Welcome back to Acumen

Since 2004, Acumen Software has been helping organisations to manage their health & safety workflows. During this time the software has collated data for over 250,000 safety incidents.

Our articles and papers are work in progress and we welcome feedback from all who read - feedback we hope can be included and will enhance what we discover.

At the heart of everything we do is the Acumen Safety Model. This model has five key elements which we believe are important to improving safety:

1. An **Information Model** that allows for the correct information to be created and shared to the right people at the right time.

2. The continuous delivery of **Training & Competencies** for all individuals for safe working and wellbeing.

3. The ability to allow individuals to protect themselves by continuously reinforcing the correct practices through **Self Checks & Risk Assessments**.

4. The delivery of formal workflows and processes for conducting **Inspections and sharing Best Practice**.

5. The organisational processes and workflows to enable **Corrective Action and Learning.**

In this article we are going to present some of our earlier analysis and insight into the 250,000 safety incidents we have recorded in our software. These insights will start to reveal some pointers to early best practice and changes needed in the health, safety and well-being space.

Type of incident - Health, Safety or Wellbeing

As expected, the make up of incident type is one that signals an imperative towards safety concerns. - with 60% of issues raised being focused on addressing a safety problem. Interestingly, as we take a snapshot of data in 2022, there is an uptick in wellbeing concerns being addresses. This is most likely caused by the new social focus on well-being concerns in society.
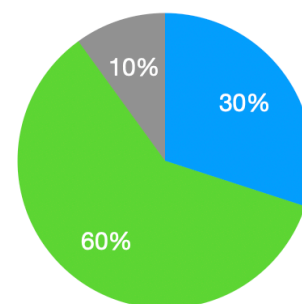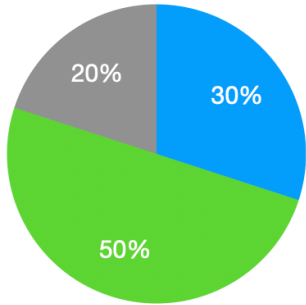


Incident Types - All Data

**Incident Type - 2022
Snapshot**

Safety Incident Locations

The place of location for the recorded incident shows on overwhelming focus towards issues being raised at the Point of Construction - be this on a construction site, mobile works or temporary works sites. There are also a considerable number of issues raised 'Off Site'. These manifest themselves as issues identified outside the boundary of the works / office / depot.
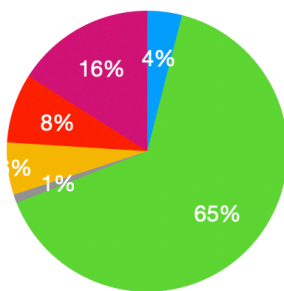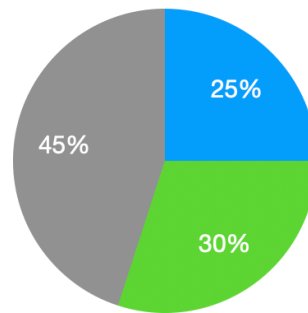

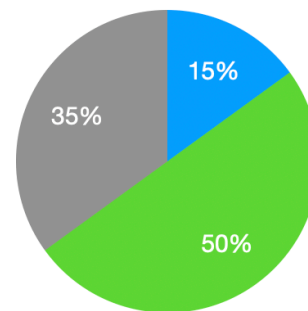**Location of Incident**

Type of severity

The following two charts illustrate the average percentage of incident severity identified on site at the start of the customer using the Acumen Software and then a snapshot in 2022. There is a clear shift in focus from High Severity incidents reducing.

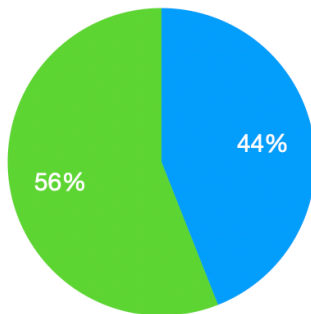
Incident Severity

Incident Severity - 2022

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Type of Workforce

The type of workforce where a safety incident has been identified shows an increasing lean towards sub contractors having more safety incidents registered against them. Reasons for this can be many - but importantly, there is an obvious distinction to more issues being raised to non permanent workforces.

Labour Type

Action Follow up Type

As issues and incidents are identified, then action has to be taken. Without action, there can be no reduction in current risk, future risk and learning. It is clear to see that the majority of issues found require follow up action. Action that can take time, require further site visits,
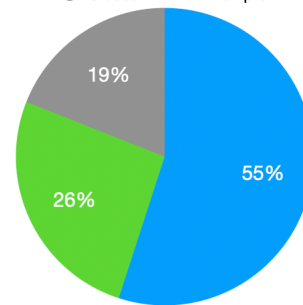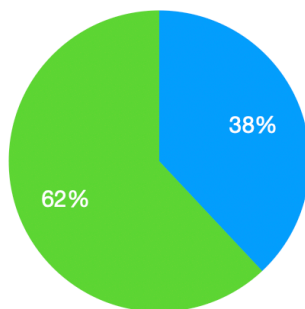

Incident Close Out

involve additional people and ultimately cost money.

Action Follow Up - Further Action

The ability to close and learn from an issue requires fast and effective responses. Although 55% of issues that require further are closed within the first attempt. However, 45% of issues require multiple site visits, involve multiple updates and are more time and resource consuming.

Number of Close Out Follow Ups

Implementation of the Acumen Safety Model

Our final chart of this paper illustrates the impact of applying a safety learning model to a project, contract or organisation. The data presented in this chart takes and average count of incidents raised over a 4 years period across a number of clients. The decline in the number of reported incidents is obvious.
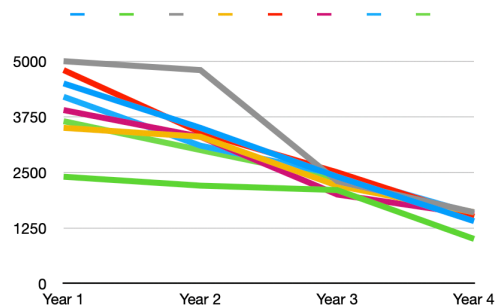
Safety Incident Progression After Acumen

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We welcome feedback on our article!

About the Author

Paul Robinson PhD blends his academic track record with 20 years industry experience in technology and safety solutions working for organisations such as the NHS Patient Safety Program, consultation and software services to numerous organisations such as Skanska, Qatar Foundation. ASTAD, Amey, AVOVE, Pitney Bowes, TIME Qatar, Balfour Beatty and many others

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