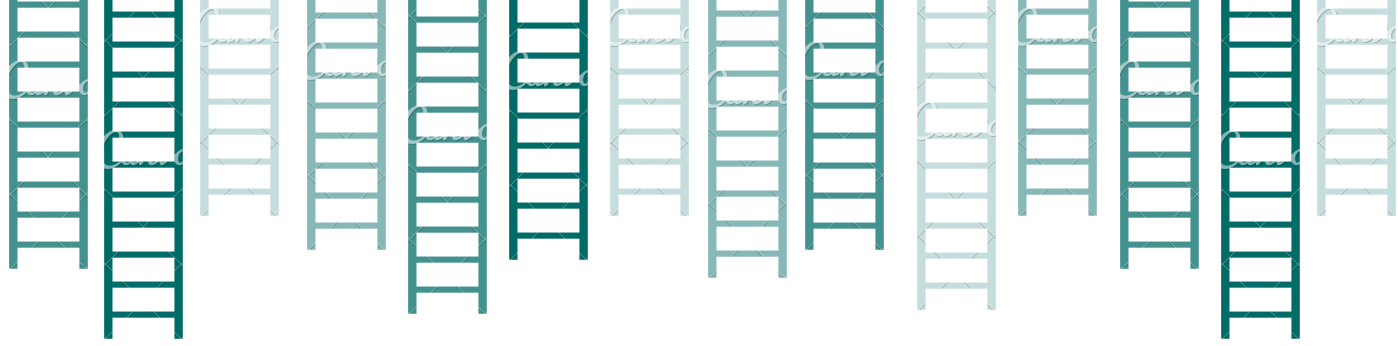




# ALI LADDER SAFETY TRAINING AND CITATIONS REPORT

## **Introduction:**

The American Ladder Institute (ALI) commissions the Ladder Safety Training and Citations Survey. The first survey was conducted in 2016. This is the report based on the data collected during the 2026 survey. In addition to comparisons between 2016, 2018, 2020, 2024, and 2026 data, you will find the following information within this report:

- Types of ladder-related accidents and injuries
- Frequency of ladder citations
- Types of ladder citations
- Preferred methods of ladder safety education

## **Methodology:**

The Ladder Safety Training and Citations Survey is conducted by ALI's Education & Outreach Committee and Thomas Associates, Inc. based in Cleveland, OH. The survey was disseminated to ladder safety training managers and professionals via email in the spring of 2026. The survey was 35-questions and received a total of 364 responses.

# 2026

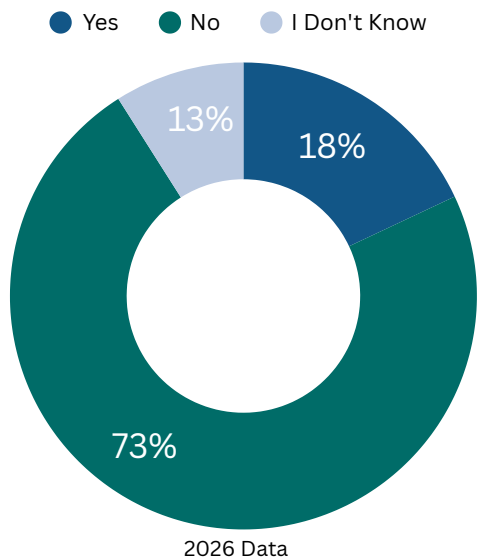


# Findings

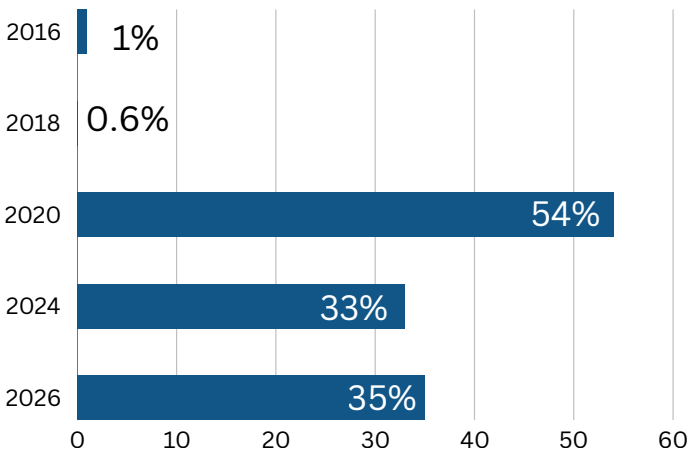
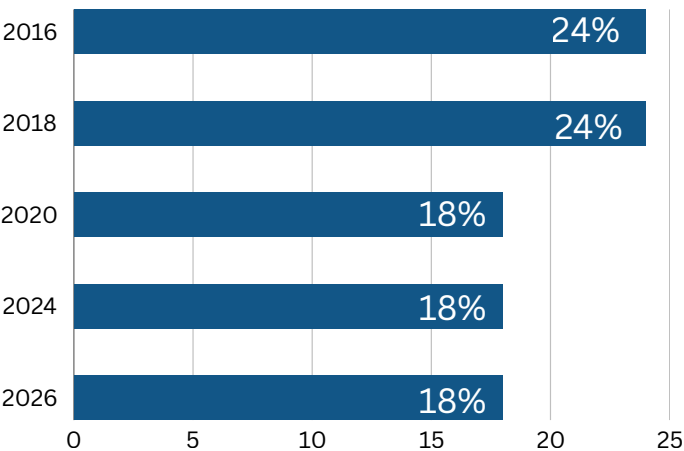
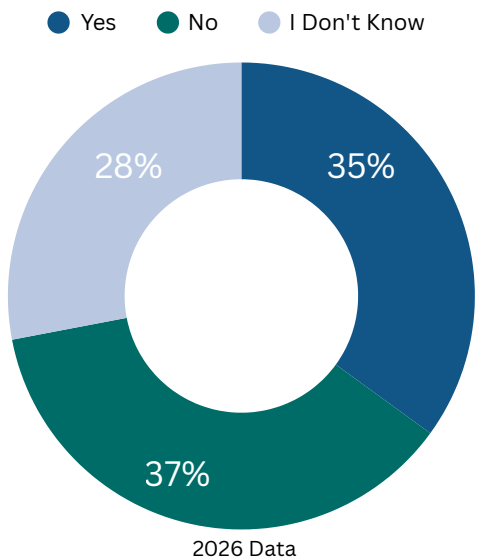
Data has consistently shown that fewer than one-quarter of surveyed organizations experience ladder-related accidents/incidents. The data remained unchanged from 2016 to 2018 and again from 2020 to 2026.

Respondents who indicated that an accident/incident had occurred were then asked whether it resulted in a loss of life. In the 2020, 2024, and 2026 surveys, the question was modified to include “serious injury,” which significantly impacted the results. From 2024 to 2026, there was a 2% increase in ladder-related accidents resulting in loss of life or serious injury.

Have there been any ladder-related accidents in your organization within the last two years?

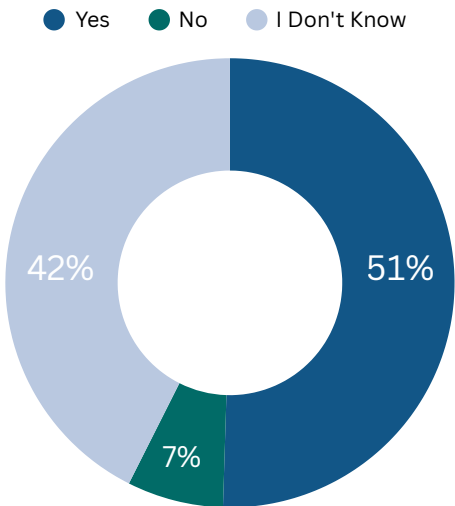
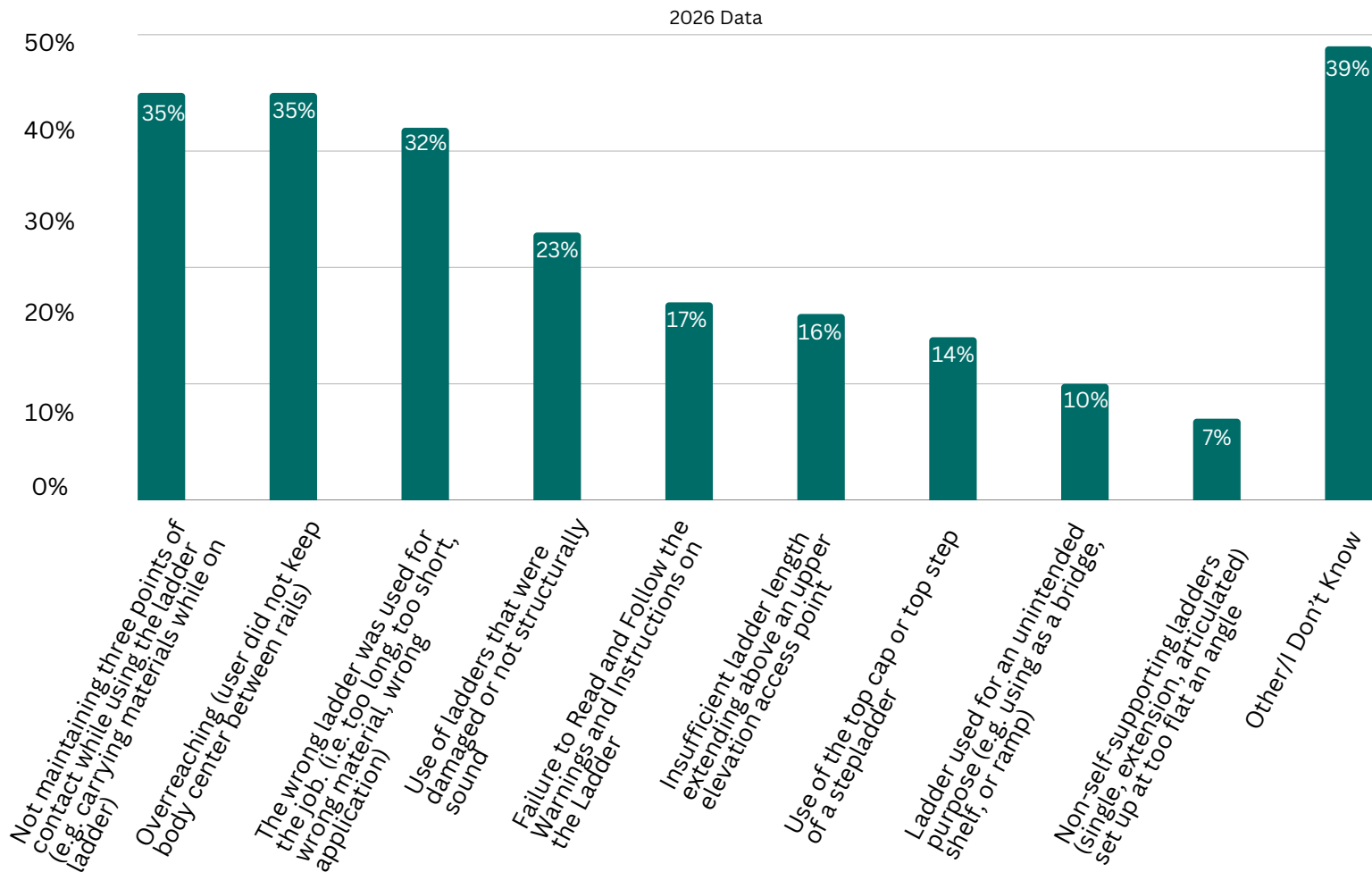


Did the ladder-related accident(s) in the past two years result in serious injury (lost time) or loss of life?



# Findings

Survey participants were asked what types of ladder-related accidents/incidents had occurred at their organizations over the last two years. The most common causes of ladder-related accidents/incidents were overreaching and failing to maintain three points of contact.

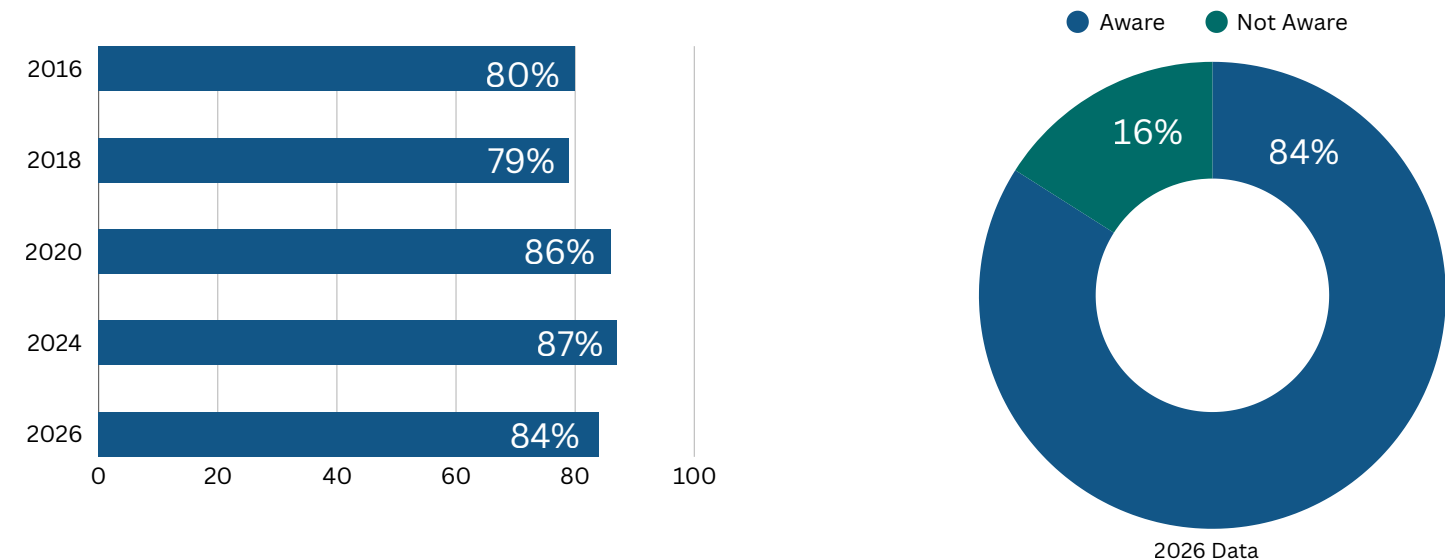


The majority of ladder-related accidents/incidents resulting in serious injury or loss of life were investigated to determine the root cause.

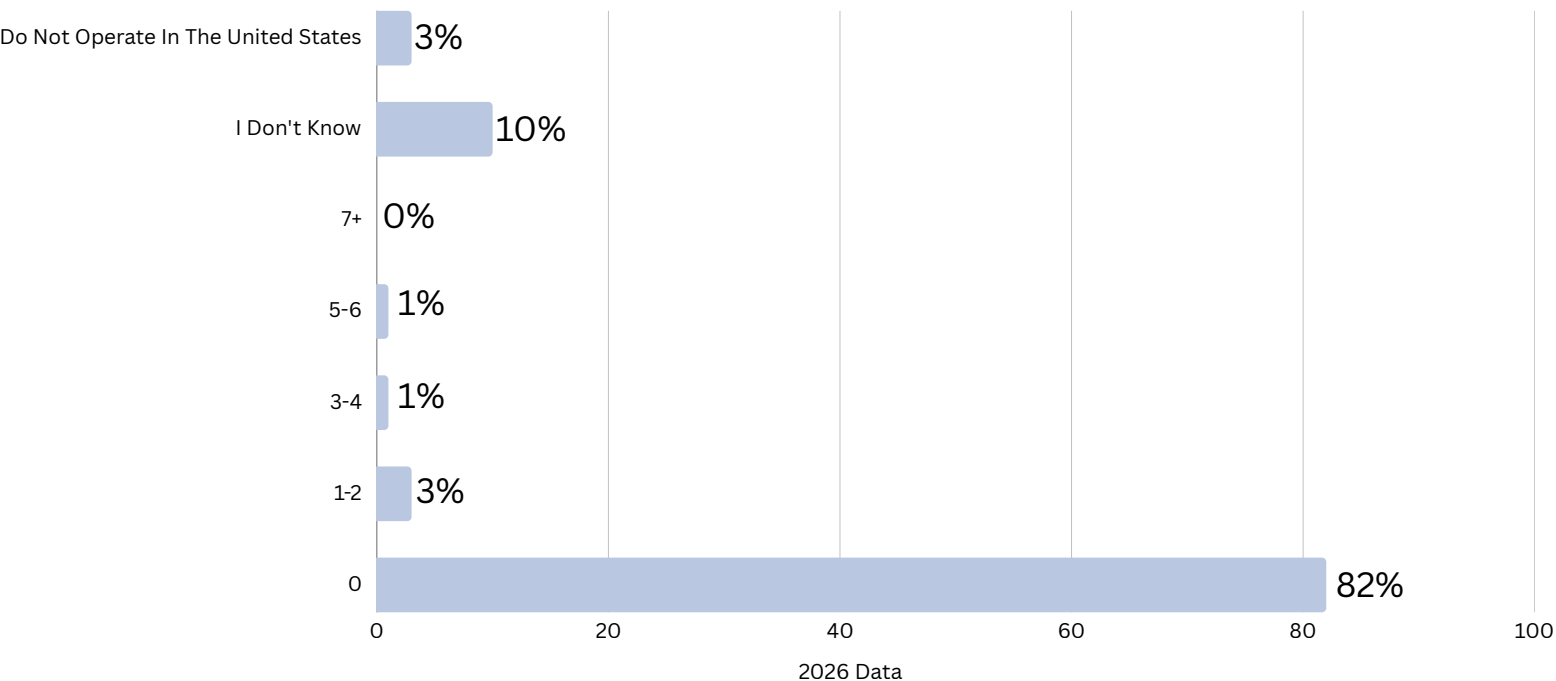


# Findings

As seen in previous years, a significant majority of respondents are aware that ladder misuse has consistently ranked among OSHA’s top 10 most frequently cited violations over the past five-plus years.



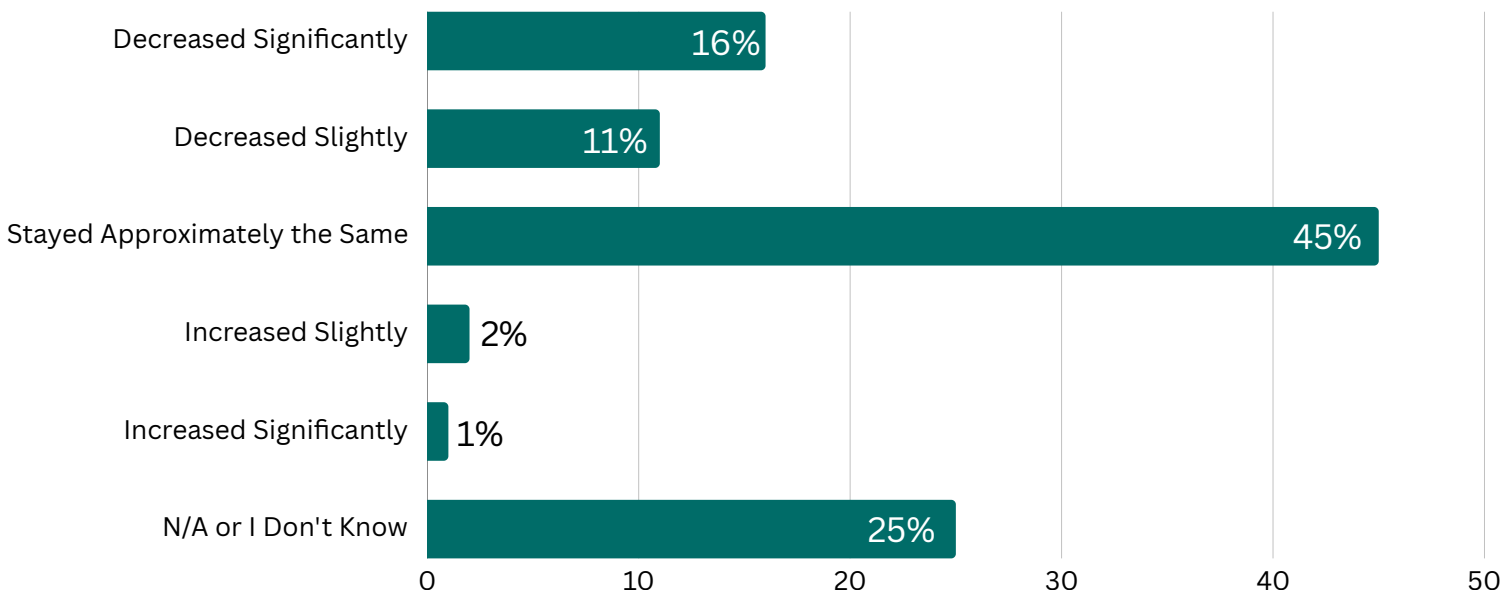
8 out of 10 respondents reported that they have not received any ladder-related citations/violations from OSHA in the past 12 months. The percentage of companies reporting zero citations increased by 6% since 2024.



# Findings

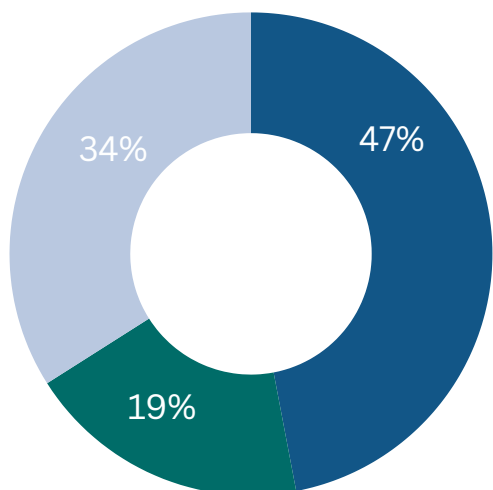
4 out of 10 survey respondents indicated that the number of ladder-related accidents/incidents at their organizations has remained approximately the same over the last five years. Nearly one-quarter of respondents reported a decrease in ladder-related accidents, while nearly half believe the accidents/incidents could have been avoided with proper training.

● Relative Frequency of Ladder-related Accidents Over the Past 5 Years

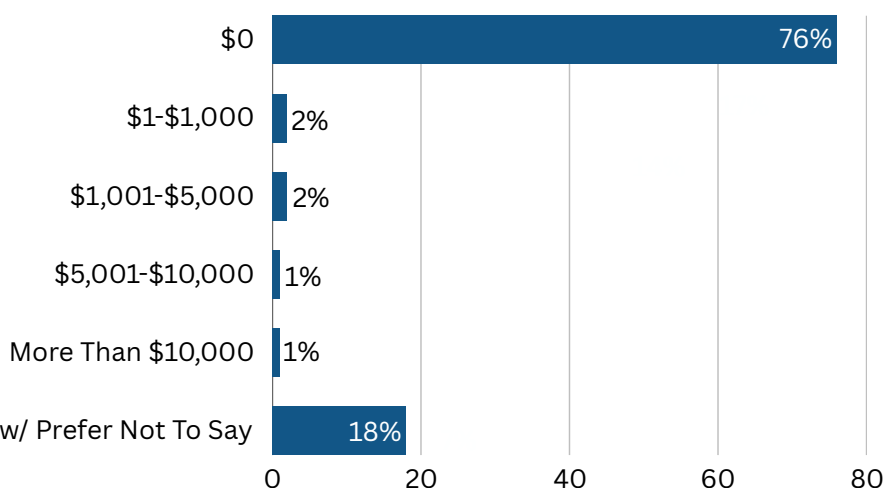


Do you feel that the ladder-related accident could have been avoided if the injured person was trained in the safe use, proper selection and/or care of ladders?

● Yes ● No ● I Don't Know



2026 Data

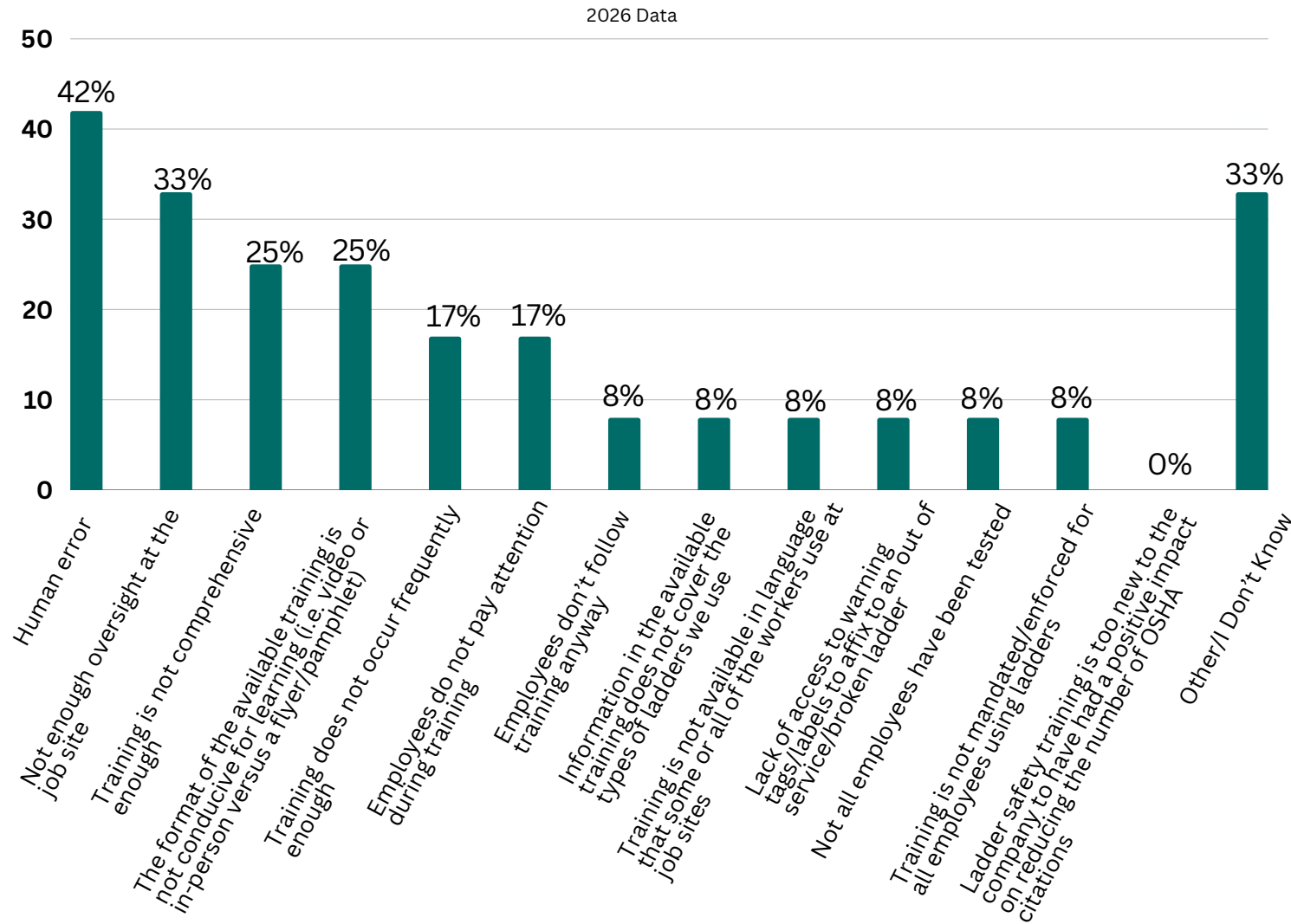


Respondents were asked how much money per year their organizations spend on ladder-related accident OSHA citations. 7 out of 10 respondents reported spending zero dollars annually.



# Findings

The top two reasons organizations believe ladder safety training did not reduce OSHA citations are: 1) human error and 2) insufficient oversight at the job site.



## Year-Over-Year Comparison

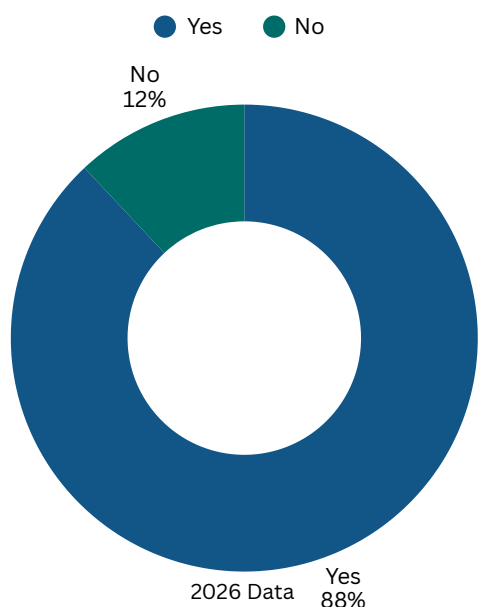
From 2024 to 2026, the percentage of organizations identifying insufficient jobsite oversight as a contributing factor to continued OSHA citations increased from 13% to 33%. In the same time frame, human error decreased from 63% to 42%.



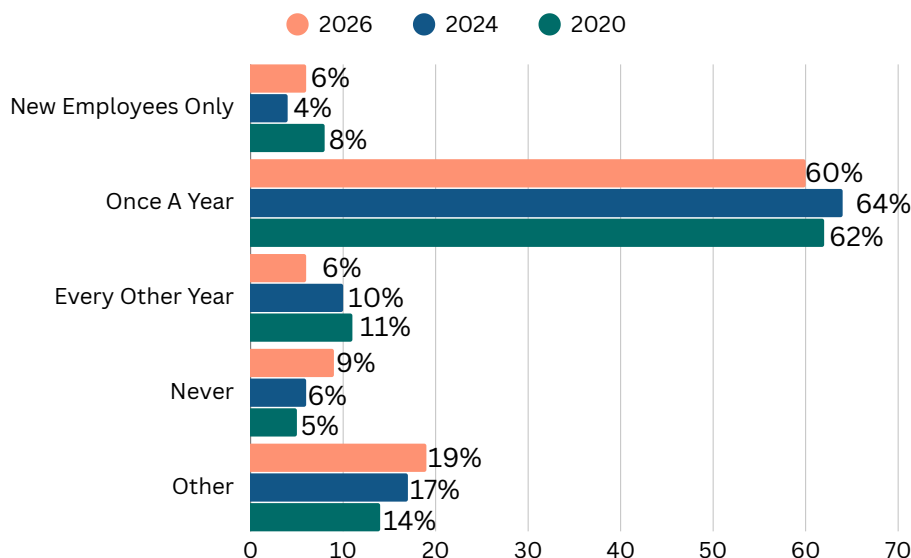
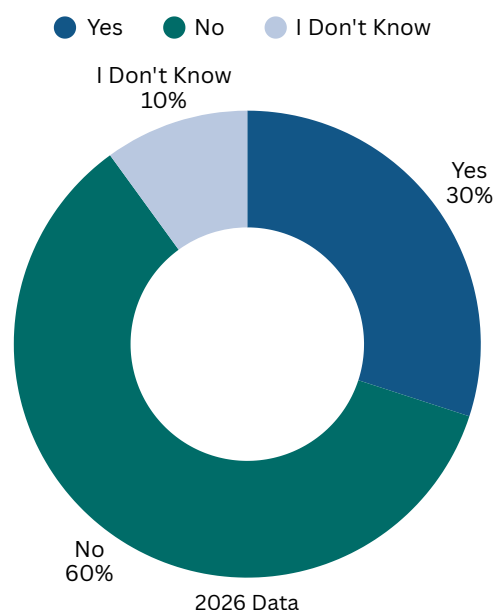
# Findings

Similar to 2016–2024, in 2026 nearly all organizations reported using some form of ladder safety training. Similarly to 2024, nearly one-third of organizations are paying for ladder safety training.

Does your organization use any form of ladder safety training?



Do you or your organization pay for ladder safety training?



6 out of 10 employees are encouraged to refresh their ladder safety training every one to two years. The majority of those who selected “other” reported that they are required to refresh ladder safety training multiple times per year.

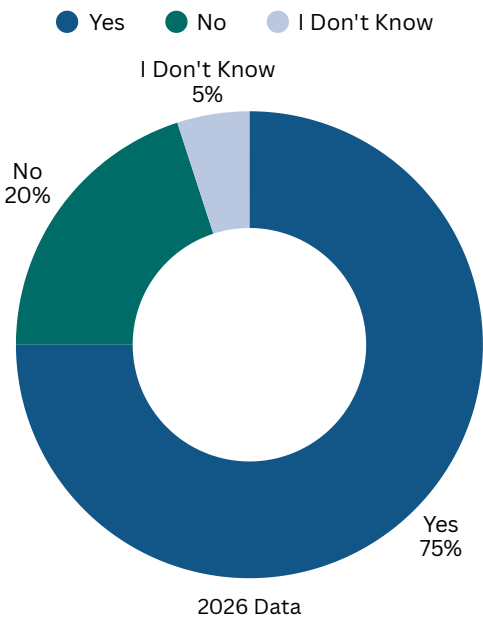
# Year-Over-Year Comparison

- In 2026, 60% of respondents reported that a training refresh is required annually, compared to 64% in 2024, 62% in 2020, and 58% in 2018.
- In 2026, 6% of respondents reported that only new employees are required to complete ladder safety training, compared to 4% in 2024, 8% in 2020, and 13.5% in 2018.

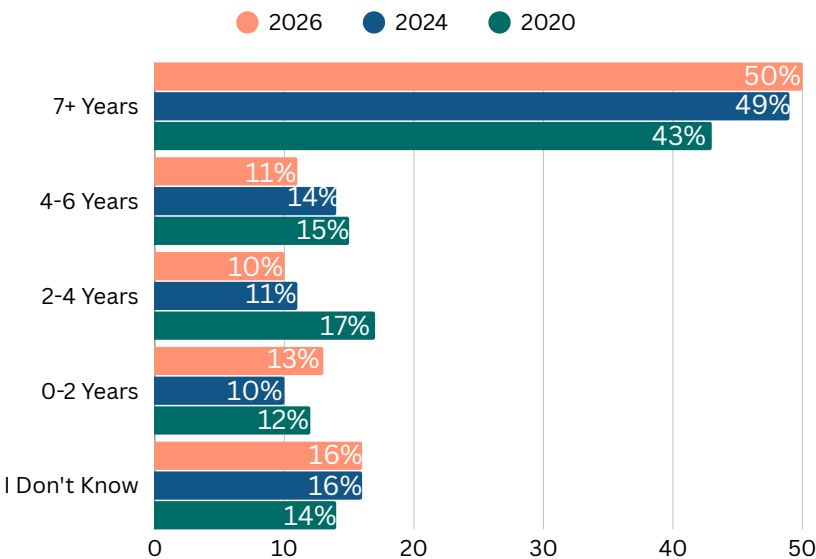
## Findings

Similar to 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2024, in 2026 at least 75% of organizations mandate ladder safety training, and most have maintained this requirement for many years.

Is ladder safety training mandated by your organization?

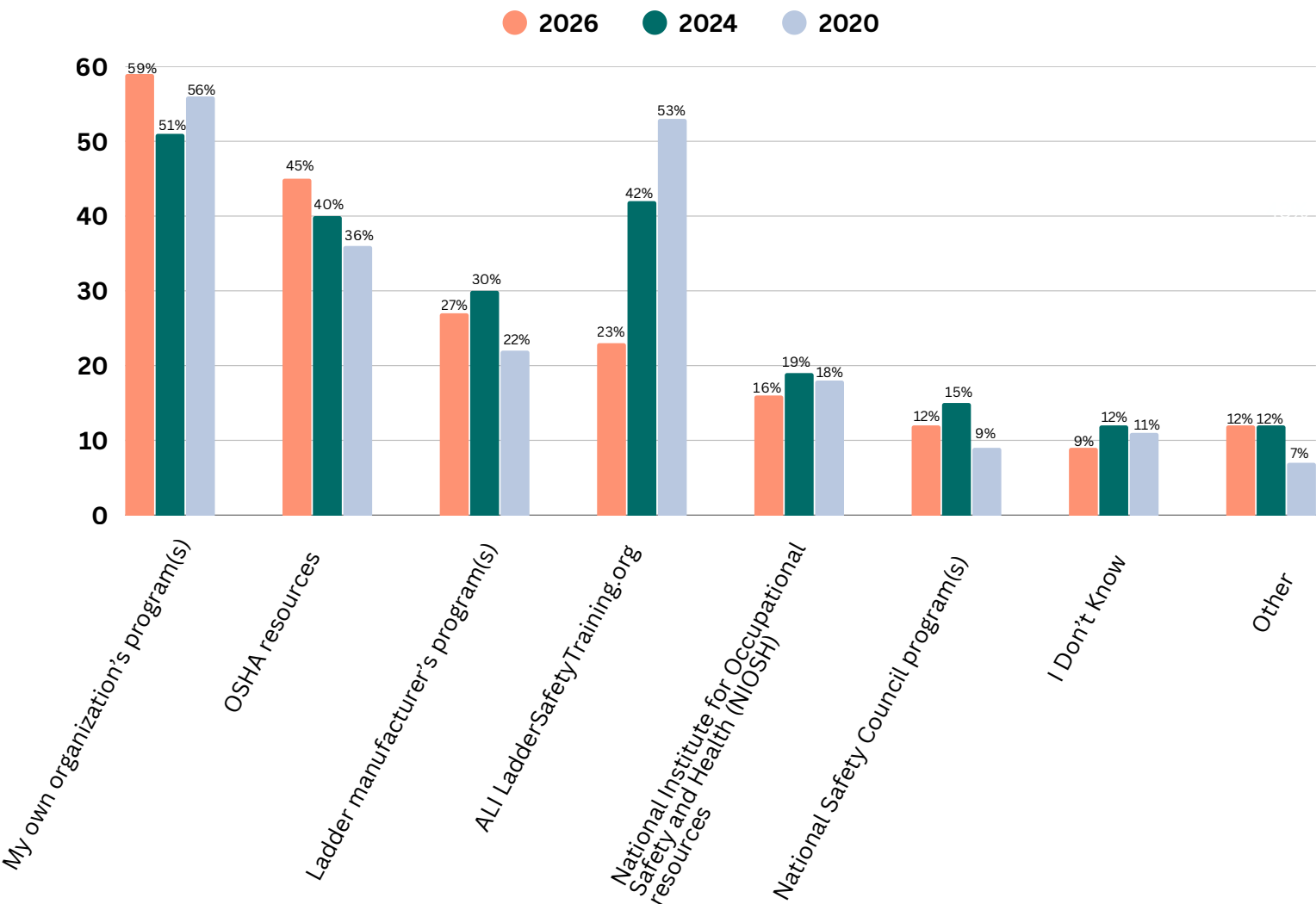


How long has your organization been encouraging and/or mandating ladder safety training?



# Findings

Proprietary programs and OSHA resources were the top two resources used for ladder safety training.



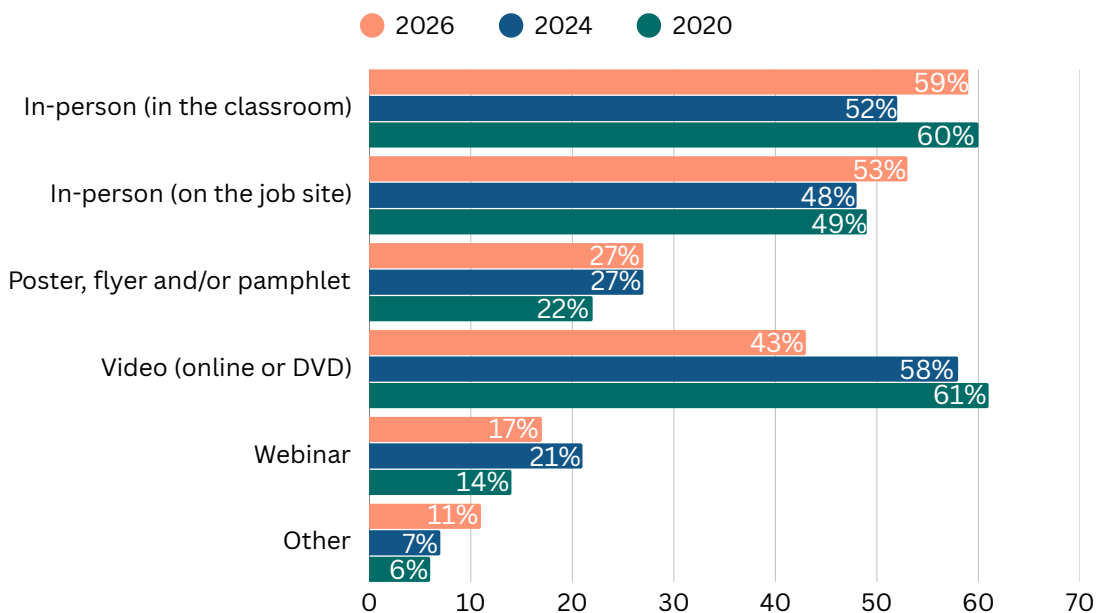
## Year-Over-Year Comparison

While proprietary programs remain the most commonly used resource for ladder safety training, OSHA resources, ALI’s LadderSafetyTraining.org, and ladder manufacturers’ training programs are also among the top resources utilized.

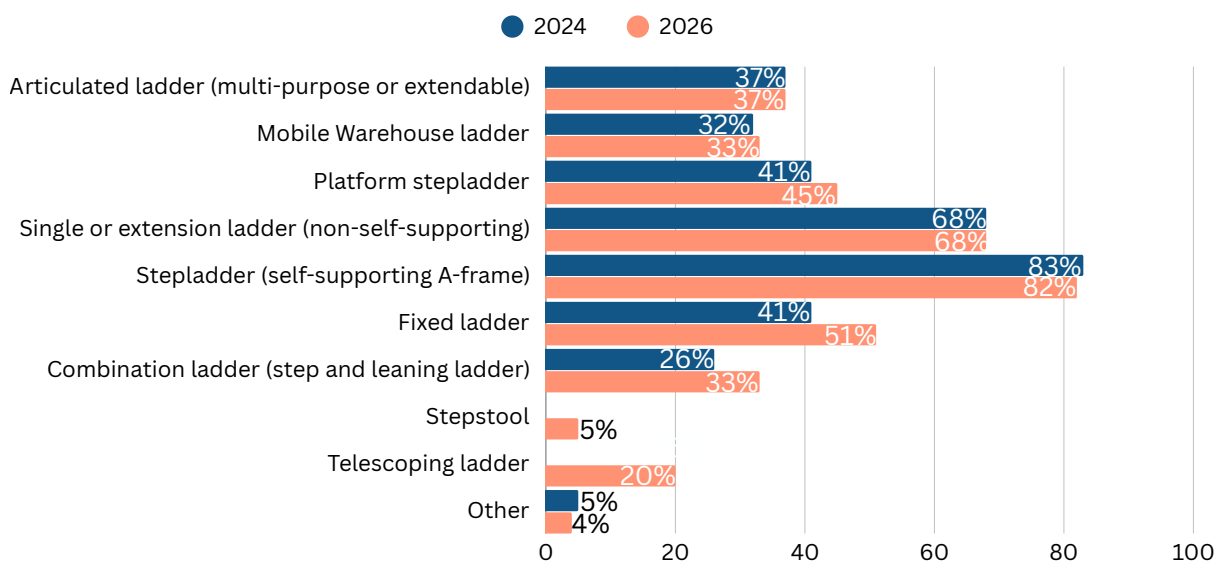


# Findings

In-person (classroom or on-the-job site) training and video/online training are the top two formats used for ladder safety training. Participants were able to select more than one option.

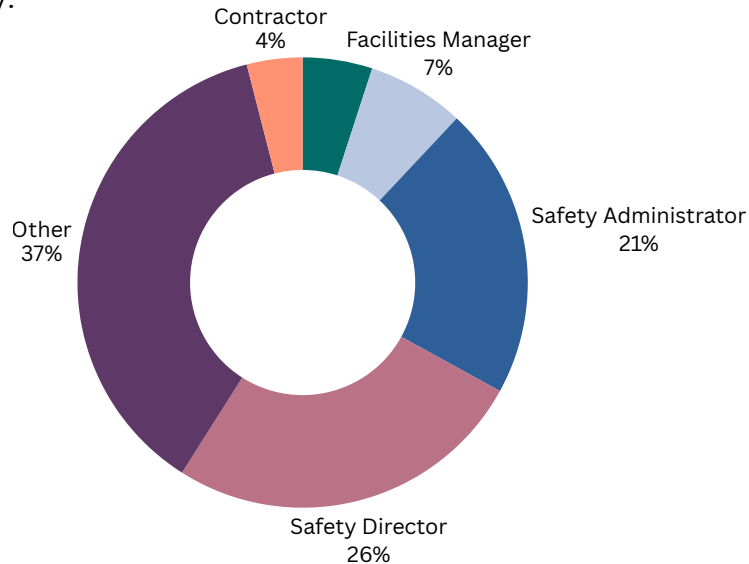


Just as in 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2024, in 2026 stepladders remain the most frequently used type of ladder in organizations. Stepstools and telescoping ladders were added to the list in 2026.

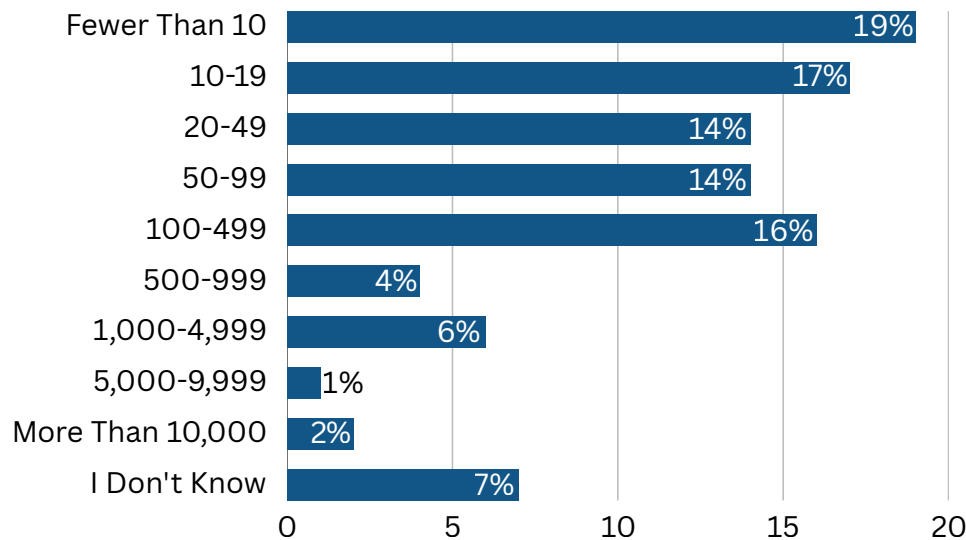


# Respondent Demographics

47% percent of respondents were Safety Directors or Safety Administrators. Those who selected “Other” included roles in Human Resources, Risk Management, First Responders, Education, and Environmental Health and Safety.



For the first time, respondents were asked how many employees at their organization regularly or occasionally use ladders to complete their tasks.



# Executive Summary & Key Takeaways

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## Summary:

The 2026 ALI Ladder Safety Training and Citations Survey demonstrates that organizations continue to recognize the importance of ladder safety training, with the vast majority implementing some form of education and many requiring regular refresher training. While ladder-related accidents remain relatively uncommon among surveyed organizations, incidents that do occur can still result in serious injury or loss of life, reinforcing the need for ongoing safety efforts.

## Key Findings:

- Fewer than one-quarter of surveyed organizations reported experiencing a ladder-related accident or incident in the last two years, a trend that has remained relatively consistent over the past decade.
- Overreaching and failure to maintain three points of contact continue to be the most commonly identified causes of ladder-related accidents.
- Most organizations (82%) reported receiving no OSHA ladder-related citations in the past 12 months, an improvement from the 2024 survey.
- Nearly half of respondents believe ladder-related accidents could have been avoided through proper training, highlighting the continued value of effective education.
- Human error and insufficient jobsite oversight were identified as the leading reasons organizations believe training has not fully eliminated ladder-related citations.
- Nearly nine out of ten organizations utilize ladder safety training, and three out of four mandate it for employees.
- Annual or biennial refresher training remains the most common practice, with many organizations providing training even more frequently.
- Organizations rely on a variety of resources, including internal programs, OSHA resources, ALI's LadderSafetyTraining.org, and ladder manufacturers' training materials.
- In-person instruction and online/video training continue to be the preferred methods for delivering ladder safety education.
- Stepladders remain the most commonly used ladder type, emphasizing the importance of continued education on their proper selection and safe use.

## Conclusion:

The 2026 survey reinforces a consistent message seen throughout previous editions: training, proper ladder selection, and safe work practices remain essential to reducing ladder-related injuries and OSHA citations. While many organizations have established robust training programs, the persistence of human error and unsafe behaviors demonstrates that ladder safety is an ongoing process requiring regular reinforcement, supervision, and a strong safety culture.

The American Ladder Institute remains committed to supporting these efforts through free, accessible, and comprehensive training resources that help employers and workers promote safer ladder use across all industries.



# LadderSafetyTraining.Org

American Ladder Institute’s LadderSafetyTraining.org site makes ladder safety training easy, offering an organized curriculum, video and resource library, and free registration.

The training courses are designed to seamlessly complement and integrate with an organization’s existing training program. Managers can select as much or as little content as needed—using the full program or choosing individual modules to fill gaps in their internal training.

After signing up, trainers and training managers can create a custom dashboard called the “Trainer’s Toolbox,” where they can select training and testing modules, assign them to trainees, and monitor performance and progress. These dashboards can scale from a small group of trainees to hundreds across larger organizations.

Topics covered include single and extension ladders, articulated ladders, telescoping ladders, mobile ladders, and stepladders, with courses available in both English and Spanish.

Training on LadderSafetyTraining.org does not require an invitation from a trainer—anyone looking to improve their ladder safety knowledge can sign up directly.

American Ladder Institute also offers its training program for licensing, providing videos and training materials for easy integration into company learning management systems.

For any related safety training questions, contact American Ladder Institute at [info@americanladderinstitute.org](mailto:info@americanladderinstitute.org).

