



Backgrounder: B.C. care aides likely to quit, facing stress, aggression and time constraints in the workplace

- This telephone survey was conducted with 807 care aides who are members of the Hospital Employees' Union.
- The survey was carried out between September 18 to 29.
- The survey is considered accurate to within +/- 3.3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.
- It included regions quotas to ensure the results accurately reflect the distribution of members across B.C.
- Winnipeg-based Viewpoints Research conducted the survey on behalf of the HEU.

Key Findings

Half of care aides surveyed say that they do not have enough time to adequately meet the needs of their residents, patients or clients.

Thinking about a typical shift at work, which of the following statements is closest to your own experience?

I have enough time to adequately meet the needs of my residents, patients or clients	46.1%
I do not have enough time to adequately meet the needs of my residents, patients or clients	50.8%
Don't know / Refused	3.1%

70 per cent of care aides surveyed say that their residents, patients or clients do not have sufficient attention and stimulation.

Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements about your residents, patients or clients.

On average, they do not have sufficient attention and stimulation.

Strongly agree	29.6%	}	69.5%
Agree	39.9%		
Disagree	21.3%		
Strongly disagree	4.3%		
Don't know / Refused	4.8%		

Over 65 per cent of care aides surveyed say that they do not have enough time to comfort, reassure or calm patients.

There's not enough time to adequately comfort, reassure or calm them when they are confused, agitated or fearful.

Strongly agree	30.1%	}	66.7%
Agree	36.6%		
Disagree	24.4%		
Strongly disagree	5.2%		
Don't know / Refused	3.7%		

Over 65 per cent say that their patients are rushed through basic care routines.

They are typically rushed through basic care routines.

Strongly agree	30.9%	}	68%
Agree	37.1%		
Disagree	21.7%		
Strongly disagree	6.6%		
Don't know / Refused	3.8%		

80 per cent of care aides surveyed have been subjected to some form of violence or aggression from a patient.

Have you ever been struck, scratched, spit on or subjected to other acts of physical violence or aggression from a resident, patient or client?

Yes	82.2%
No	17.7%
Don't know / Refused	3.1%

45 per cent of care aides surveyed have been off work because of an injury suffered at work.

Have you ever been off work because of an injury you suffered during your employment as a health care aide?

Yes	45.0%
No	54.4%
Don't know / Refused	0.6%

62 per cent of care aides surveyed often end their shifts feeling mentally or physical stressed.

Always	22.9%	} 62.3%
Usually	39.4%	
Rarely	30.1%	
Never	6.4%	
Don't know / Refused	1.1%	

Half of care aides surveyed are more likely to leave their jobs following their recent work experience.

Has your experience during the last three years made it much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely or much less likely that you will leave your job within the next two years?

Much more likely	26.8%	} 48.5%
Somewhat more likely	21.7%	
Somewhat less likely	17.8%	
Much less likely	22.7%	
Don't know / Refused	11.0%	

Almost half of care aides surveyed say their workload in the last two year has gotten worse.

Would you say your workload in the past two years has gotten better, worse or stayed about the same?

Much better	7.7%	
Somewhat better	8.3%	
Stayed about the same	37.5%	
Somewhat worse	20.1%	} 42.8%
Much worse	22.7%	
Don't know / Refused	3.7%	