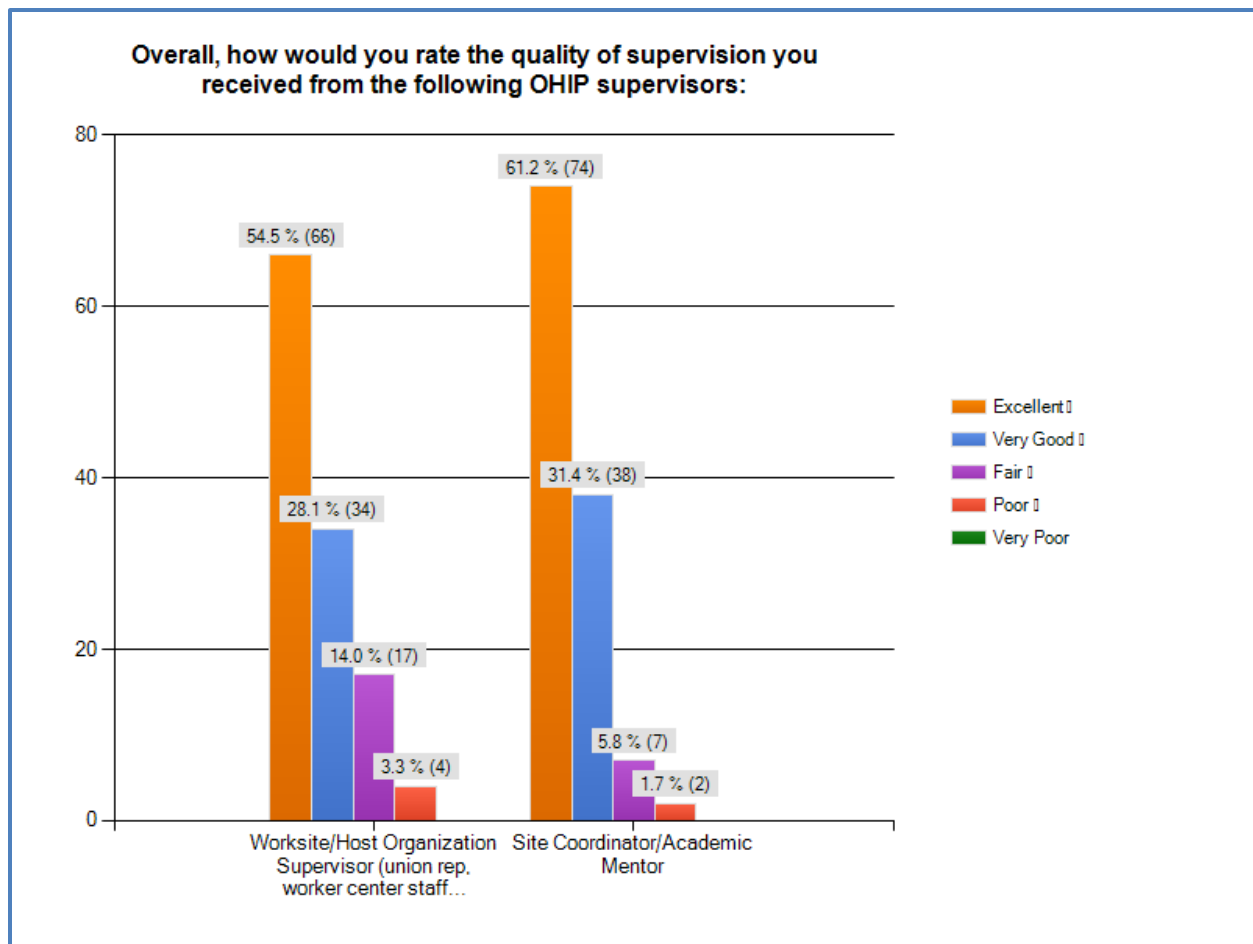
“Yes. I always thought how hard it is for underprivileged workers but you don't really understand until you start hearing their stories about work. It really makes you feel for them and you want to do everything in your power to provide them with the information and tools to help them with safety and health at work.”

“Absolutely, I learned how unions work, saw firsthand the power dynamics that occurs between workers and employers and learned how to effectively communicate about health and safety to different worker populations at different levels. OHIP allowed me to see the other side of the story. In the classroom I studied environmental health and industrial hygiene where it was very science focused. As a result of OHIP, I saw the benefit of involving workers in health and safety, which really opened my eyes”

“I am much more aware of the impact of the workplace environment on medical conditions and try to obtain information about the patient's occupation prior to making any diagnosis and treatment plan.”

“I felt that the OHIP experience helped me to better understand the social and economic factors that affect worker health. My fellow intern and I visited the single room occupancy apartments where many of the restaurant workers resided and conducted personal interviews with the workers. Hearing their personal stories about low wages, lack of health insurance, and concern about job security shed light on why many workers were willing to tolerate dangerous work environments.”

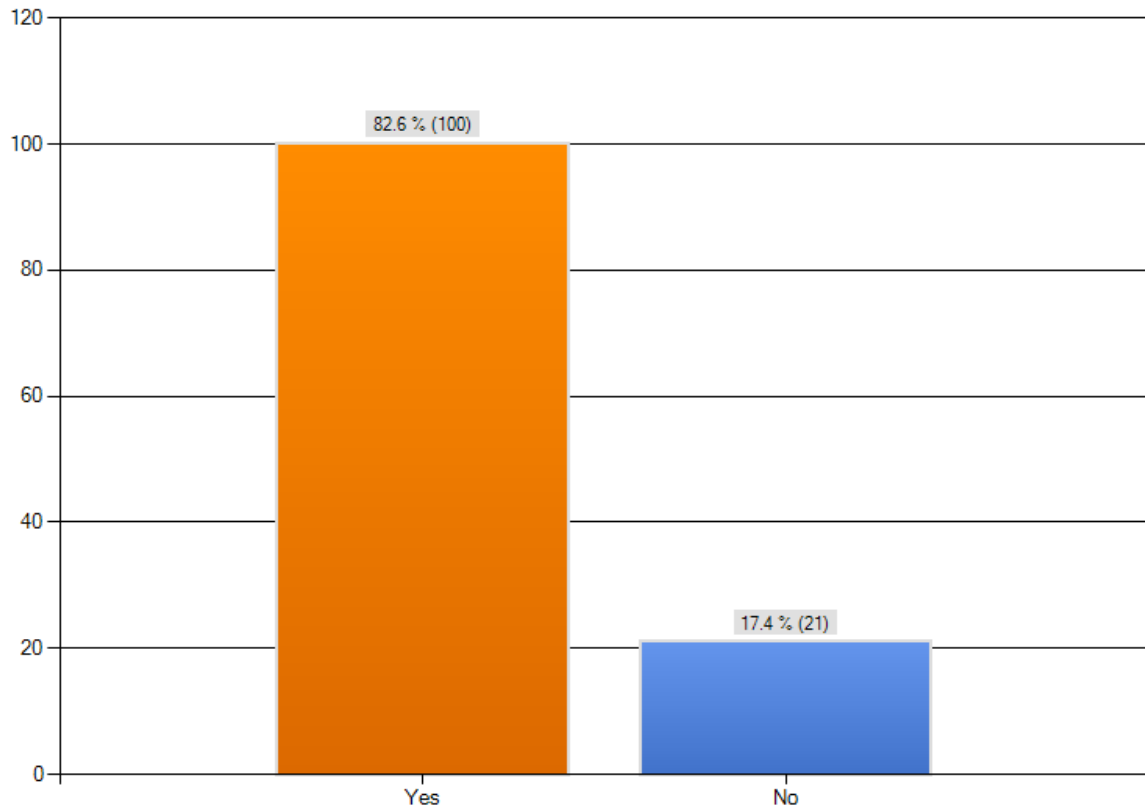
“I come from a family where both my parents work physically demanding jobs and my mom is in a union so I had some familiarity with the ins and outs of the work environment, but I worked with a whole different worker population and learned so much about their work conditions and the daily stressors they face.”



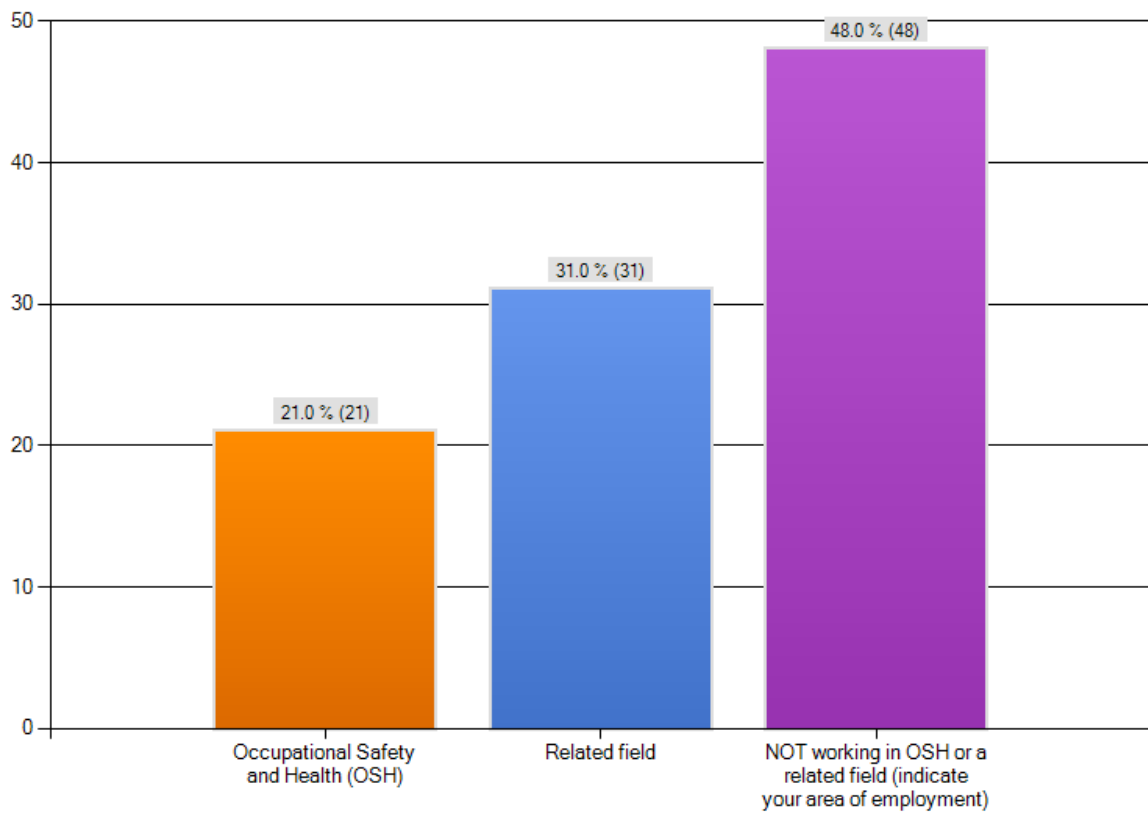
Please explain your responses (74 total responses):

- “Maggie Robbins, David Harrington, Dr. David Rempel, and Dr. Robert Harrison were all fantastic mentors! Seeing their dedication to improving workplace safety was inspiring.”
- “...I entitle my OHIP experience my "character building" summer and I will forever be grateful for the experience.”
- “My host organization was excellent; they exposed me to the wonders of popular education. Thanks to their direction and example, I learned much more than health education. I learned about humility, politics, community engagement, and self-awareness. My host organization, IDEPSCA, has and continues to be my community home and place of learning. I am blessed to be part of the staff. My academic mentor was also great. I truly admired his dedication to linking health to real community issues....”
- “LA OHIP has the best support staff. I felt that they really prepared us for our internship, and presentation, furthermore, if we encountered any problems during the internship, they were always there to help. I love them. Best experience of my life was working with UCLA LOSH”
- “...My supervisors fostered my interest in the occupational health field, were highly accessible, and eagerly made me a part of their research team!”
- “Linda Forst was amazing! I learned so much from her during my internship and even after it ended. She was very supportive in many levels...The organization, AVA, was very warm and passionate about the work they did, so that made it easy for us to learn about occupational health.”
- “I could not have asked for a better site coordinator. He did everything he could to help us accomplish our tasks and to this day he continues to provide me with personal and professional advice. In fact, he got me a summer internship with LAANE the summer following OHIP and provided a letter of rec for my graduate school apps....”
- “Matt London was phenomenal with the guidance he provided throughout the entire process. He was always pushing us and demonstrated to us what it means to advocate for the worker.”

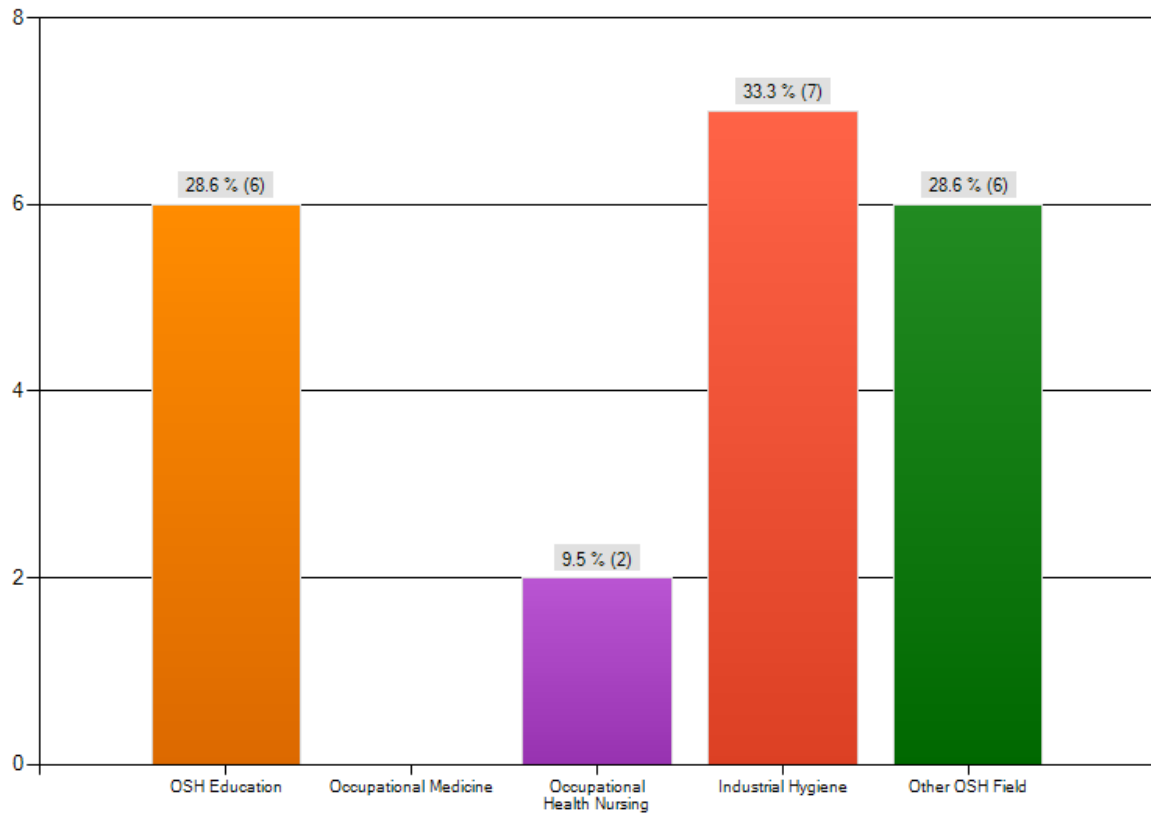
Are you currently working?



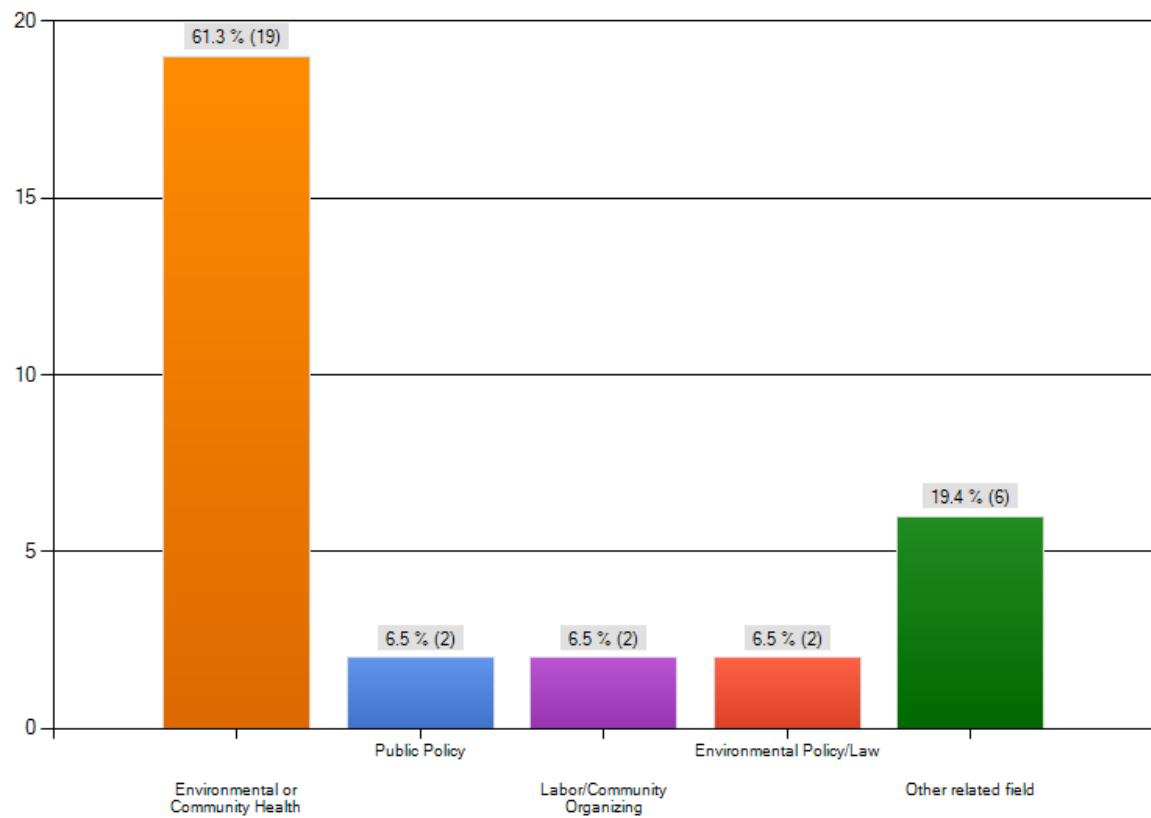
Please indicate your area of employment:



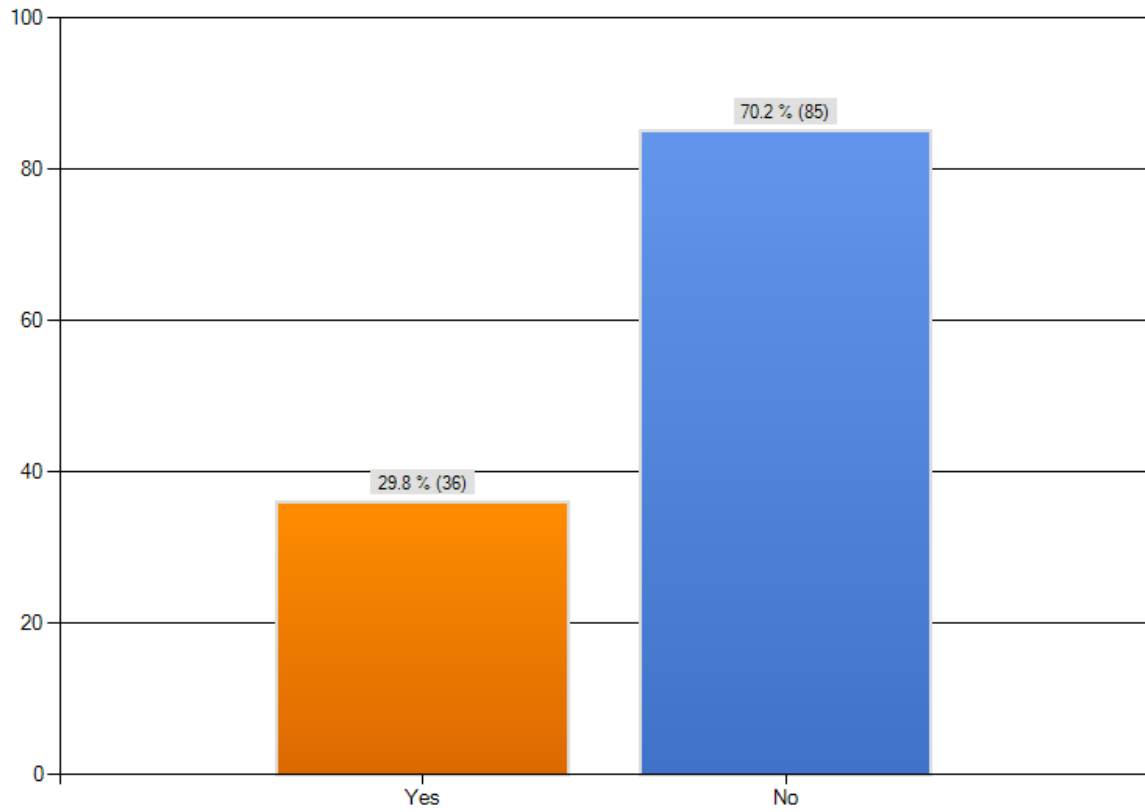
I am currently working in one of the following areas of OSH



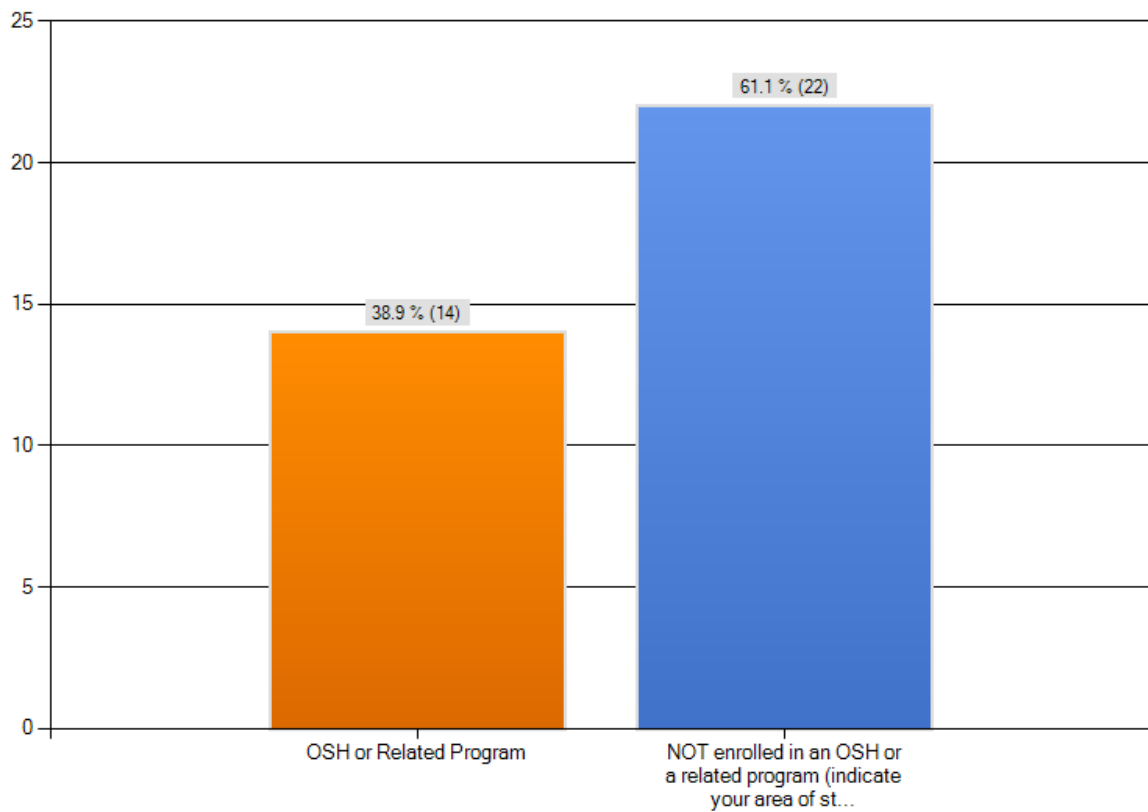
I am currently working in one of the following related fields



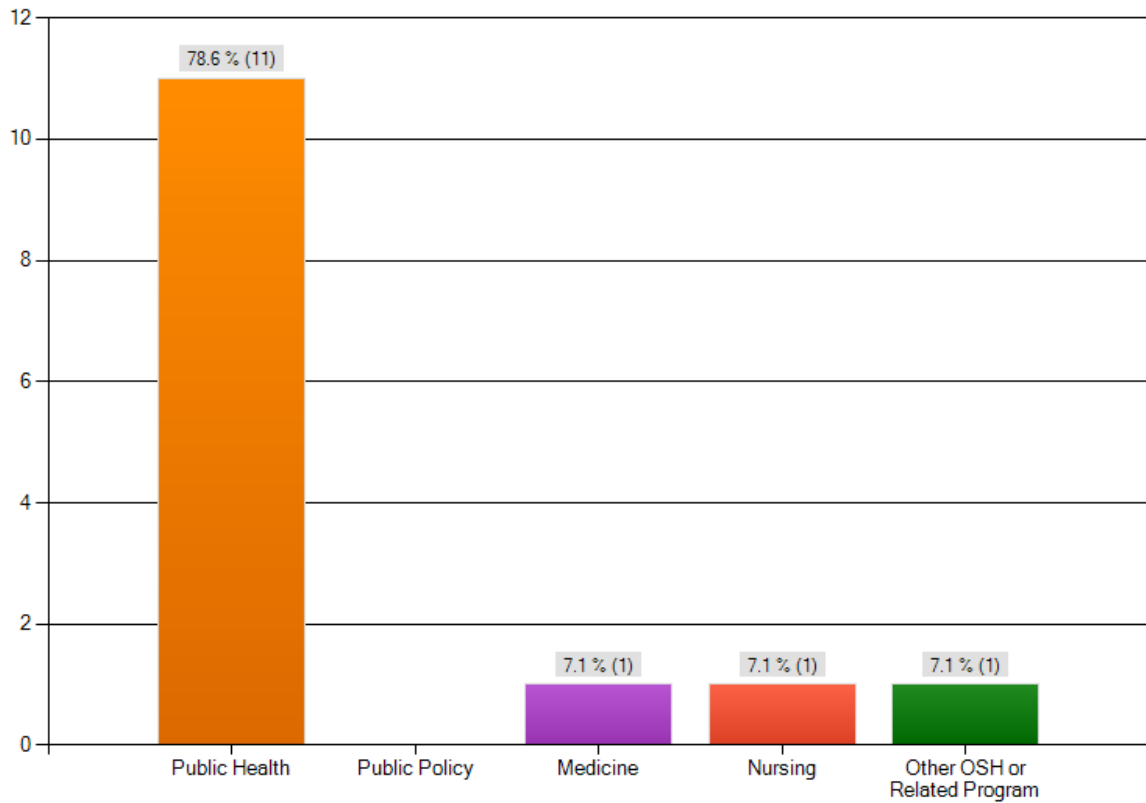
Are you currently enrolled in a graduate program?



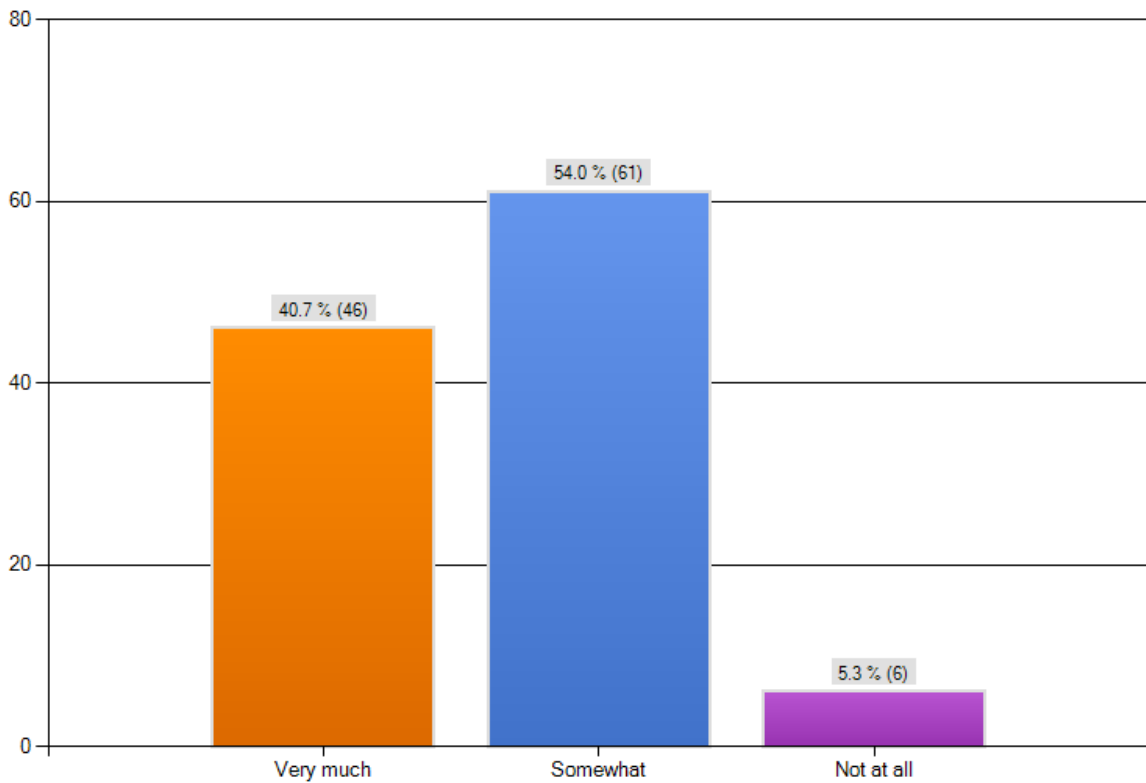
Please indicate your area of study



I am currently enrolled in one of the following OSH or related graduate programs:

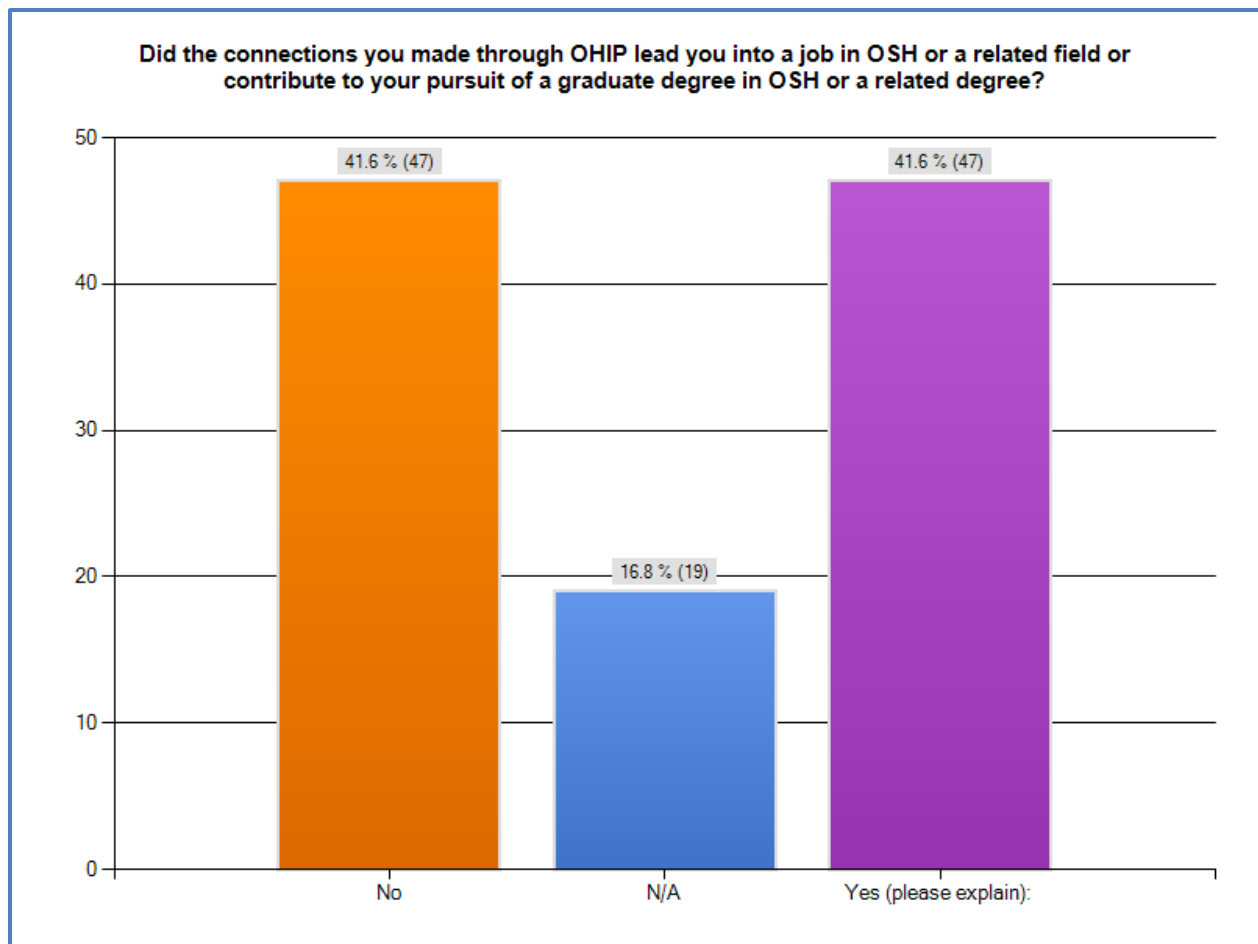


To what degree did OHIP influence your educational or career path or your role in your current job?



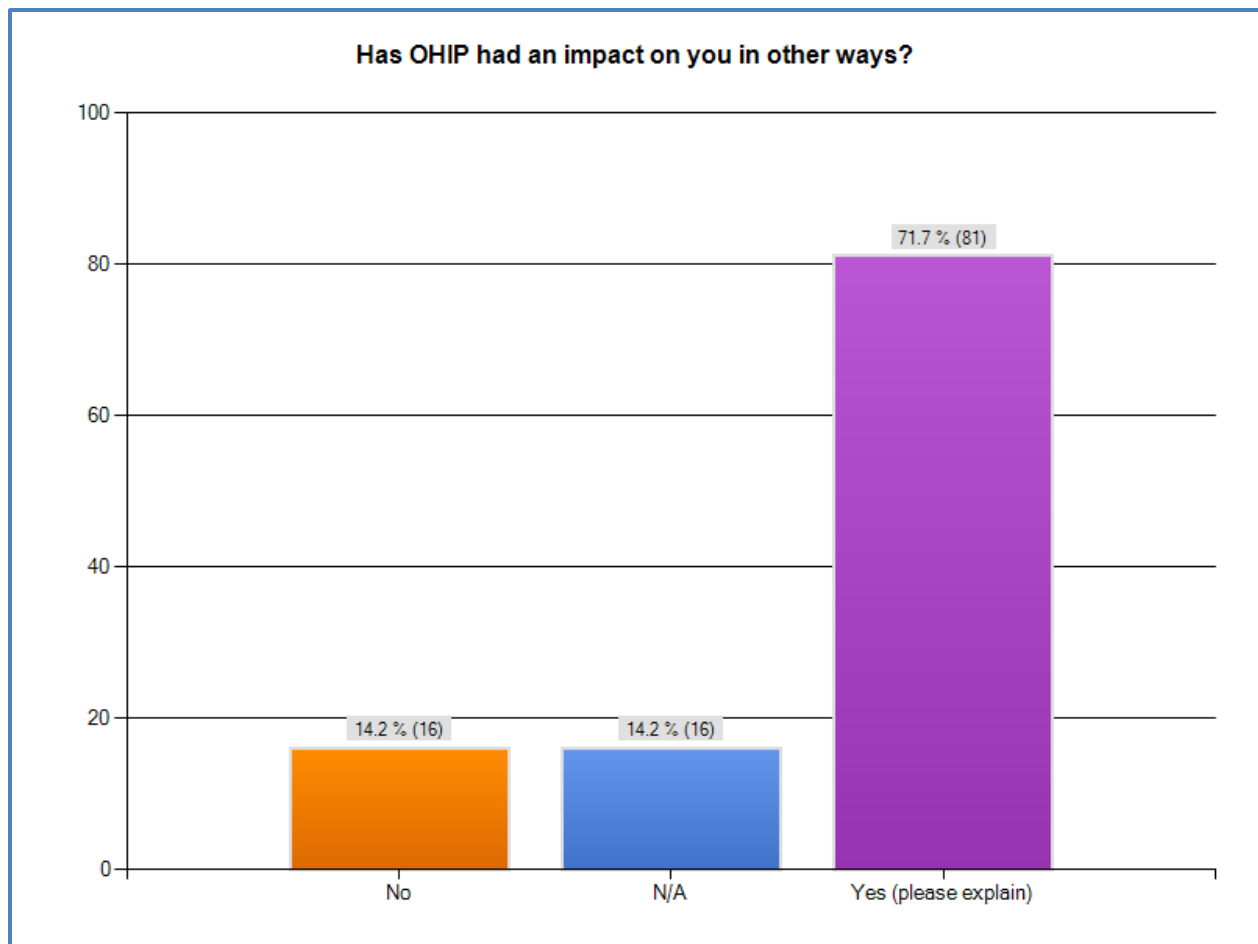
Please explain your response (75 total responses):

- “I am considering applying for a residency in Occupational/Preventative Medicine. Without OHIP, I may not have ever heard of the opportunities for careers in Occupational Health, especially since Occupational Medicine is only a very small part of the medical school curriculum.”
- “Although I am not working directly in the field of occupational health, my intern experience has instilled in me the importance of safety in all I do. Additionally, the experience has helped to broaden my career perspective. I am now studying for the Certified Safety Professional exam, then the Certified Industrial Hygienist because I want to ultimately work as an Environmental Health and Safety professional.”
- “After my time at OHIP now whenever I see a patient I do take into consideration their occupation and how that can affect the health of the individual.”
- “I was already interested in OSH, but OHIP gave me the experience necessary to be hired to do part time work for MassCOSH while I'm still in school and will hopefully help me in getting a job in the OSH field after college. (A job in OSH would be great, but even if I get another kind of public health/community organizing position I'm sure my OHIP experience will be nothing but helpful.) Like I said before, my OHIP project became a senior research project as well.”
- “Several months after completing my OHIP internship I was offered a position at UC Berkeley LOHP. I now work on a variety of projects, principally a refinery worker safety project.”
- “Dr. Harrison's experiences motivated me to follow the path of Occupational Safety and Health.”
- “I'm currently working at the host organization that I did my OHIP internship with back in 2009. I'm currently the co-manager of the Health Project, whose main focus is health and safety in the workplace for day laborers and household workers.”
- “I am currently working on a project related to occupational health on farms. I decided to apply after I was a month into my OHIP experience. I have continued with my educational path in public health, but have been able to focus it more around occupational health and safety.”
- “I was sure that I wanted to major in Labor Studies after OHIP and centered on designing my major around occupational health and possibly carrying out my senior capstone thesis on an OSH project. I also am pursuing an MPH.”
- “Thanks to the opportunity OHIP gave me, I was able to grow a passion for public health. Even though I was focused on doing something in social work, OHIP gave me the push to find a career in public health.”
- “While I'm not currently working in OSH related field, participating in OHIP has changed the way I look at OSH and I plan to partner with my hospital housing keeping department to provide OSH training for the employees.”
- “My participation in OHIP had a direct influence on my current position. Since I was part of this program, my application for the Health Data Manager at AOEC was a relative smooth transition.”
- “My dissertation is on job insecurity and health, which was strongly influenced by my experiences in OHIP and working at LOSH.”
- “I worked with the Massachusetts Nurses Association on a bloodborne pathogens project. I learned that I am fascinated by that scientific and occupational type of work. This OHIP experience led me to my current new job - an Infection Control Project Coordinator, which I started three weeks ago and am really enjoying.”
- “I knew I enjoyed occupational health before OHIP. But the program solidified it as the pathway for me. OHIP showed me firsthand the exposure and compensation issues workers face. My current plan is to complete my Masters, work for a while and become an industrial hygienist, and then pursue a PhD to further influence the OSH community. Also, OHIP gave me real world experience which helped me obtain the grant I have which pays for my education (I love NIOSH ERCs!)”
- “My work during OHIP put me significantly ahead of other applicants during the application process for my current position. Everything I learned in OHIP translated to my current job.”



If YES, please explain:

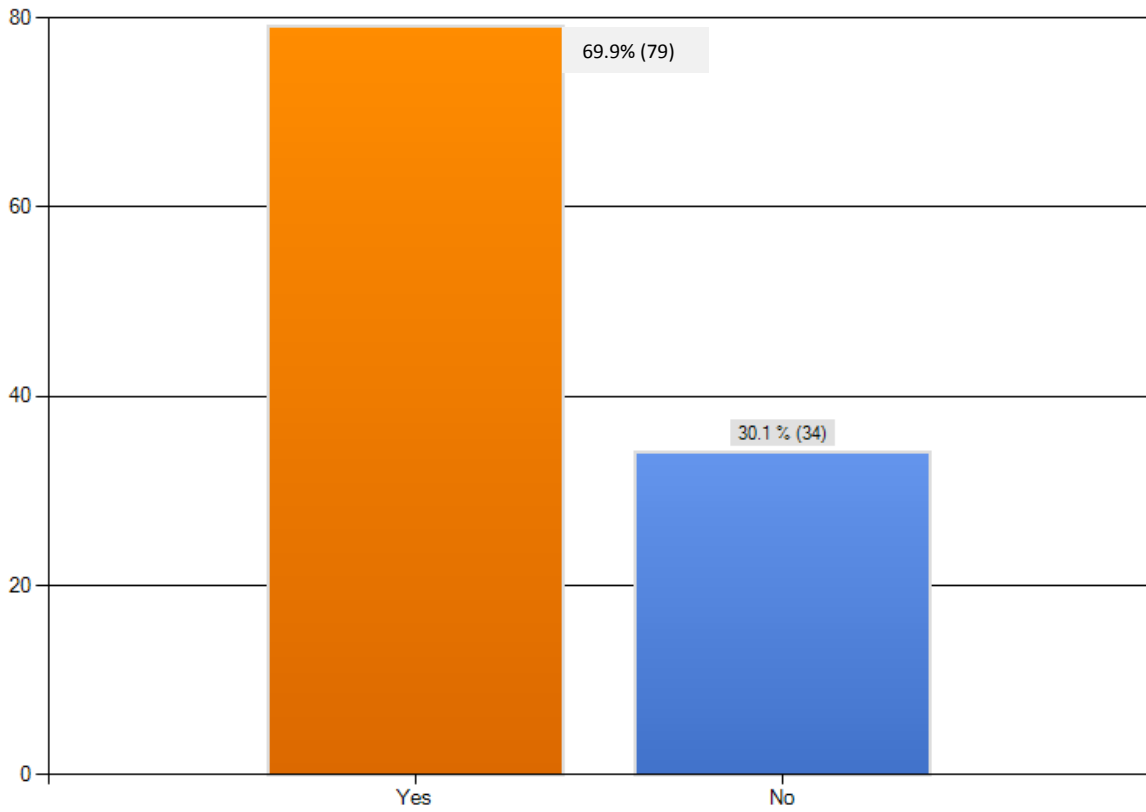
- “I’m being paid as a part time intern at my host organization MassCOSH during my senior year in undergrad.”
- “OHIP helped me develop relationships with people in the field, which lead me to my last job at UCLA-LOSH where I was the Industrial Hygienist.”
- “Absolutely. My supervisor Diane Stein served as a reference for many of the jobs that I applied to over summer. I would not have gotten my job without her. The same goes for Matt London, who also served as a reference for me for my current job, which is in the field of community health.”
- “After OHIP I continued to work for my host organization. I’ve been working for a year, and OHIP has opened many opportunities for me to learn more about OSH.”
- “Not only did I get to interact and work with amazing mentors, each one of my mentors/supervisors/coordinators took time to write me letters of recommendation for my medical school admissions. A large portion of my application centered around my OHIP research experience and how that experience reflects my interest in working with, and in, underserved communities and populations.”
- “My dissertation has changed into a focus on labor conditions and health.”
- “Because I had experience on a bloodborne pathogens project, I was able to get a job in a similar field that also prevents occupational illness, disease, and injury.”
- “The connections I made through OHIP made a direct contribution to my pursuit of a graduate degree. Three of the four recommendation letters I submitted for both of my master’s degrees came from people I met through OHIP.”
- “...I was hired as a contractor by SEIU Local 121RN to continue the work that I began as an OHIP intern over the summer. OHIP created the opportunity and connections that made my current work as contractor possible.”



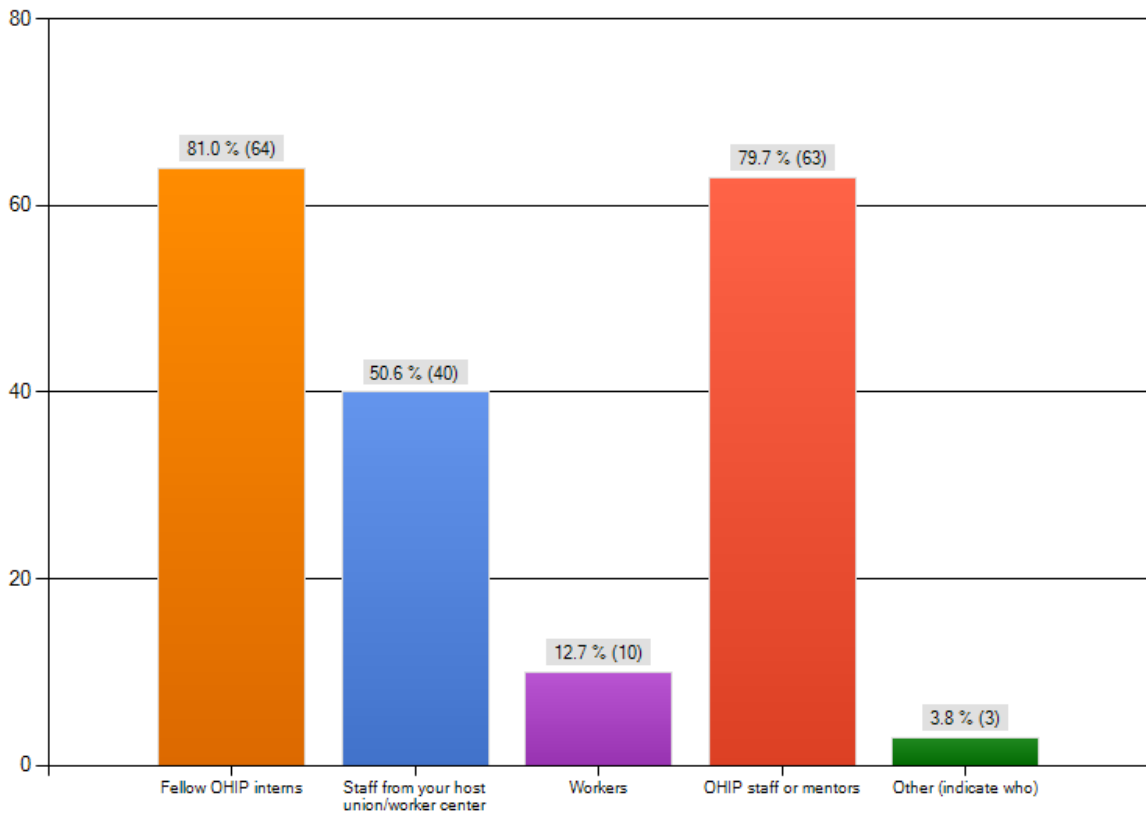
If YES, please explain:

- “It impacts my daily interactions with patients and when planning and implementing health education programs. It also impacts my personal life.”
- “I am now pursuing a job in occupational health, where before I was just focused on environmental health.”
- “Yes. OHIP provided me with the skill set, professional connections and self-confidence that will benefit me throughout my future employment experience.”
- “The OHIP experience for me was a time of immense personal growth. The internship provided me with an opportunity to learn firsthand about the impact work environments have on professional staff and clients served. In addition, the experience gave me the opportunity to collaborate with academic and field professionals in a way that other internships had not. The guidance I received from internship mentors, the wealth of knowledge I gained from the project, and the knowledge shared among internship peers helped make my experience exceptional.”
- “I now observe work environments differently. I see the potential hazards associated with all work, from farmers to chemists. I always ask myself, who is protecting the workers if they are not informed of the potential occupational hazards they face every day?”
- “I have grown not only as an academic through the research I conducted during OHIP, I feel I have also grown as an individual, because the experience also opened my eyes to an issue I previously did not view as one.”
- “OHIP was an overall great experience! Through the internship component, I was able to gain hands on experience in the field and gain workforce experience as well. Through the opportunity to present our project at the APHA conference, I was also able to develop my public speaking and research presentation skills and work with a graduate student who was a great team member and mentor.”

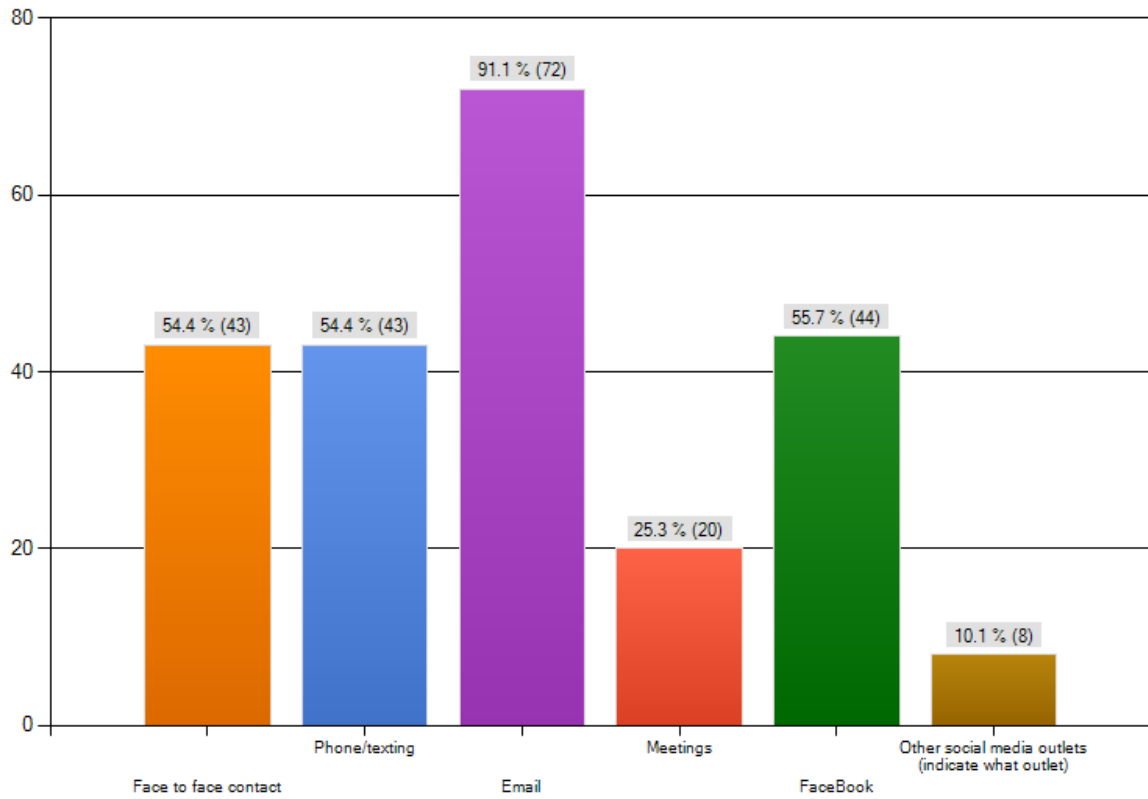
Have you maintained contact with the people you met through OHIP?



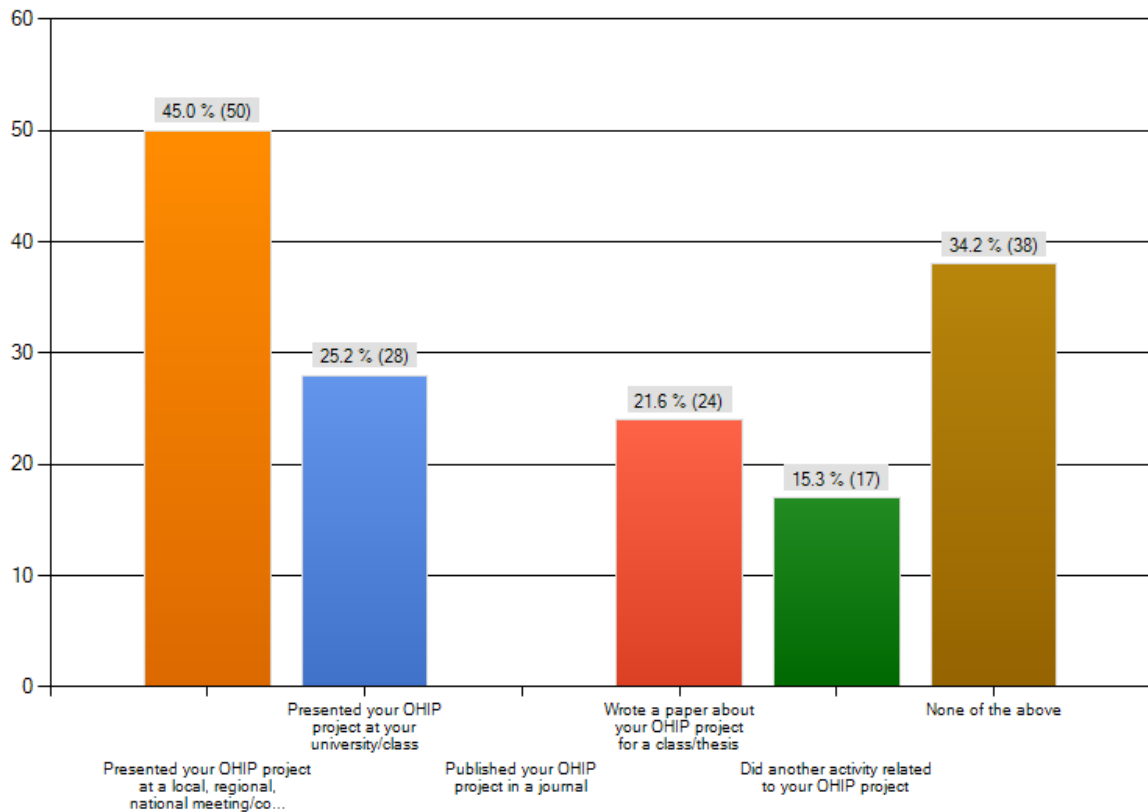
Who have you maintained contact with (check all that apply):



Please indicate how you have stayed in touch (check all that apply):

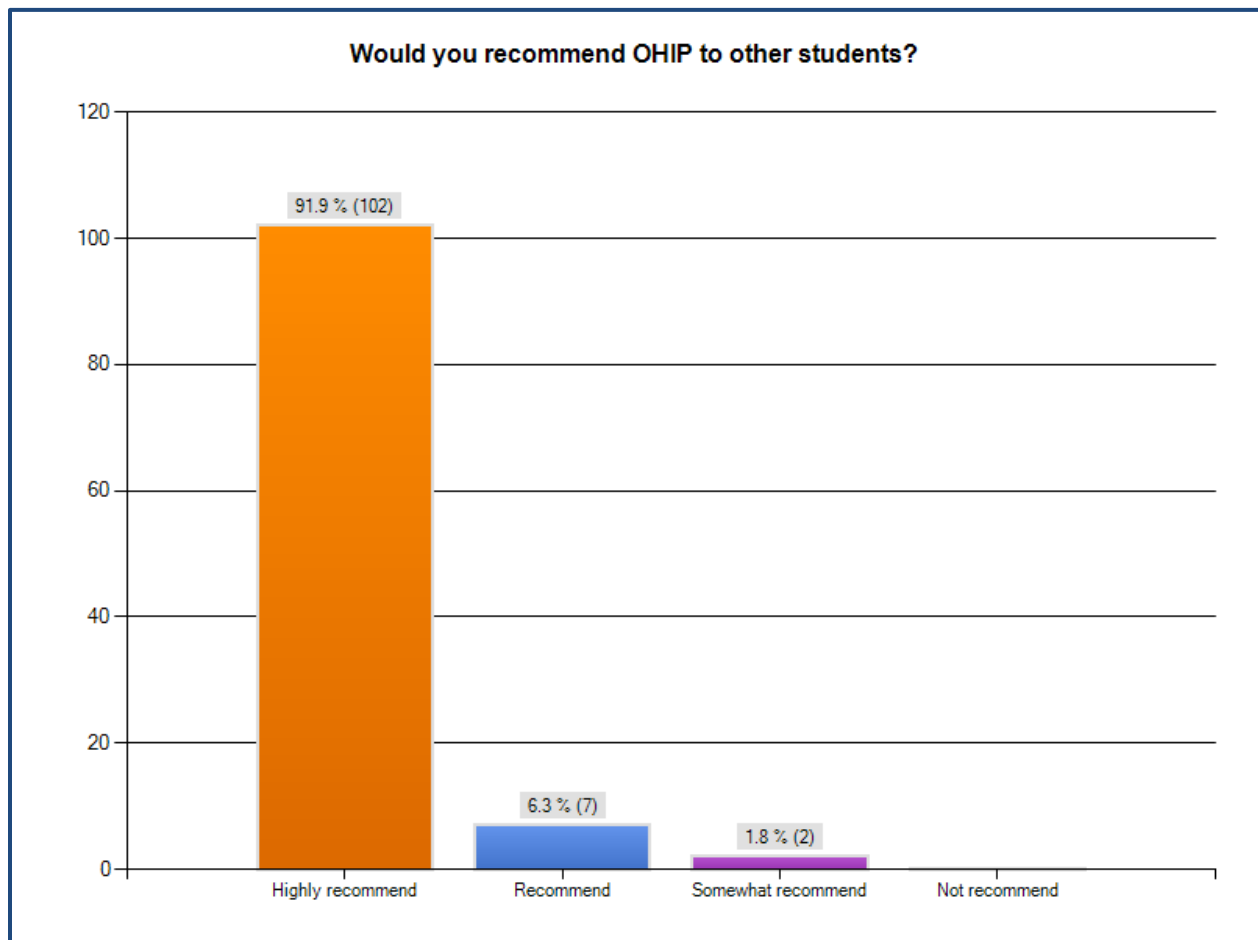


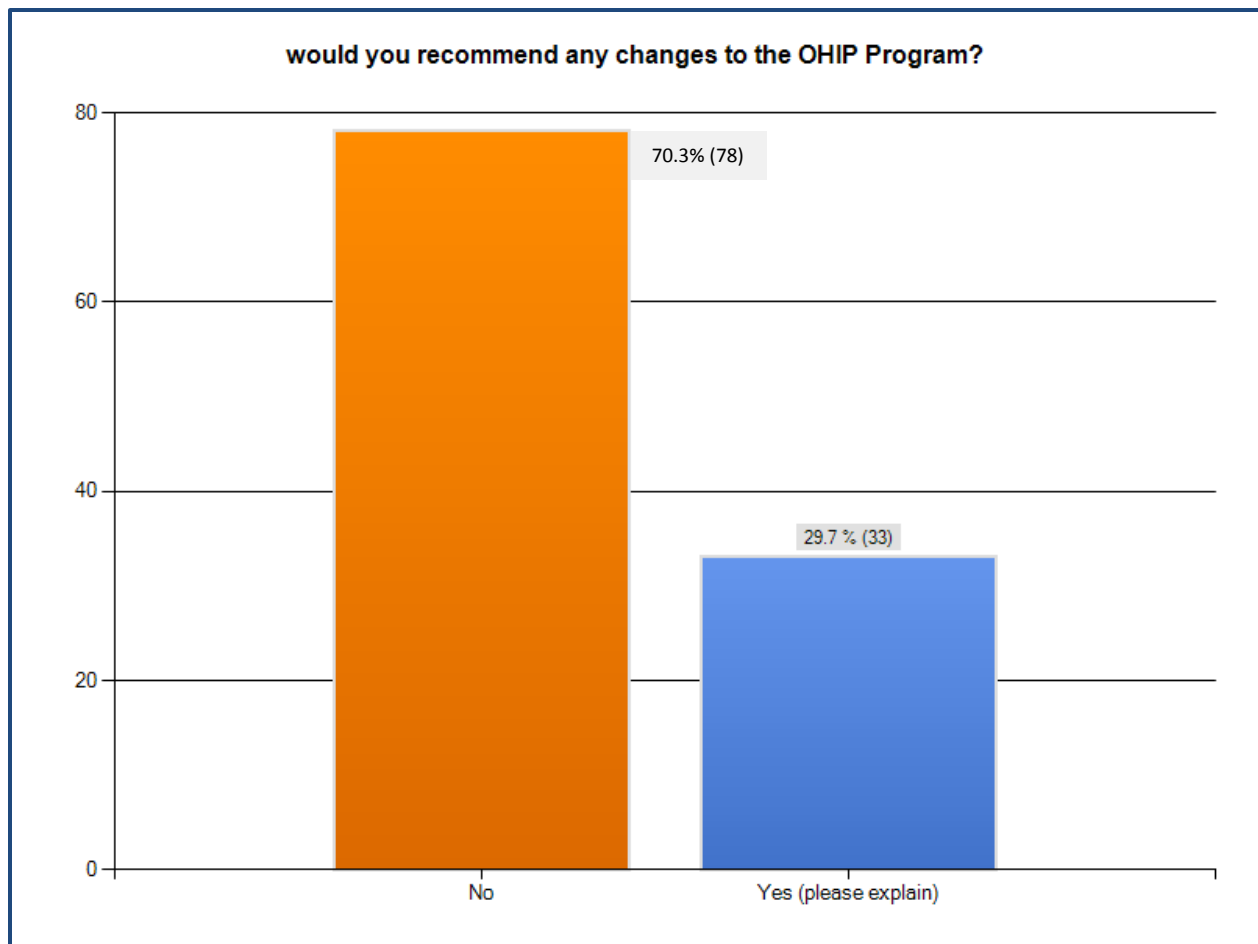
After the completion of your OHIP project, have you (indicate all that apply):



Please explain your response (35 total responses):

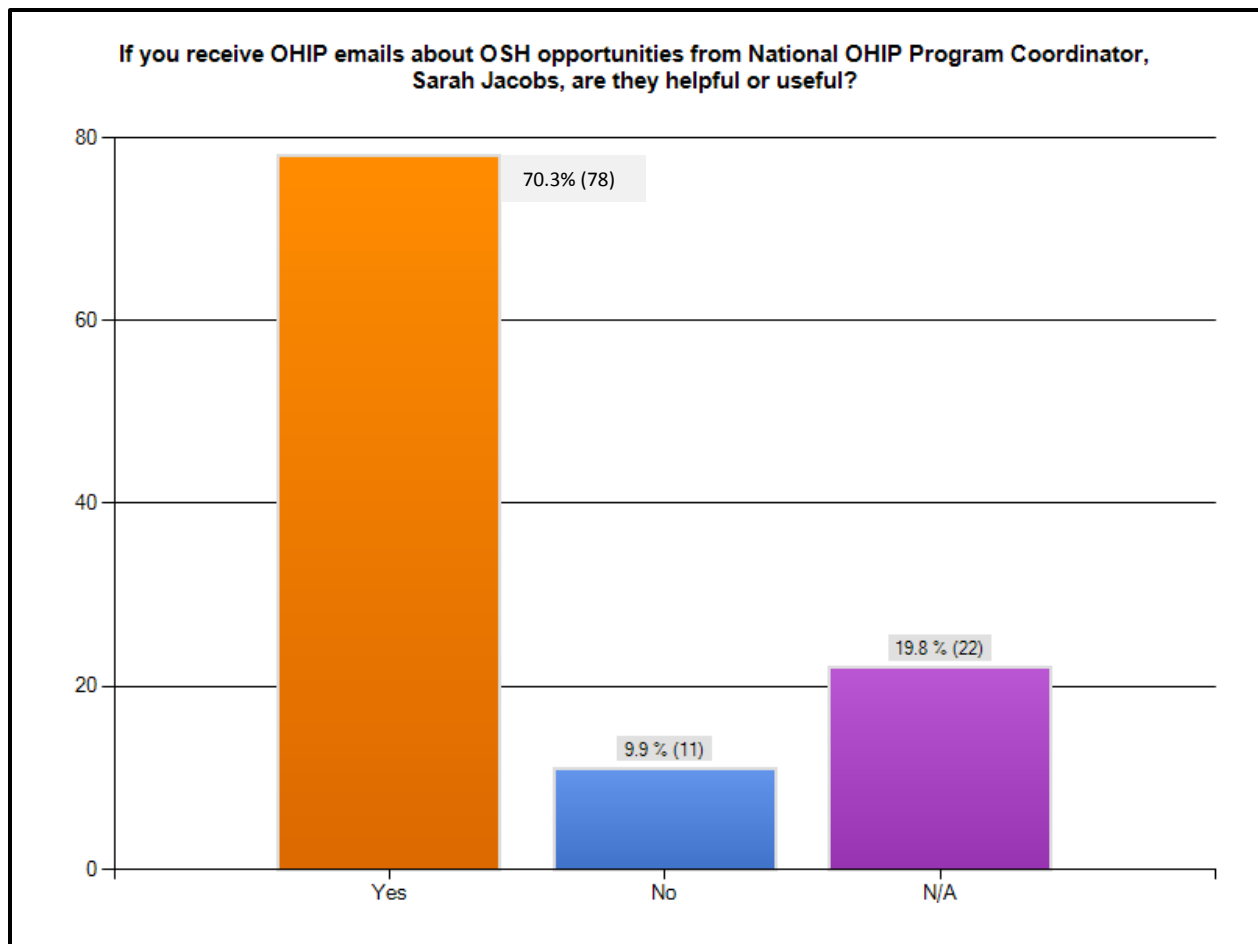
- “I’ve continued on with my OHIP project, building upon what was done over the summer to create my senior capstone project in American Studies as an undergrad at Tufts.”
- “When I returned to Cornell as a college junior and began research under a professor in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, we were able to use my OHIP project as a basis for a research paper in an Occupational Epidemiology course and helped develop a curriculum for a new Intro to Epidemiology course.”
- “Ergonomists, David Rempel and Ira Janowitz, used the findings of the project in their research to improve working tools to perform overhead drilling into concrete. Also, the report has been used for further projects related to overhead drilling in construction in the Bay Area.”
- “I presented our project at then 2009 APHA conference as well as at the Sciences’ National Environmental Justice Conference in New Orleans in January 2010.”
- “I presented my project at the 2011 APHA National Conference in the OHIP OSH Section panel. My team partner and I was also able to present our project at the 2011 National Environmental Justice conference in Michigan. I also presented my OHIP project in the EHS M411 seminar series at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.”
- “I will present at a national meeting. The research has spurred a movement with a community advocacy organization, and they are now negotiating permitting rules for street vendors!”
- “I have had the opportunity to present our OHIP project at two different conferences hosted by the Nurse Alliance of CA, in San Francisco and Pittsburg. I was also invited to lecture at the University of Connecticut (my alma mater) on feminism and occupational health where I was able to integrate my OHIP research findings as well as to discuss other OHIP projects, specifically the "Someone like me" campaign that my fellow interns worked on. Lastly, I was awarded a scholarship to attend and present my OHIP findings at APHA.”





If YES, please explain:

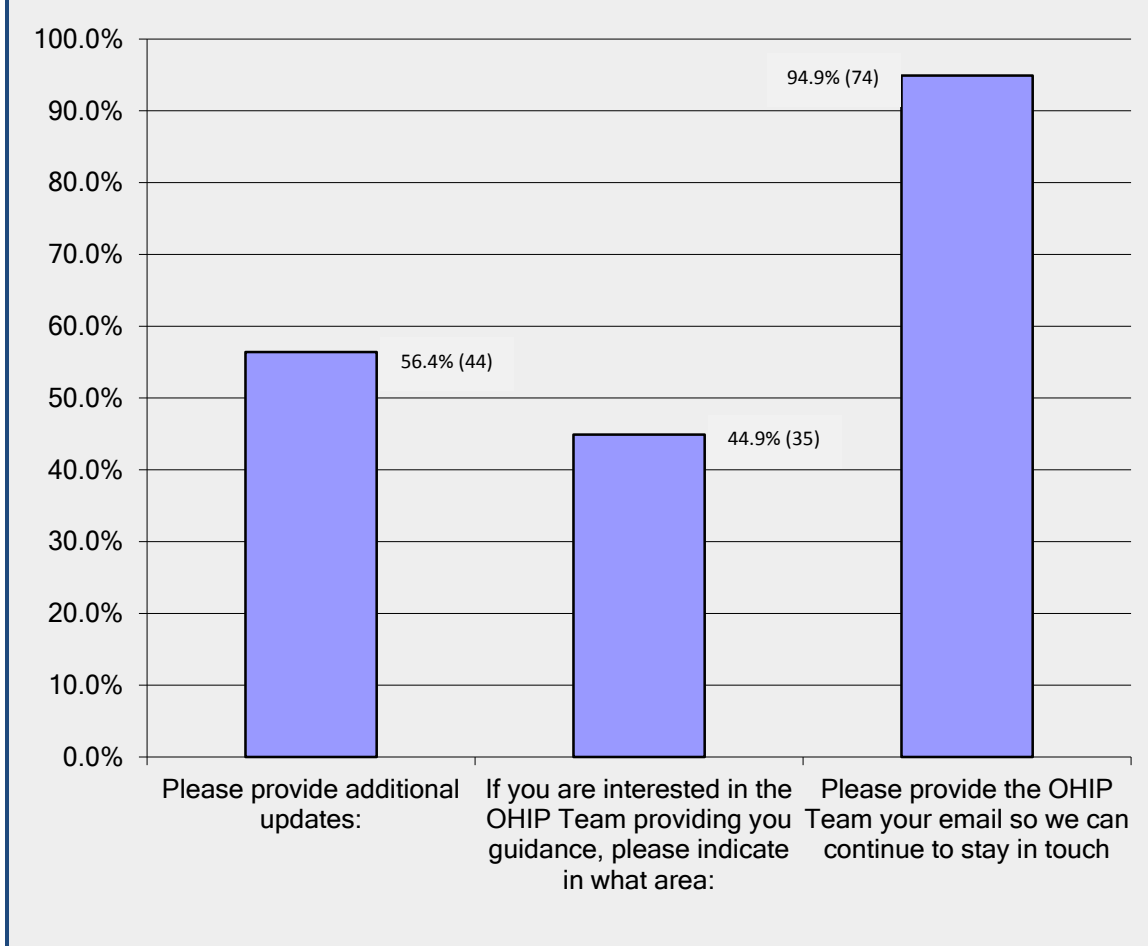
- “Try to recruit more from other disciplines”
- “Make it longer! It was the best internship I ever took part in, and it ended too soon!”
- “Try to present projects at AIHA/ASSE local meetings or at the national conferences”
- “Expansion...more sites, more interns. (I know, easier said than done; especially when finances need to be considered).”
- “Just keep doing it! Often time graduate education programs do not offer enough in-depth opportunities for practicum immersion as OHIP did, and this was an invaluable benefit.”
- “More check-ins with the project sponsor.”
- “Alumni OHIP gatherings.”
- “IRB clearance so students can publish work”
- “Yes; just a final networking session at the end of the program.”
- “More assistance (both financial and informational) is needed to cover relocation expenses and housing when not in a city that you are not familiar with.”
- “Increase the stipend a bit, especially for those sites in bigger cities such as San Francisco or New York City.”



If YES, have you applied or found a job or attended/participated in an OSH event/webinar as a result of the emails AND/OR would you like to see other topics covered in the OHIP emails? Please explain (49 total responses):

- “I have applied for a couple of positions. Although I haven't been selected (due to distance from work locations), I remain optimistic and I appreciate the information that Sarah forwards.”
- “The e-mail is a great way for me just to stay connected, even if I am not looking for other opportunities.”
- “I applied to OSH jobs that were forwarded by Sarah, however did not attend any webinars.”
- “Thanks for including job postings!”
- “It gets me thinking about future job openings that I could apply to that are relevant to my interests, because believe it or not, these jobs are hard to come by!”
- “These emails from Sarah Jacobs are great! The job listings are really interesting and varied.”
- “Yes, yes, yes; those have been extremely helpful in staying up to date with the latest opportunities available in Public Health. Thank you Sarah and the rest of the OHIP team!”
- “Attended OSH events and webinars”
- “I have attended a local event I found through the emails. And always look through them, and will use them as a job resource when I graduate.”

The OHIP Team would like updates about where you are now and what you are doing so we can stay in touch and offer guidance about job opportunities, graduate programs, etc. to any of our alumni that are interested.



Please provide additional updates:

- “Soon to graduate from undergrad at Tufts, interning with MassCOSH, will likely stay in the Boston area.”
- “Working at UC Berkeley LOHP”
- “I’m working as an Industrial Hygienist Consultant in different industries; medical devices and pharmaceutical industries.”
- “working now under the department of occupational and environmental medicine at UCSF”
- “new MSPH student at UNC in Occupational Exposure Science (formerly IH)”

If you are interest in the OHIP Team providing you guidance, please indicate in what area:

- “continuing education and training”
- “Entry-level job openings or those available to recent BA graduates would be wonderful!”
- “professional development”
- “doctoral programs in OSH/EH”
- “Community, local OSH chapter opportunities”