

The Social and Financial Impact of Work Injuries - The Singapore Situation

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Outline

- Purpose of study
- Methodology used
- Profile of respondents
- Key findings
- Concluding remarks
- Acknowledgements



Purpose of study

A study was carried out by WSH Institute on local workers who suffered work-related injuries

- To understand the challenges faced by the injured workers
 - Financial and social impact following the work injury
 - Barriers to returning to work
- To understand the factors that can enhance local workers' post-injury employment outlook



Methodology used

- 407 participants were randomly selected from Ministry of Manpower's database of injury cases reported to the Ministry of Manpower from January 2011 to December 2012
- Case definition: Workers with more than 14 days of medical leave
- Face-to-face interviews were conducted by Forbes Research Pte Ltd over 5 months from Sep 2014 to Feb 2015.



Profile of respondents

age group

gender

ethnic group

size of company

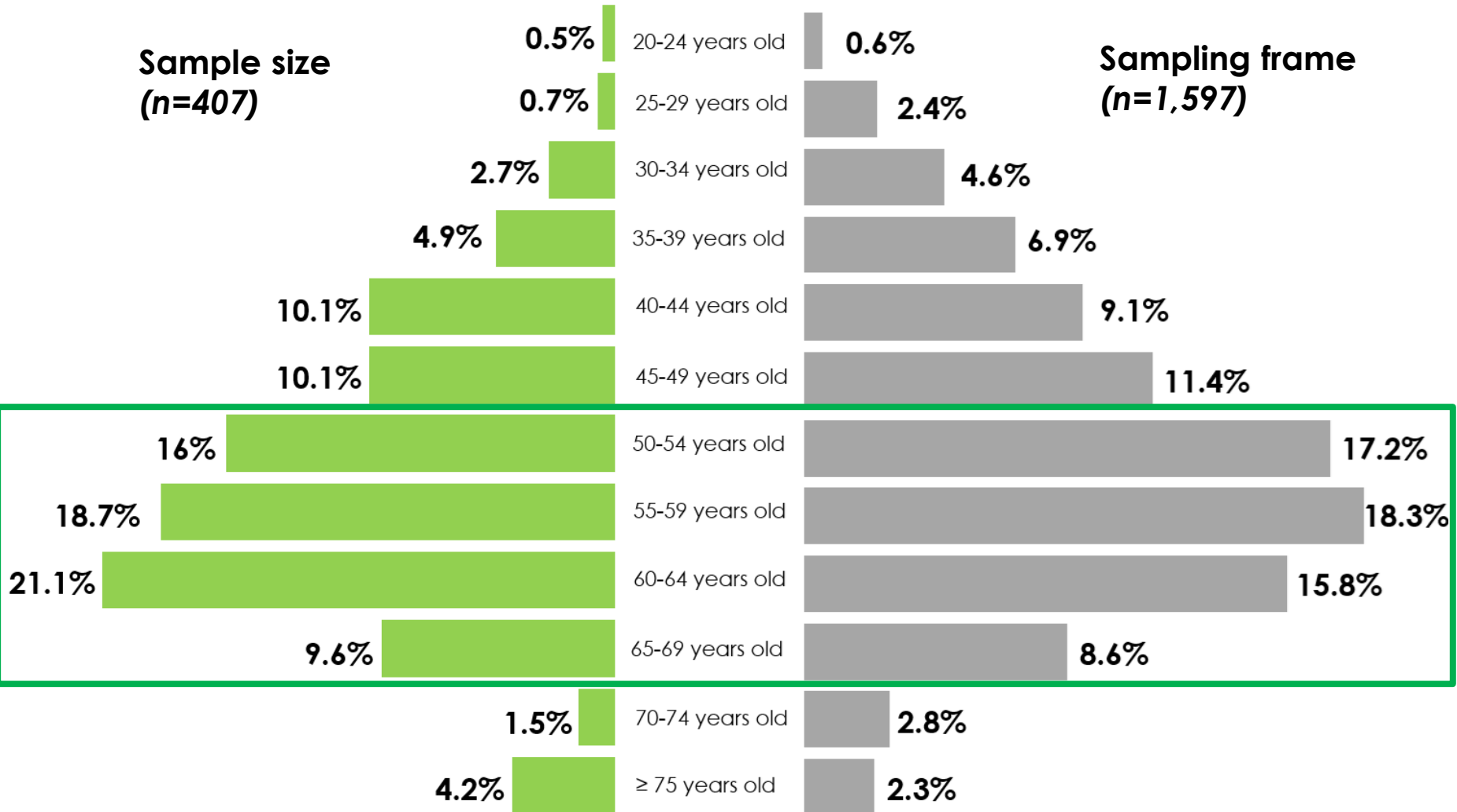
education level

occupation

Age group

Sample size
(n=407)

Sampling frame
(n=1,597)

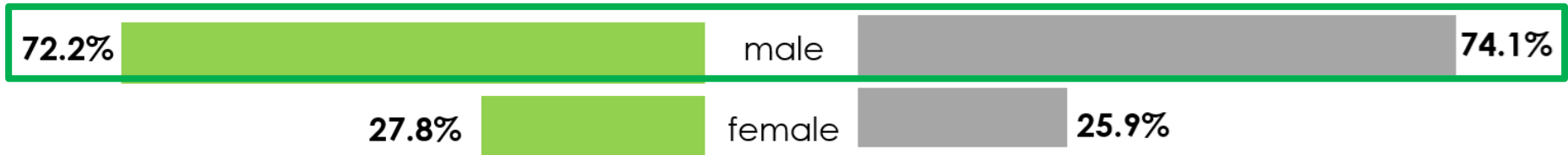


Gender and ethnic group

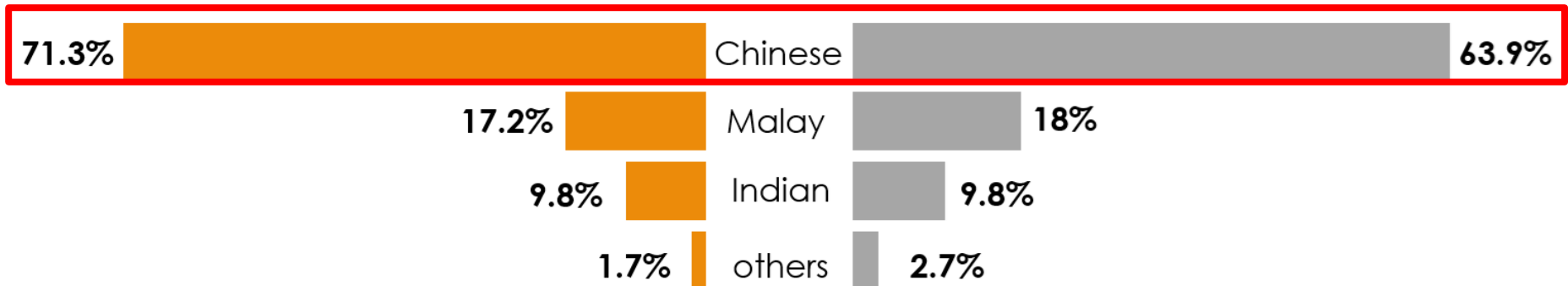
Sample size
(n=407)

Gender

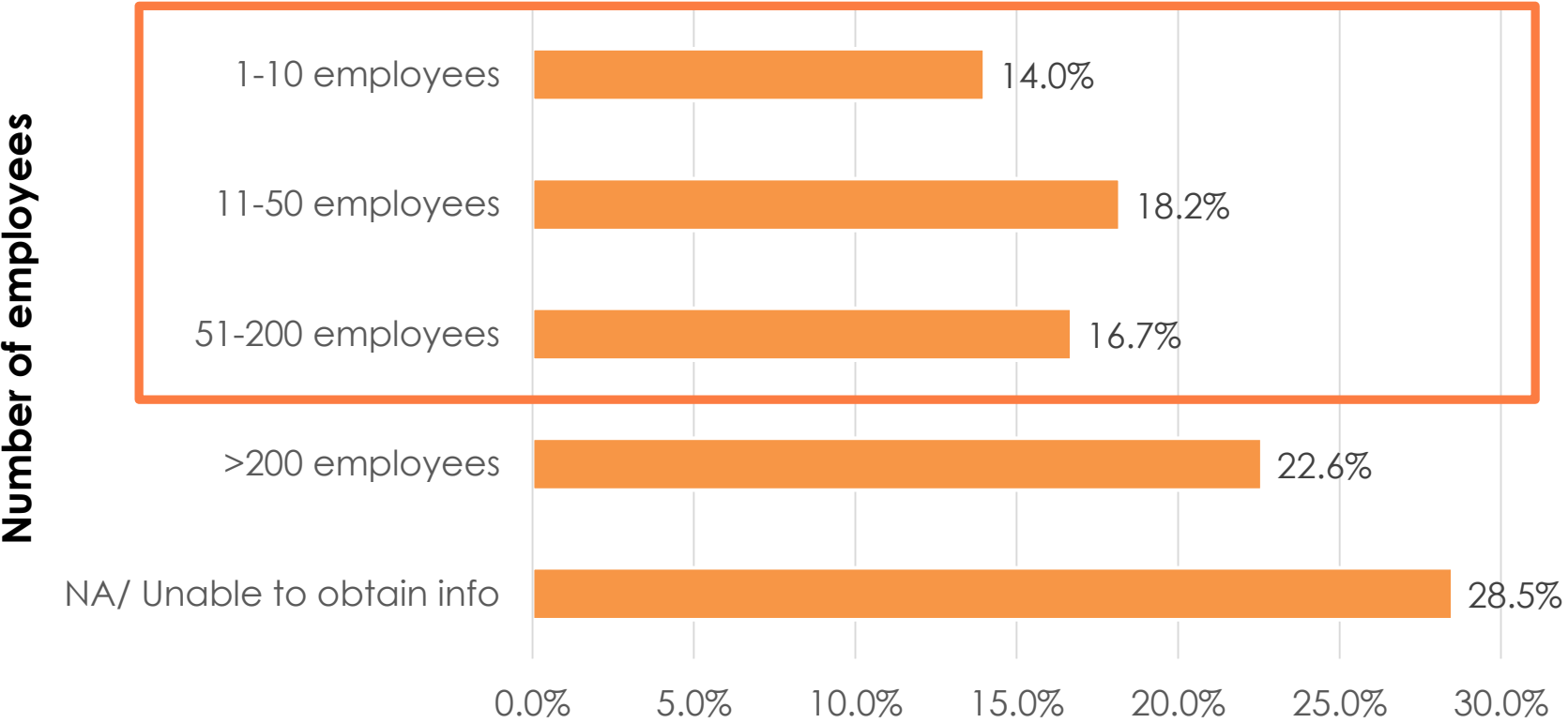
Sampling frame
(n=1,597)



Ethnic Group

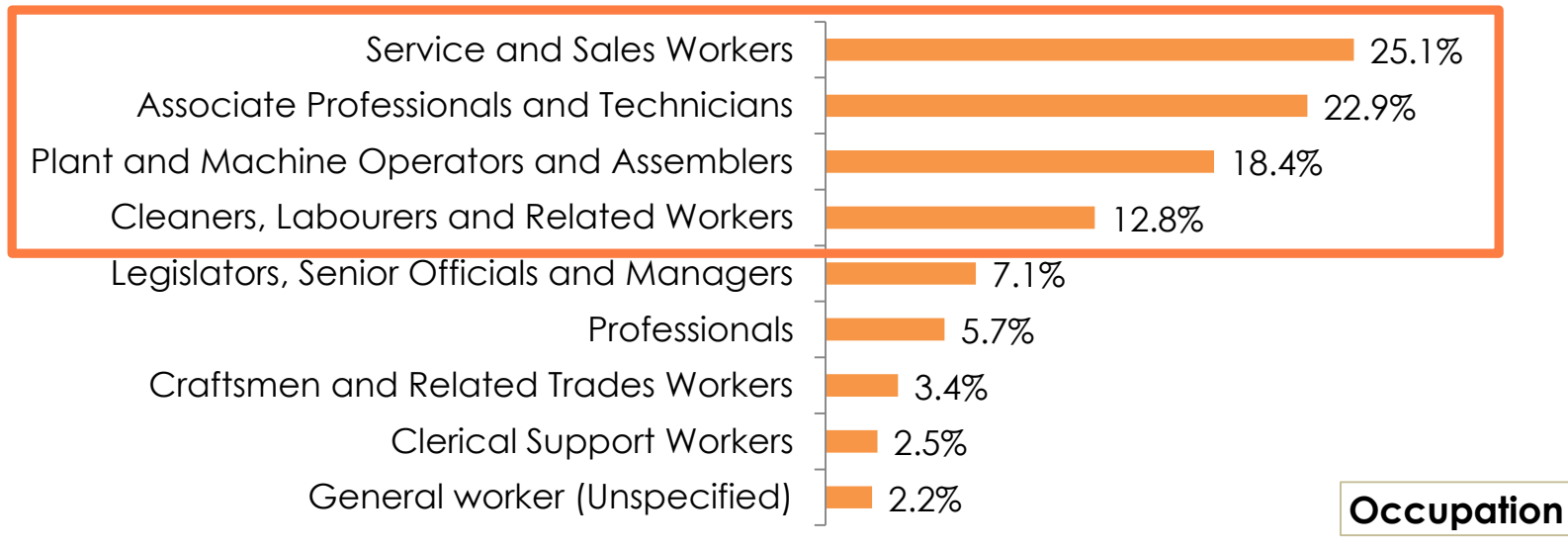
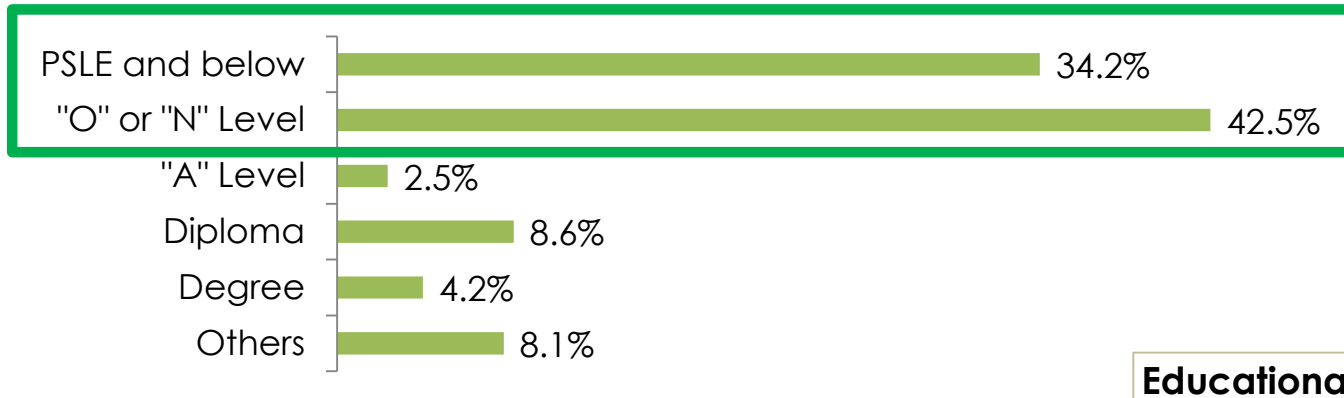


Size of company



Sample size, n = 407

Educational level and occupation



Sample size, $n = 407$

Key findings

nature of injury

number of MC days

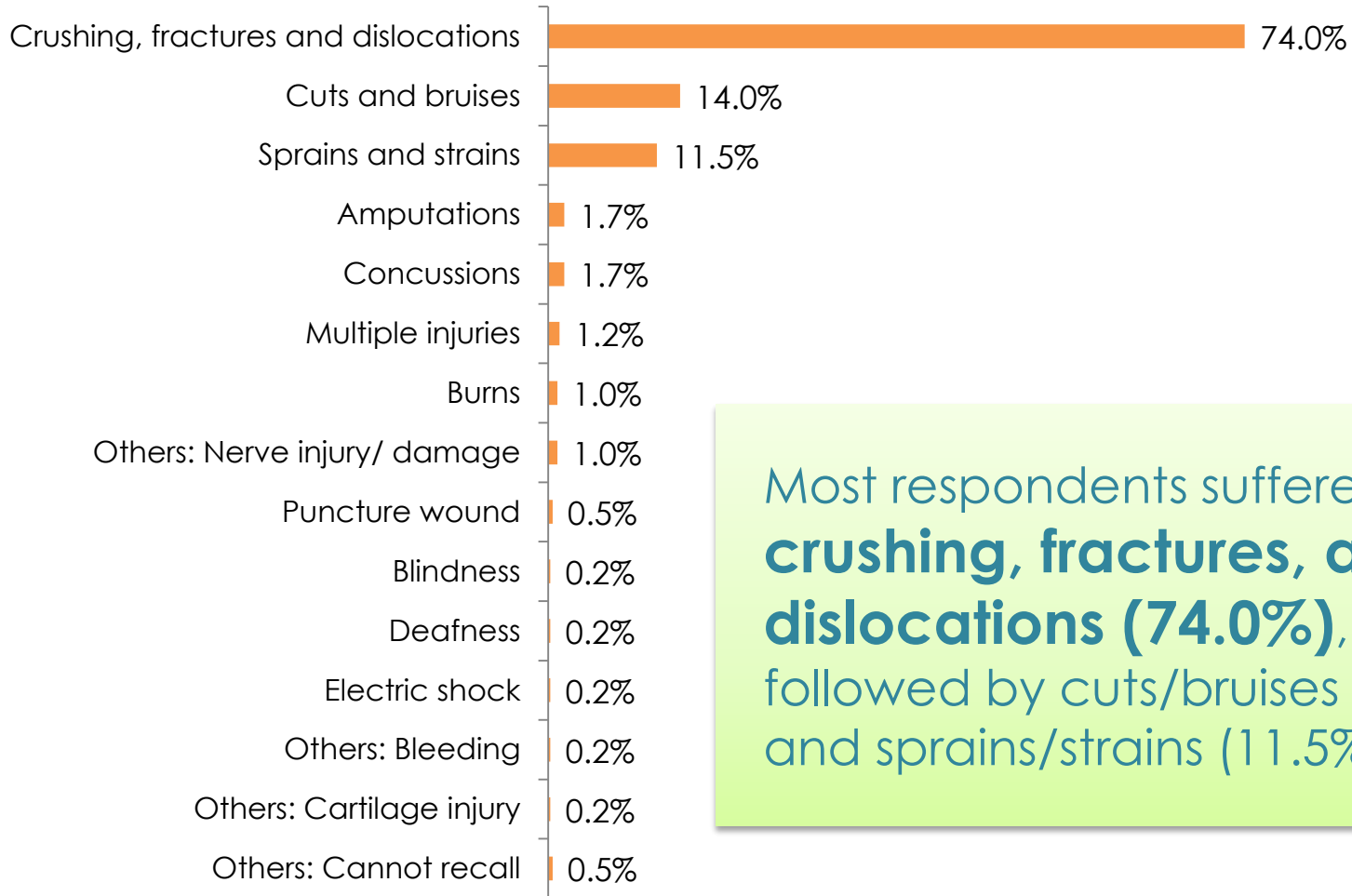
cost of the work injury

social impact of the work injury

key challenges faced upon returning to work

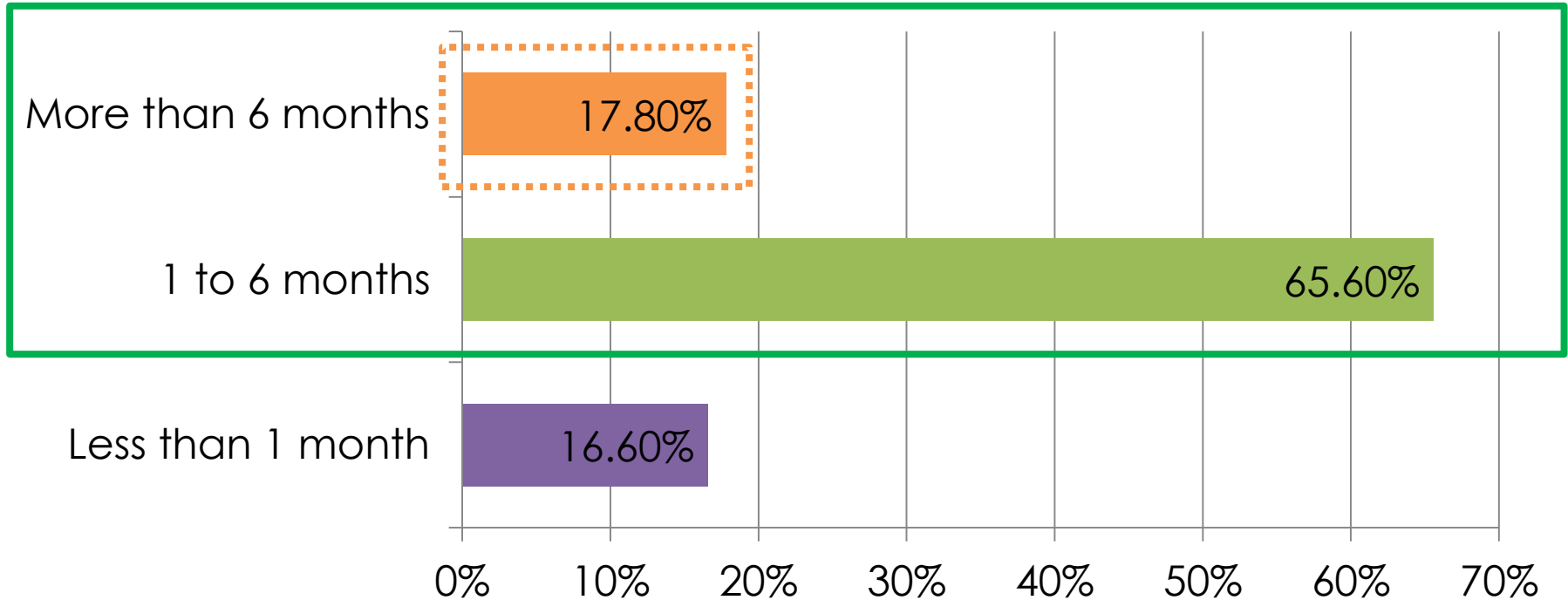
Types of support to enhance employment outlook

Nature of injury



Most respondents suffered from **crushing, fractures, and dislocations (74.0%)**, followed by cuts/bruises (14.0%) and sprains/strains (11.5%).

Amount of medical leave taken



83.4% took one month or more of medical leave due to their work injury.

Cost of the work injury

Hospitalisation

52.6%

Average
duration is
about **14**
days

The
average
cost
amounted
to **\$7009**

Cost of the work injury

Outpatient rehabilitation in the hospital

64%

Average
duration of
almost 4
months

Average
cost of
\$2332

Cost of the work injury

Outpatient rehabilitation in another facility

3.8%

Average
duration of
almost **5**
months

Average
cost of
\$4625

Cost of the work injury

Caregiver support

30%

About **90%** were supported by immediate family members

For caregiving services, almost **30%** required it for **3 to 6 months** and about **20%** for **> 6 months**

They had to pay **\$200** to **\$700** per month and the average cost amounted to **\$2800**

Cost of the work injury

Other associated costs

Additional
medical
leave/medical
cost incurred
after
hospitalisation

In-patient
rehabilitation in
the hospital or
another facility

Renovation
required in home
environment

Highest amount incurred was \$38,250

Social impact of the work injury

24% were unemployed

Females, older and lower educated workers tended to remain unemployed

Two-thirds of the unemployed injured workers were from **small and medium enterprises (SMEs)**

The occupation group “**cleaners, labourers and related workers**” and “**service and sales workers**” had the highest number of unemployed

The age correlates with the severity of PI (Permanent Incapacity), i.e., higher age = higher PI

The age group, **40 to 44 years** old is the 2nd highest unemployed age group

Social impact of the work injury

For the employed

- **41%** changed companies
- **27%** were employed with a change in job scope
- **16%** suffered a pay cut

How the family coped after the injury

- **60%** tapped on savings for treatment
- **31%** reduced household expenses to make ends meet

Key challenges faced upon returning to work



44% were easily tired out at work

39% had difficulty performing work at previous standards



25% feared that certain work activities would lead to harm/injury

Types of support deemed useful to enhance post-injury employment outlook



**31% stated
change of
job scope**



**30% stated
job redesign**



**24% would
like to have
flexi-hours**

Concluding remarks

- Injuries at work have a significant impact on the injured worker, his family and the economy.
- The involvement and support of the key stakeholders, which includes the employer, the healthcare provider, the insurer and the family is key to aid in the smooth transition back to work for the injured worker.



For more information
on the study, go to
www.wsh-institute.sg

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