2025 WORKPLACE BENEFITS CONFERENCE

Pathways to Growth

The Evolving Disability and Absence Management Landscape



Agenda



Introductions



Employer Administration of Leave



Employee Education and Positive Employee Experience



Key Insights when Administering Statutory and Company Sponsored Leave Plans





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Which state was the first to pass a State Disability Insurance program?





How many states have passed PFL leave laws?







Employer Administration of Leave



Employer Administration of Leave

Study: Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)



of organizations report that leave management is a top priority for their HR teams due to its direct impact on productivity and employee satisfaction







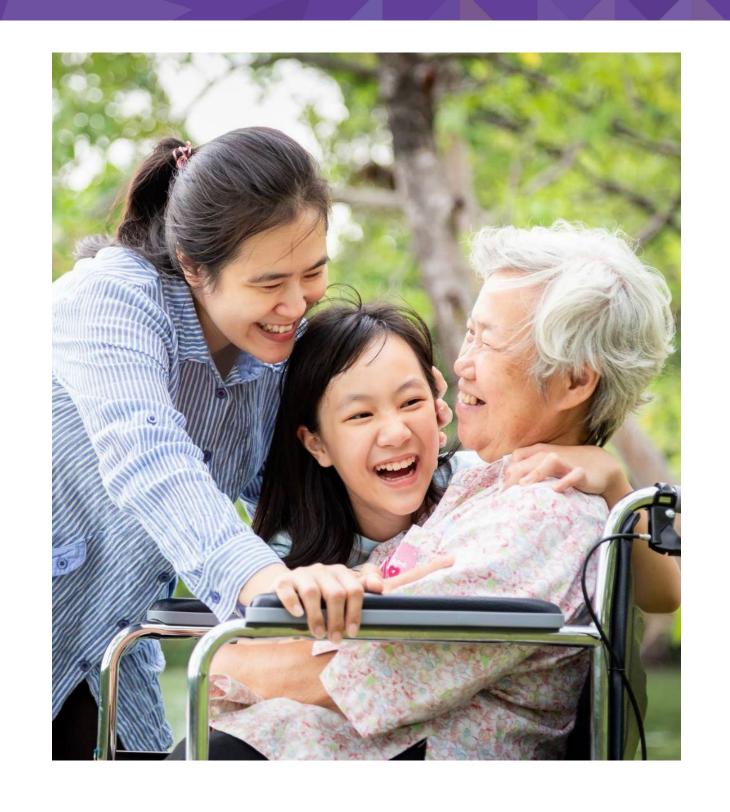
Absence and Disability Management Survey: 2024 Highlights



About the Survey

- The survey was fielded in the 1st quarter of 2024
- 630 US employers participated

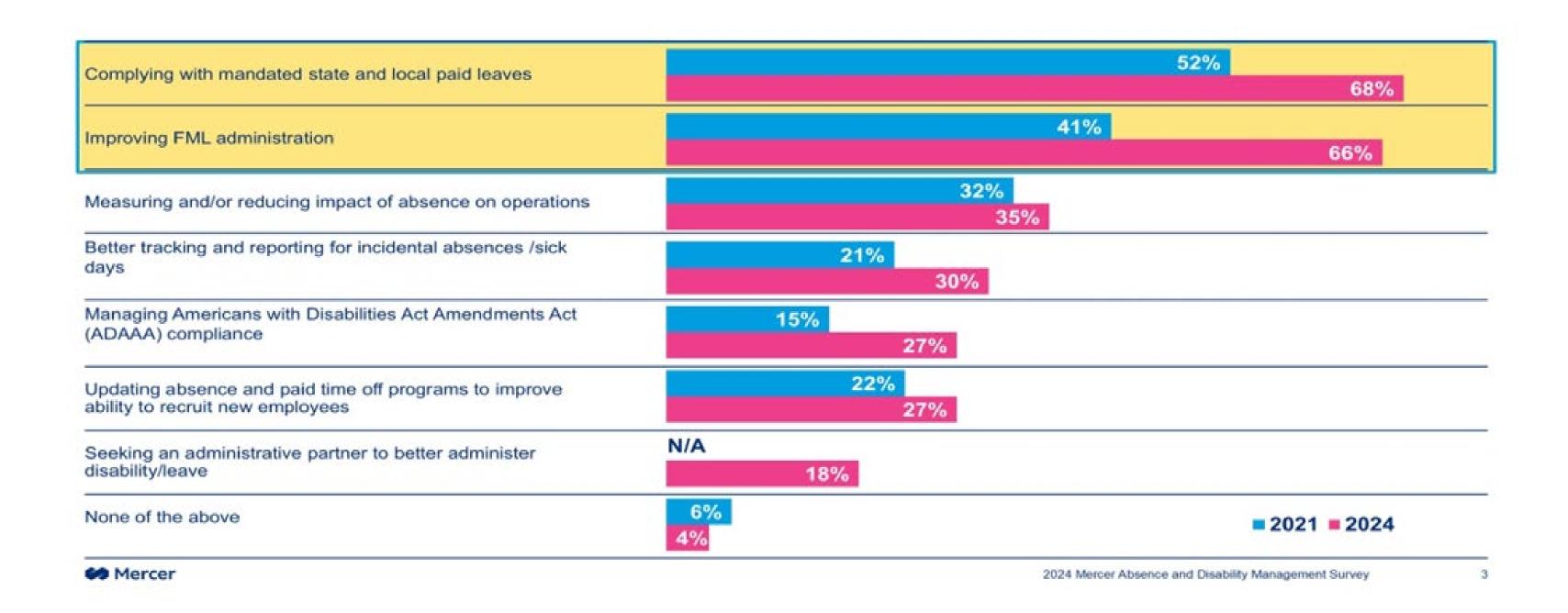
Employer Size	% of Respondents
Under 100 employees	5%
100 – 999 employees	32%
1,000 – 4,999 employees	39%
5,000 – 9,999 employees	9%
10,000 or more employees	15%





All Employers — Top Priorities For Their Absence Programs

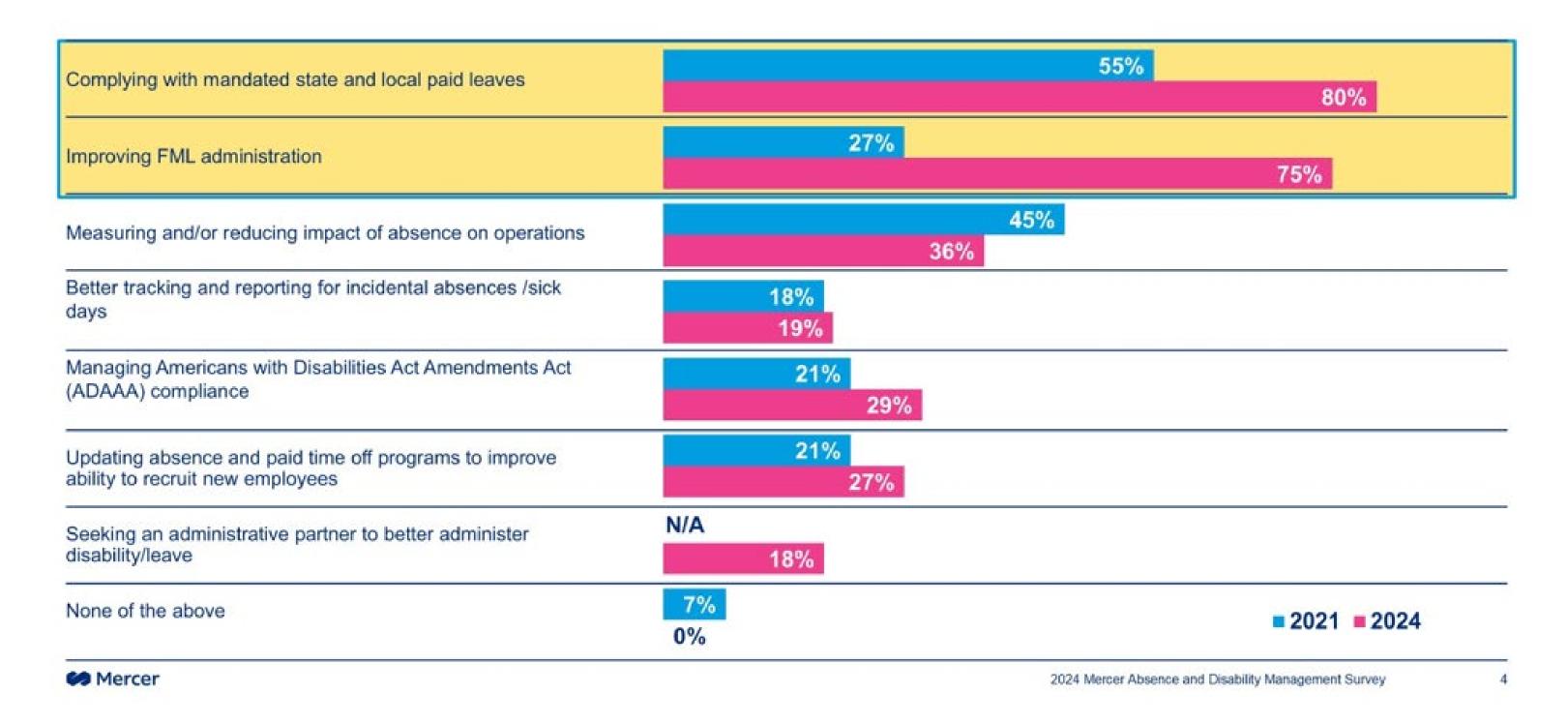
Respondents Selected Up To Three Priorities





Employers With 10,000+ Employees — Top Priorities For Their Absence Programs

Respondents selected up to three priorities





Growth in FMLA Administration Outsourcing Has Leveled Off Since 2021*

	2007	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	2024
All respondents	14%	25%	38%	40%	44%	56%	57%
100 – 999 employees	5%	13%	13%	19%	26%	36%	42%
1,000 – 4,999 employees	11%	29%	37%	48%	49%	66%	68%
5,000 or more employees	25%	37%	57%	60%	63%	72%	68%

Mercer

2024 Mercer Absence and Disability Management Survey

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^{*}Beginning in 2015, co-sourcing was included as an option and results for both co-sourcing and outsourcing are included in the overall outsourcing figures



Employee Education and Positive Employee Experience



Employee Education and Positive Employee Experience

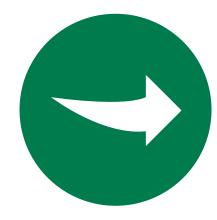
Study: Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI)



of employees who fully understand their leave benefits, including the time available and policies, report higher levels of job satisfaction and are...



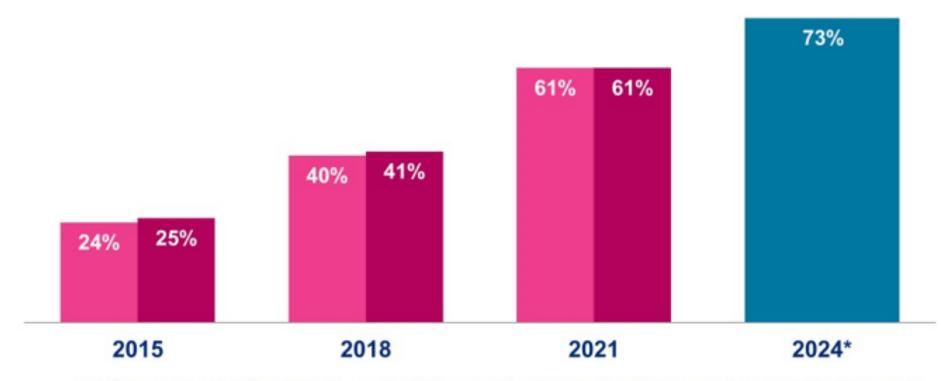
more likely to stay with their current employer



This highlights the direct link between clear guidance on leave and both employee happiness and retention.



Paid Parental Leave Now Offered by the Majority of Employers



Median # weeks paid leave	2015	2018	2021	2024
For birth parent (begins when disability ends)	6	6	6	2024
For non-birth parent (begins at birth)	4	4	5	0

- Paid parental bonding/care leave for birth parent after maternity leave related to disability ends
- Paid parental bonding/care leave for non-birth parent begins at birth
- ■Paid parental leave (not including disability leave for birth parent)

^{*}The 2024 survey did not collect separate data for birth parent and non-birth parent



2024 Mercer Absence and Disability Management Survey





Bonding With A New Baby Is Not The Only Life Event Warranting Its Own Paid Leave Policy

	Paid Leave Offered		Median time
	2021	2024	limit
Parental leave (not incl. disability leave for birth parent)	61%	73%	6 weeks
Adoption leave	55%	67%	6 weeks
Foster leave	38%	43%	6 weeks
Surrogacy leave	N/A	33%	7 weeks
Leave to care for a sick family member	26%	29%	6 weeks
Bereavement (for family member)	91%	95%	5 days
Bereavement (extended family member, friend)	N/A	54%	3 days
Bereavement (miscarriage)	N/A	58%	5 days
Bereavement (pregnancy loss, still birth)	N/A	62%	5 days
Sabbaticals	6%	5%	4 weeks
Jury Duty	68%	73%	10 days
Military Leave	50%	42%	12 weeks

For all types of paid leave, employers rarely cover less than 100% of salary





Statutory Leaves and Company Leaves Continue to Grow



Statutory Leaves and Company Leaves Continue to Grow

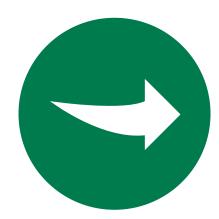
Study: National Business Group on Health (2023)



of employers have adapted or expanded their leave offerings in response to the changing workforce needs, including remote work, caregiving, and mental health support



higher employee retention rate is linked to these evolving leave plans



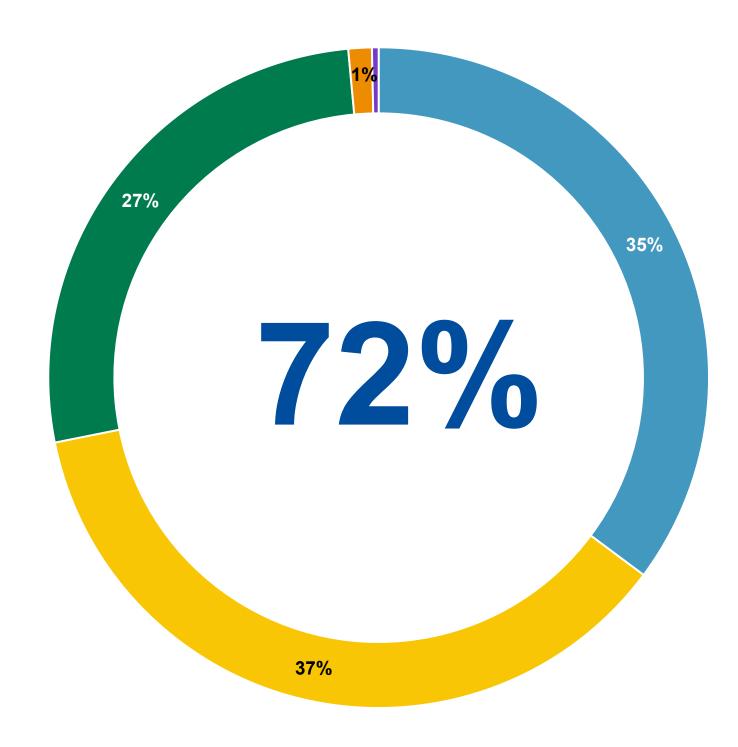
Compared to companies that do not adjust their leave policies to match these shifts



Nearly 3 in 4 employers have increased the use of resources to ensure compliance with state and local paid leave mandates over the past five years



- Increased somewhat
- No change in use of resources
- Decreased somewhat
- Decreased significantly

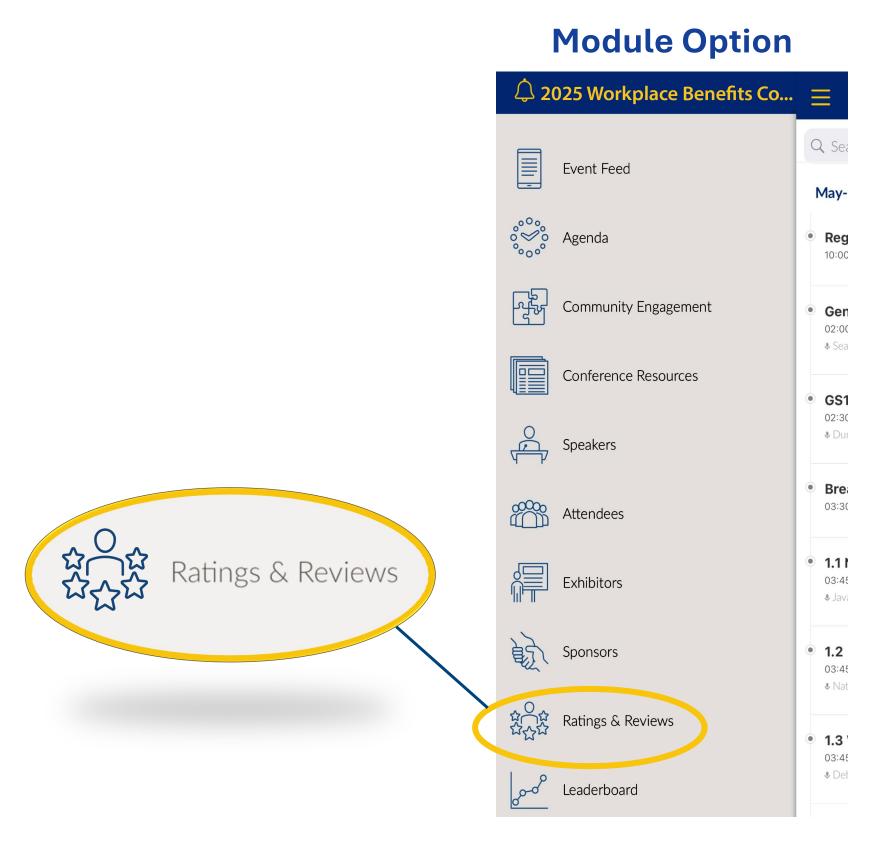




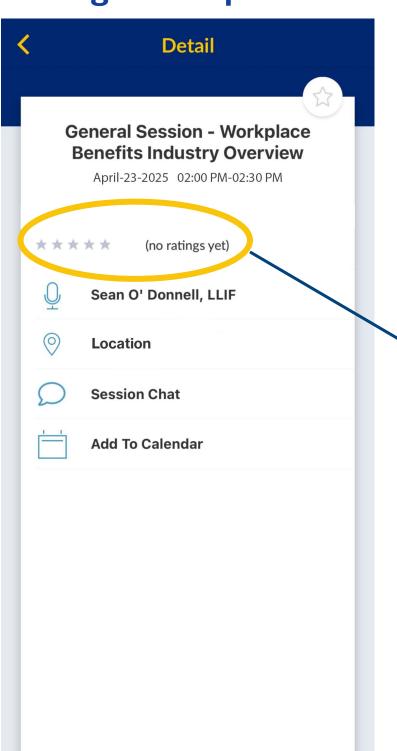




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Agenda Option







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