

2020

ALI Ladder Safety Training and Citations Report

Introduction:

The American Ladder Institute (ALI) commissions the Ladder Safety Training and Citations Survey bi-annually. The first survey was conducted in 2016. This is the report based on the data collected during the 2020 survey. In addition to comparisons between 2016, 2018, and 2020 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 SmithBucklin Marketing and Communications Services based in Chicago, Illinois. The survey was disseminated to ladder safety training managers via email in summer 2020 and findings were collected in fall 2020. The survey was 30-questions and received a total of 338 responses.

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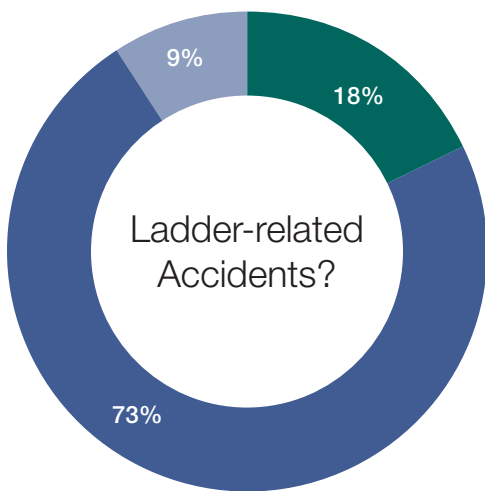


Findings

Data has consistently shown that less than a quarter of the surveyed organizations experience ladder-related accidents/incidents. While data was unchanged from 2016 to 2018, there was a 6% decrease in the number of experienced accidents/incidents from 2018 to 2020.

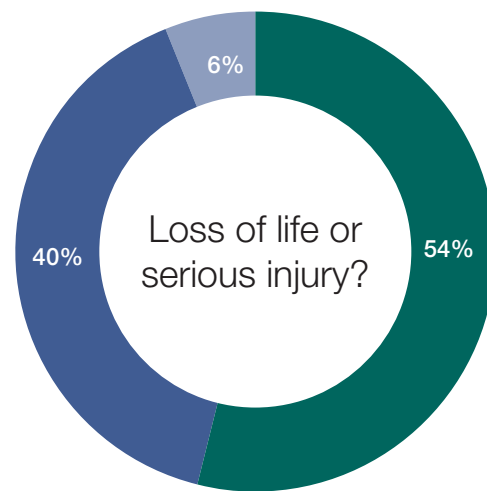
Those who indicated that an accident/incident had taken place were asked if this accident/incident resulted in a loss of life. In the 2020 survey, the survey question was modified to include “serious injury.” This addition greatly impacted the results.

2020 Data

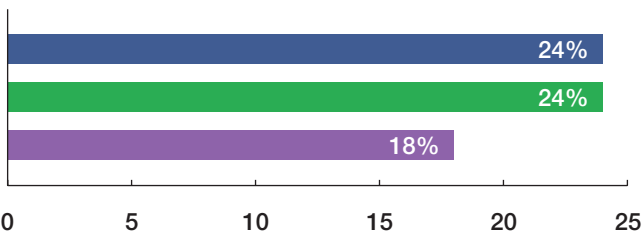


Yes	18%
No	73%
I don't know	9%

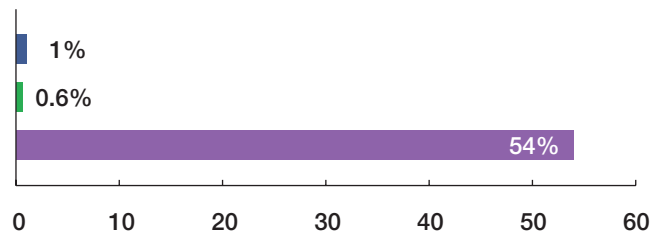
2020 Data



Yes	54%
No	40%
I don't know	6%



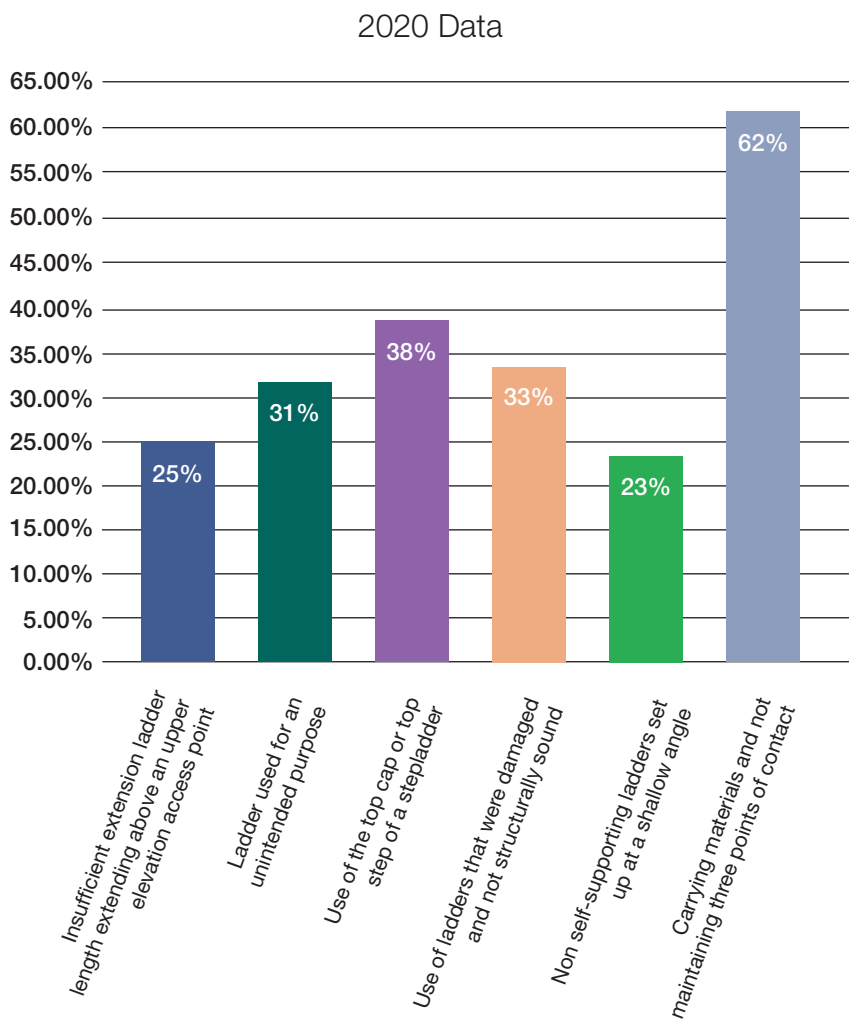
2016	24%
2018	24%
2020	18%



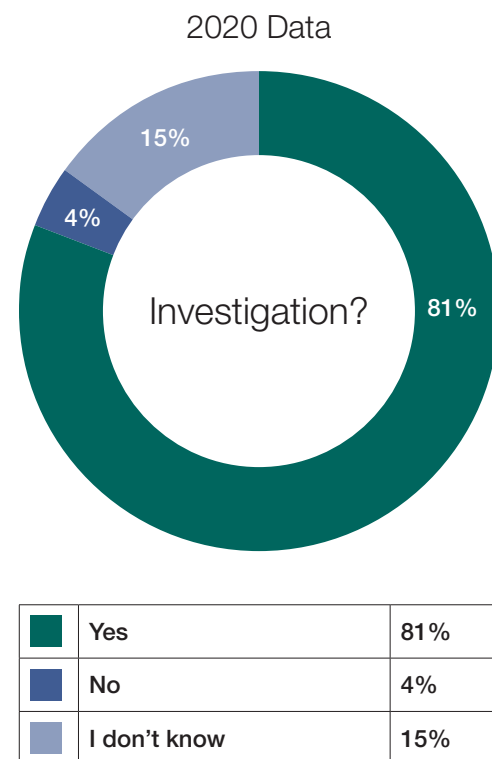
2016	1%
2018	0.6%
2020	54%

Findings

Survey participants were asked what type of ladder-related accidents/incidents have occurred at their organization over the last two years. The options presented to the participants directly corresponded to OSHA's common citations. Carrying materials and not maintaining three points of contact was cited as the most common cause of ladder-related accident/incidents.

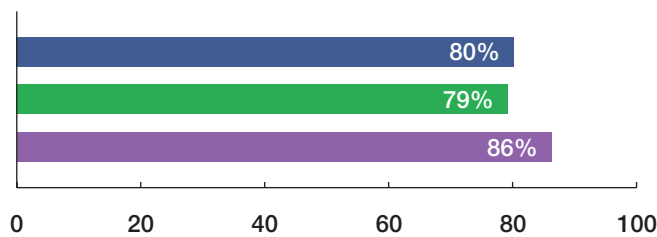


The majority of ladder-related accidents/incidents resulting in a serious injury or loss of life had an investigation to determine the root cause.

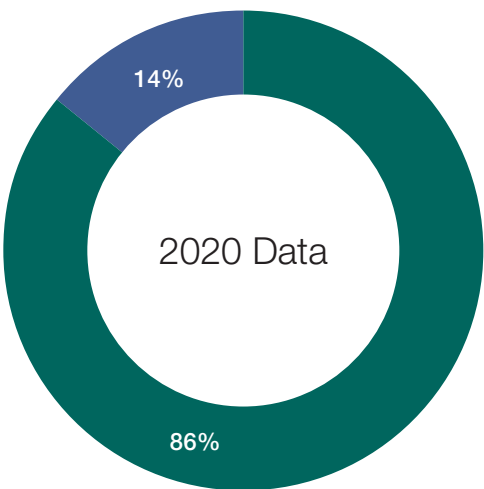


Findings

As seen in 2016 and 2018, a significant majority of respondents are aware that the misuse of ladders is among the top 10 most frequently cited OSHA violations over the past five+ years. In fact, the percentage of those aware increased since 2018.



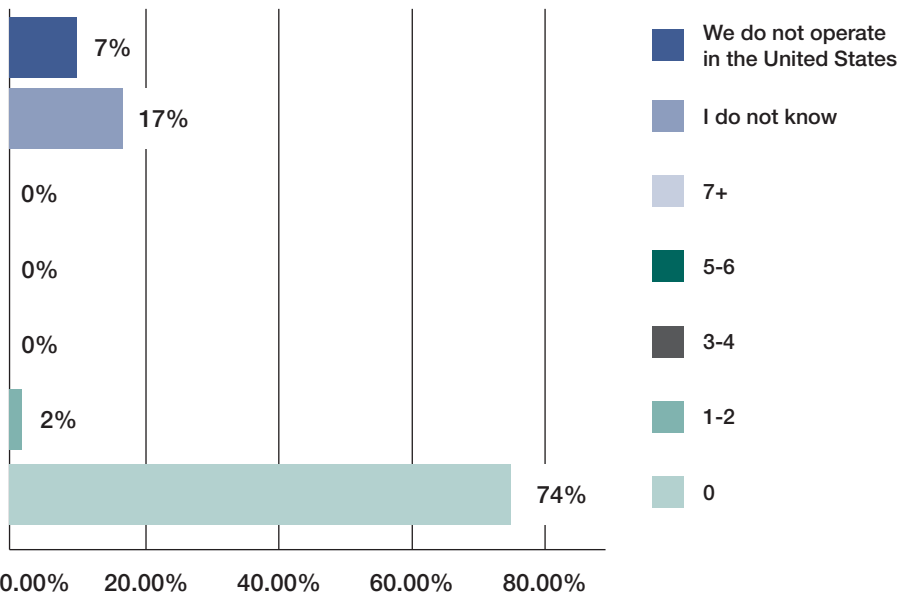
2016	80%
2018	79%
2020	86%



Aware	86%
Not aware	14%

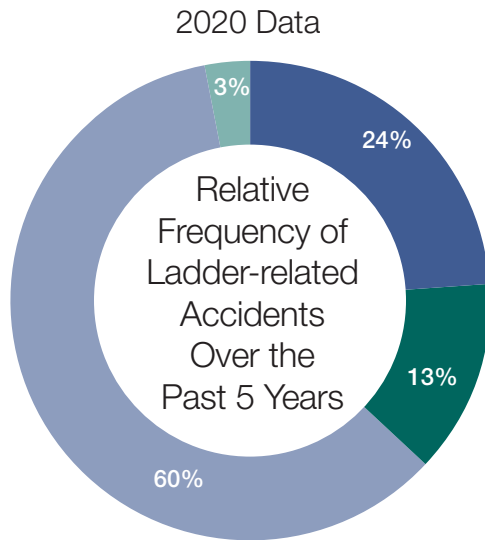
7 out of 10 respondents have not received any ladder-related citations from OSHA in the past 12 months.

2020 Data

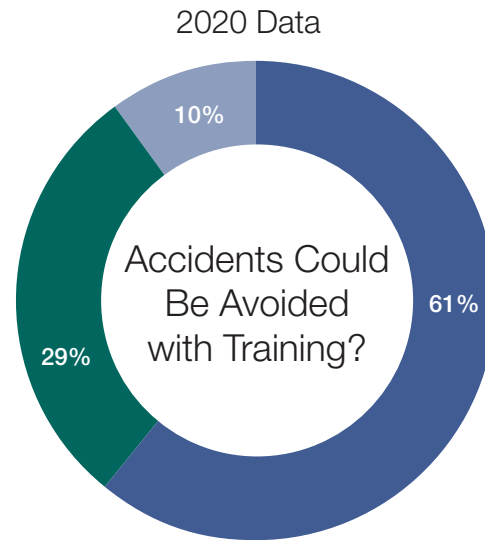


Findings

More than half of the survey respondents indicated that the quantity of ladder-related accidents/incidents at their organizations has stayed approximately the same over the last five years. Greater than one third of respondents saw a decrease in the number of ladder-related accidents. More than half of the respondents feel that the accident/incidents could have been avoided with the proper training.

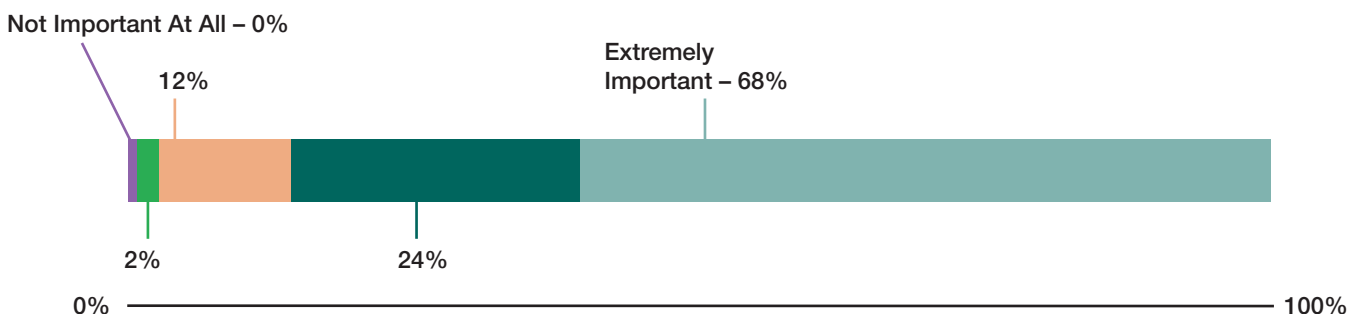


	Decreased Significantly	24%
	Decreased Slightly	13%
	Stayed Approximately the Same	60%
	Increased Slightly	3%
	Increased Significantly	0%



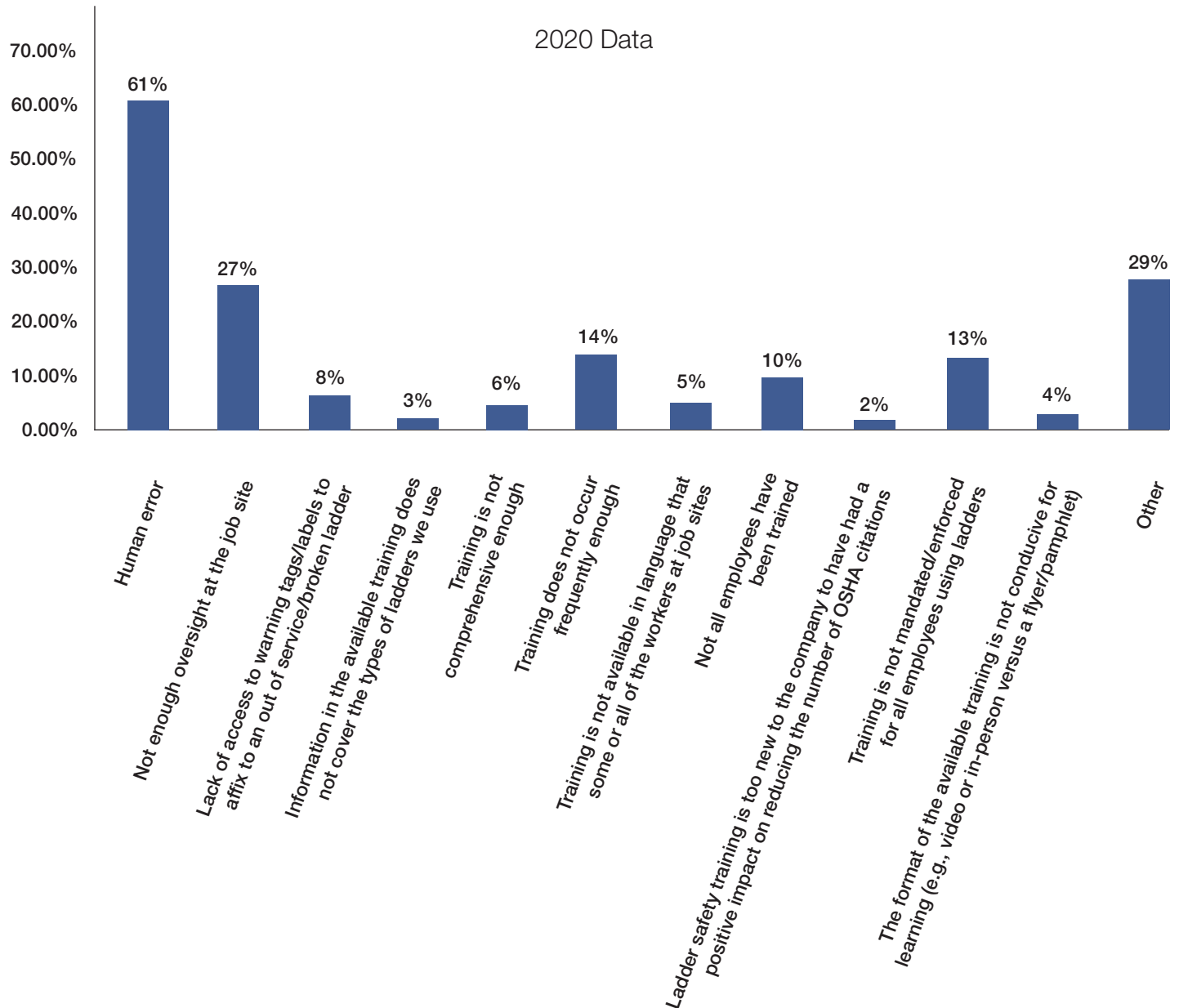
	Yes	61%
	No	29%
	I don't know	10%

92% of participating organizations consider ladder safety training important to extremely important.



Findings

The top three reasons why some organizations believe ladder safety training did not decrease OSHA citations is 1) human error, 2) not enough oversight at the job site and 3) training does not occur frequently enough (see pages 7-8).

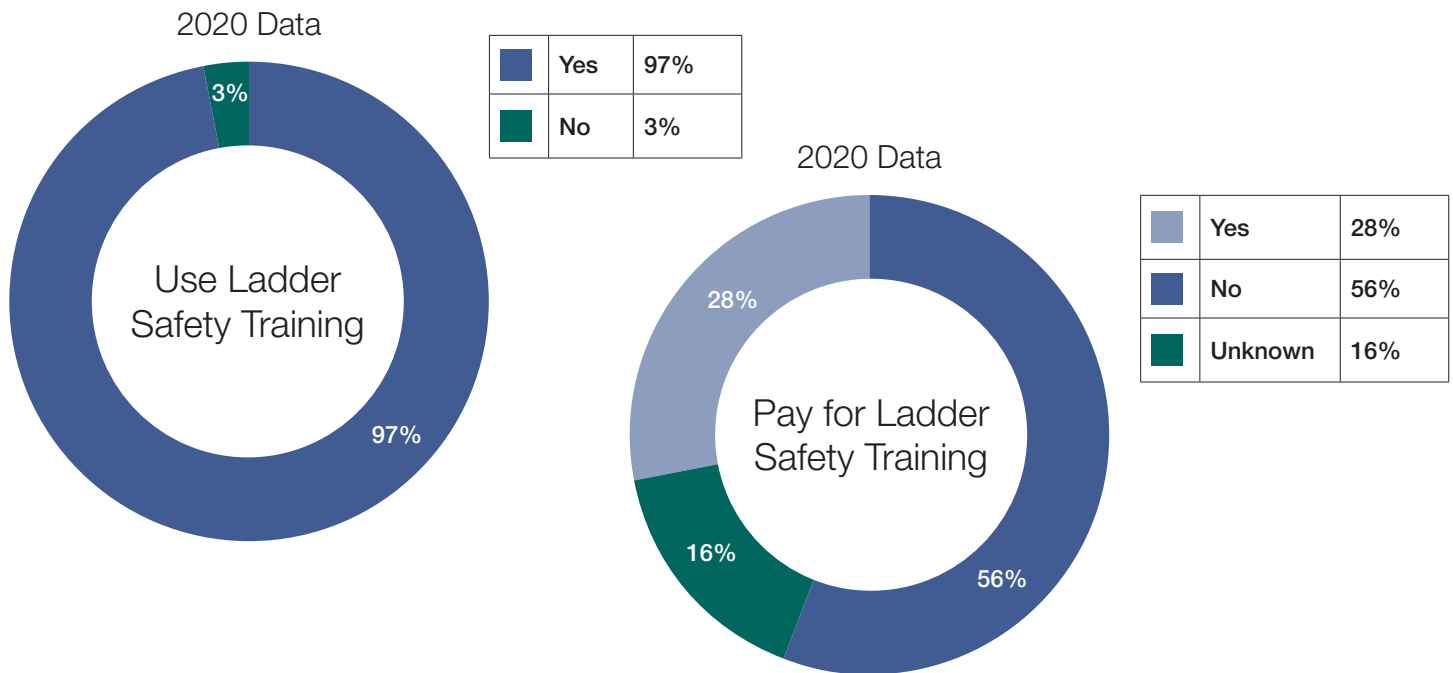


Year-over-Year Comparison

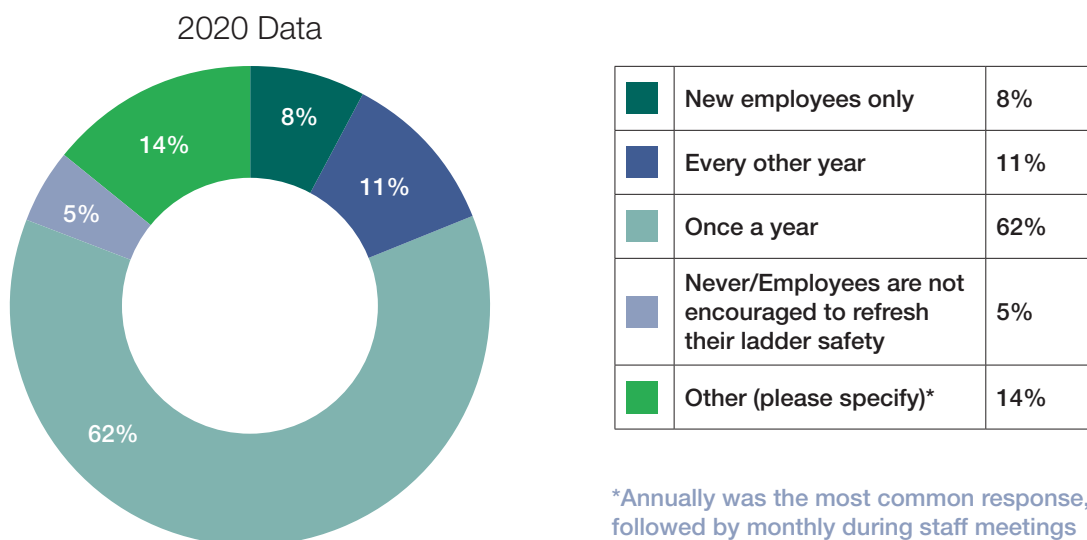
- From 2018 to 2020, the percentage of organizations who believe human error is a cause to the continued OSHA citations increased from 30% to 61%. In 2020, organizations were allowed to select more than one response.

Findings

Similar to 2016 and 2018, nearly all organizations use a form of ladder safety training, and the majority do not pay for it. However, year-over-year comparison shows a slight increase in the number of organizations paying for safety training.



Similar to 2016 and 2018, 7 out of 10 employees are encouraged to refresh their ladder safety training every year to two years.

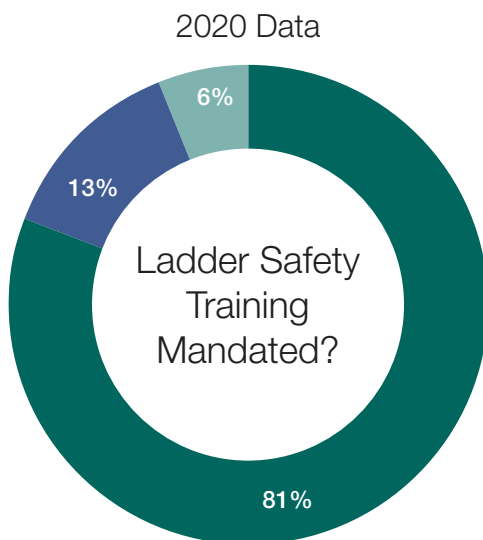


Year-over-Year Comparison

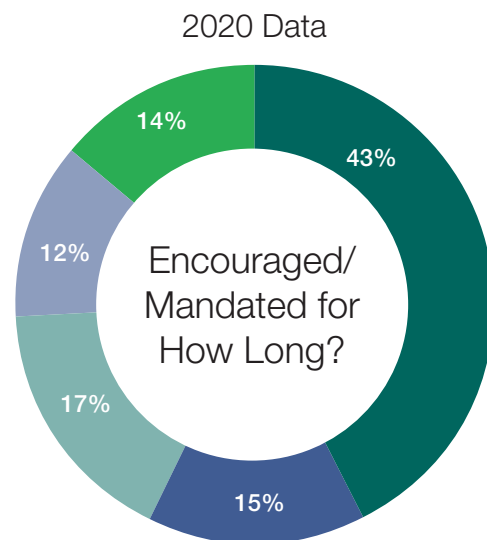
- In 2020, 62% of respondents said training refresh was required every year compared to 58% in 2018.
- In 2020, only 8% of respondents said only new employees were encouraged to take ladder safety training compared to 13.5% in 2018.

Findings

Similar to 2016 and 2018, more than 75% of the organizations mandate training and have done so for many years.



<div></div>	Yes	81%
<div></div>	No	13%
<div></div>	Unknown	6%

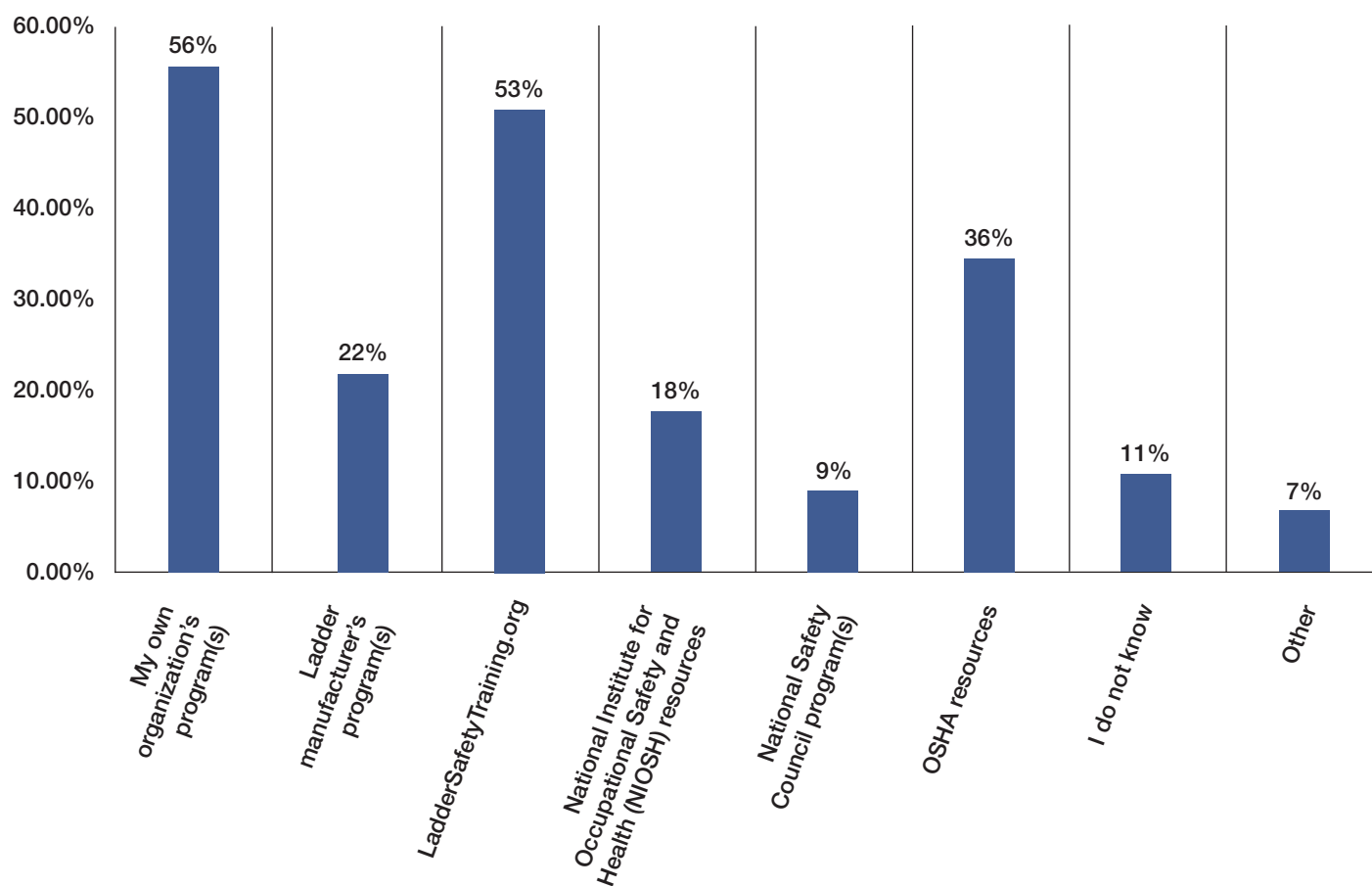


<div></div>	7+ years	43%
<div></div>	4-6 years	15%
<div></div>	2-4 years	17%
<div></div>	0-2 years	12%
<div></div>	I don't know	14%

Findings

Proprietary programs and LadderSafetyTraining.org are the top two resources used for ladder safety training.

2020 Data

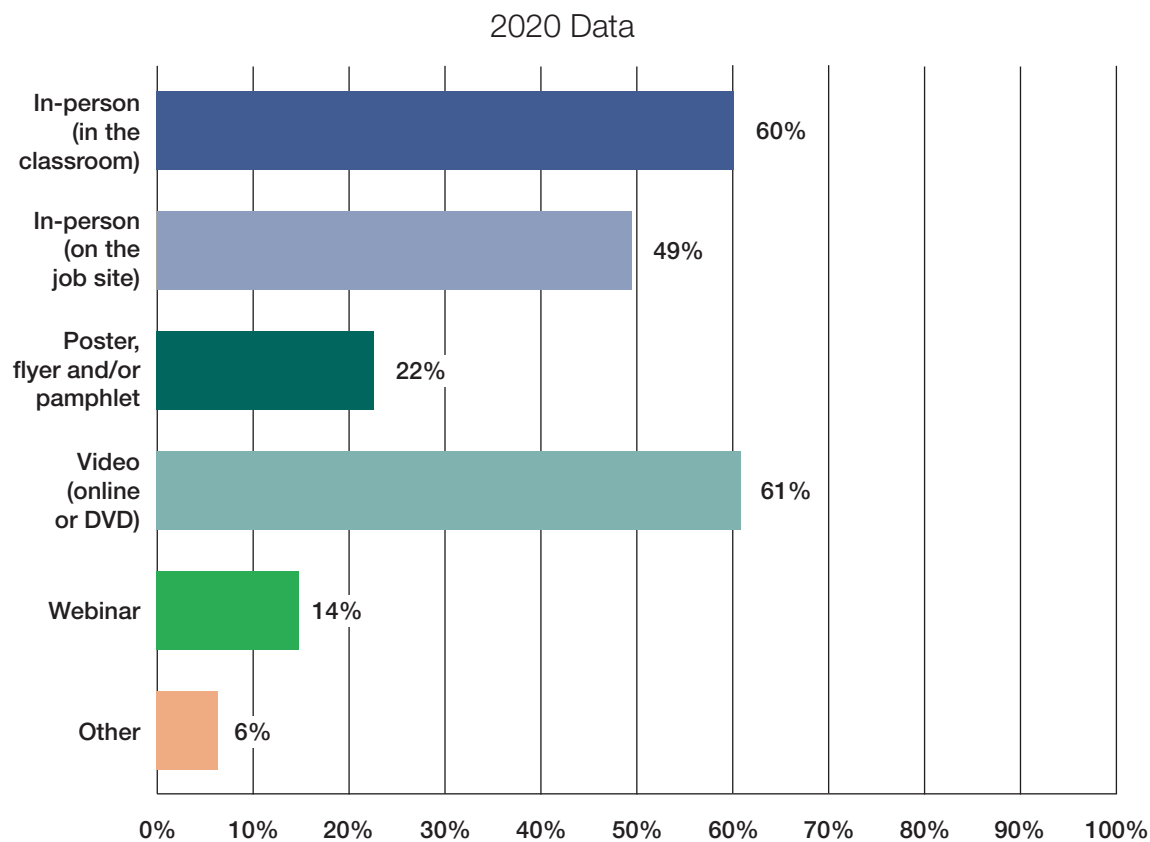


Year-over-Year Comparison

- In 2020, 53% of organizations use ALI's LadderSafetyTraining.org compared to 49% in 2018.

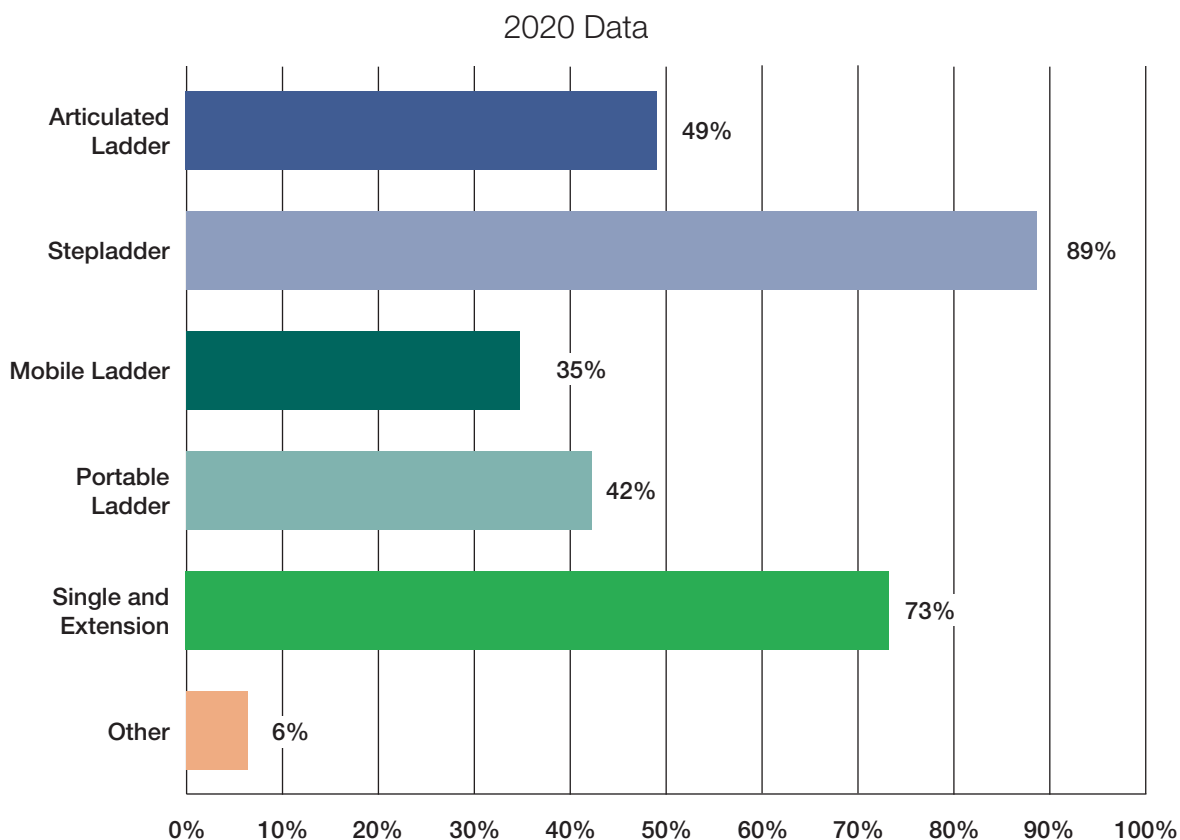
Findings

In-person (classroom or on the job site) and video ladder safety training are the top two formats of ladder safety training. Participants could select more than one option.



Findings

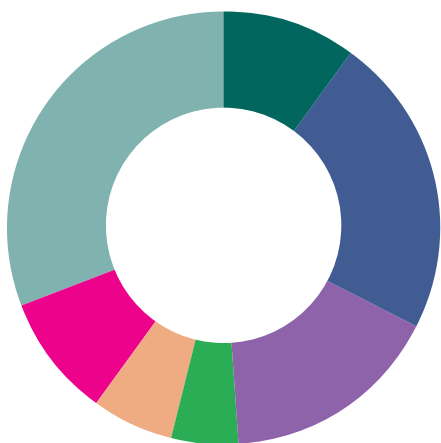
Just as in 2016 and 2018, stepladders are the most frequently used ladders by organizations. From 2018 to 2020, there was a 25% increase in the organizations using articulated ladders.



Respondent Demographics

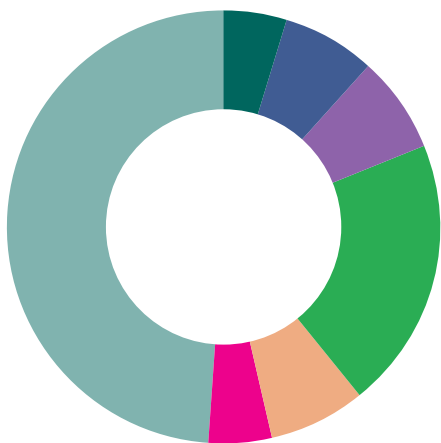


More than 38% of respondents were Safety Directors or Safety Administrators.



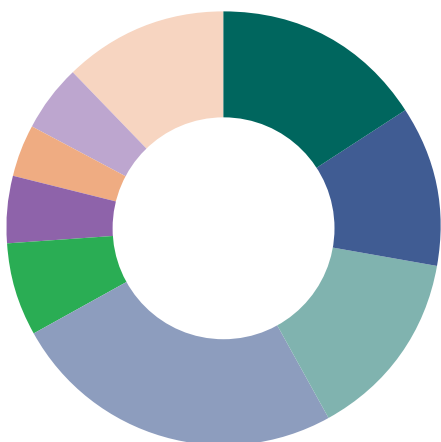
■	Team Lead/Foreman	10%
■	Safety Director	22%
■	Safety Administrator	16%
■	Facilities Manager/Director	5%
■	Contractor	6%
■	Business Owner	9%
■	Other	30%

Respondents who identified themselves in the “other” category provided write-in responses including manufacturing, healthcare, and government.



■	Agriculture	4%
■	Education	6%
■	Energy/Gas/Utilities	6%
■	Housing/Construction	17%
■	Maintenance	6%
■	Telecommunications	4%
■	Other	41%

Two thirds of respondents are employees at a small to mid-sized organization (1-499 employees).




■	Fewer than 20	16%
■	20-49	12%
■	50-99	14%
■	100-499	25%
■	500-999	7%
■	1000-4999	5%
■	5000-9999	4%
■	More than 10000	5%
■	I don't know	12%





LadderSafetyTraining.org

ALI offers a free ladder safety training tool for the proper selection, care and safe use of all ladders, including stepladders, single and extension ladders, articulated ladders, and mobile ladders. Provided by the American Ladder Institute, this training outlines safe ladder practices in all applications, such as construction/painting, building and custodial services, warehousing, power, manufacturing, chemical and petrochemical, oil and gas, and at home.

Learn more at LadderSafetyTraining.org



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Are you using ladders safely?

This free ladder safety training is a tool for the proper selection, care and safe use of all ladders, including stepladders, single and extension ladders, articulated ladders, and mobile ladders. Provided by the American Ladder Institute, this training outlines safe ladder practices in all applications, such as construction/painting, building and custodial services, warehousing, power, manufacturing, chemical and petrochemical, oil and gas, and at home.

[Start Your Training](#)
Register, It's free!

[Sign In](#)

- 1 Register for FREE!**

The ladder safety training is 100% free. If you are a Training Manager you can register employees within your organization as well.
- 2 Select A Ladder Type**

Choose from the American Ladder Institute's library of safety training modules. Take a pretest to see what you know.
- 3 Watch and Learn**

Watch media-rich training videos that demonstrate safe ladder practices.
- 4 Take the Safety Test**

Successfully complete the final safety test to earn your certificate of completion. Share your scores with your friends or Training Manager.

