

Occupational Health Software For Better Pandemic Preparedness

APRIL 2022

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Occupational Health Software Will Lead To Better And Safer Pandemics

This report helps EHS executives to better prepare themselves for future pandemics, increasing the safety and wellbeing of their workers. Verdantix analysis finds that the successful use of occupational health software in firms aids overall worker efficiency and wellbeing. The report provides corporate decision-makers with prevention mechanisms to mitigate the risks for their firms of future COVID-19-like pandemics.

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ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED

Enterprise Health

Occupational Health Software Will Minimize The Impact Of Future Pandemics

COVID-19 shook populations, economies and business operations around the world. In response to the challenges posed by the pandemic, firms were forced to make adjustments to their approaches to business operations and workflows. Organizations have begun to digitize their existing paper-based processes, managing risk more dynamically and recognising the value of total worker health. Unequipped firms experienced first-hand the difficulties of managing employee health within an inadequate occupational health infrastructure during COVID-19. This report analyses the priority and appetite for occupational health solutions within EHS firms to support future pandemic management.

Covid-19 Sees Firms Prioritize Investment In Occupational Health

As COVID-19 begins to exit from our lives, firms are realising that although the pandemic is coming to a close, occupational health software remains crucial. Thus, the EHS function has begun to change its priorities and processes on total worker health and safety. After reviewing the market data, Verdantix finds that:

- There is a growing focus on investment from corporates in occupational health software.**

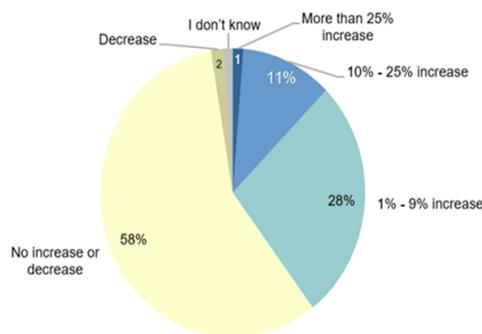
The use of occupational health software within firms is rapidly growing. This is evident in the latest Verdantix global corporate survey, in which 40% of the 301 EHS decision-makers surveyed said that they planned to increase their firms' investment in occupational health in 2022 compared with 2021 (see [Verdantix Global Corporate Survey 2021: EHS Budgets, Priorities And Tech Preferences](#)). This prioritization of investment is partly to manage ongoing COVID-19 cases, but more importantly, to ensure that the correct tools and processes are in place to protect business resiliency and continuity. For example, in 2021 occupational health software vendor Enterprise Health saw a 70% increase in the use of its occupational health software – and projects similar growth for 2022 (see **Figure 1**).

FIGURE 1

Change In Spend Compared With The Adoption Of Occupational Health Software in 2022

Change In Spend Across Occupational Health Software in 2022

“How will your firm’s spend on occupational health software change in 2022 compared to your spend in 2021?”

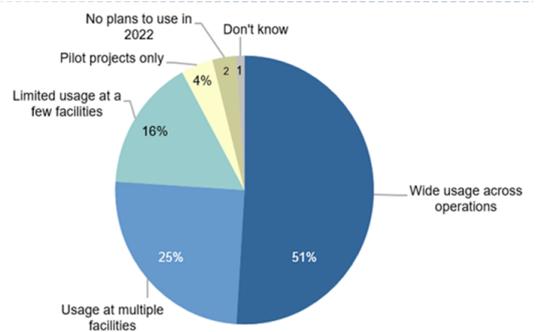


Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 3% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate Survey 2021: EHS Budgets, Priorities And Tech Preferences

N = 301

Adoption Of Occupational Health Software in 2022

“To what extent will your firm use EHS software for the following processes in 2022?”



Note: Data labels are rounded to zero decimal places; percentages less than 3% are written as numbers.
Source: Verdantix Global Corporate Survey 2021: EHS Budgets, Priorities And Tech Preferences

N = 301

- **Adoption of occupational health solutions helps ensure worker wellbeing.**

Firms have become increasingly aware that creating resiliency within operations is vital, and that the appropriate and proper recording and managing of workers' conditions ensures that workforces are working efficiently and productively and, most importantly, are healthy. COVID-19 has underlined the importance of worker wellbeing and allowed firms to realise that, without proper worker wellness, employees cannot perform at optimal and safe levels. Thus, firms are now beginning to look beyond traditional occupational health to a broader landscape of total worker wellness. Occupational health software allows EHS decision-makers to effectively collect, manage and communicate information that promotes worker wellness.

Occupational Health Software Will Enable Better Preparedness And Response To Future Black Swan Events

Since the beginning of COVID-19, pandemic response capabilities have been drastically enhanced globally, from the point of no – or very limited – resources being available, to a situation in which the developed world is readily prepared for tackling the disease. For many firms, an occupational health infrastructure is now in place that is not only agile, but quick and efficient. This will assist these firms in the future in taking the appropriate precautionary steps without panicking and losing productivity. After reviewing market data, Verdantix finds that:

- **Illness management has been improved, to better manage highly contagious diseases.**

As COVID-19 recedes, firms must put in place various different safety measures, while continuing to leverage occupational health software for illness management. This software will allow firms to better monitor workers' health, manage exposure events, alert affected workforces, document compliance-related issues and manage return-to-work processes. The continuous use of the software will protect firms from future pandemic impacts that might affect worker health and safety. A prime example of this is Enterprise Health, which launched its own standalone, web-based COVID-19 employee monitoring solution called Channel-19. Through the solution, workers are issued with an electronic badge that indicates whether or not to come into work. The solution automatically decides whether a test is required or if there is a need for self-isolation. This allows employers to easily manage and alert employees in the case of exposure, streamlining medical documentation and ensuring timely compliance.

- **Vaccines and travel management will become key elements of managing worker exposure.**

While vaccines have provided a positive step towards the end of COVID-19, firms must continue to ensure that all worker inoculations and travel documentation are regularly updated, to allow for the continuation of neutralized and normal working practices. Many firms were abruptly faced with having to manage testing and contact tracing during the pandemic, as well as documentation relating to the administration of vaccines – historically handled on spreadsheets built in-house or on paper. They swiftly recognised that such traditional systems were not scalable, due to a lack of security and privacy for medical records. Firms were obliged to transition to solutions specific to managing occupational health, in which employers can store vaccine records stating whether or not employees have been immunized. Additionally, as firms begin to return to normal, travelling is reverting to pre-pandemic levels. Occupational health solutions will allow employers to adopt a comprehensive approach to risk management before, during and after business travel.



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