

“Still seen as intruders”

Findings from the Safety and Health Empowerment
for Women in Trades (SHEWT) study

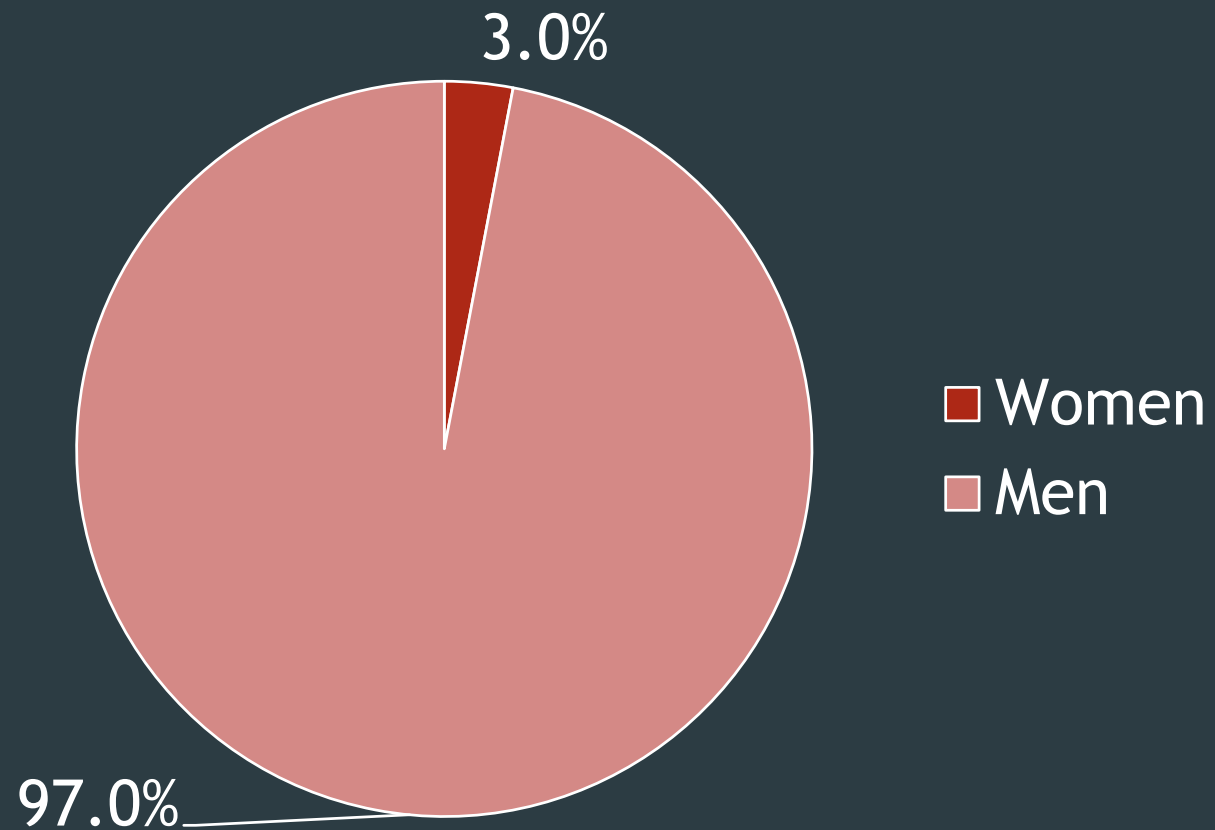
Hannah M. Curtis, MPH



“There’s that feeling of pride when you drive by a building that you know you were a part of, and you kind of feel like you left a part of yourself all over the county.”

Journeywoman electrician

“We’re outnumbered!”



*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016

Masculinity of the trades



*Image: Freelance Commission



Masculinity of the trades

“It is so hard to find gear that fits!
Why is that so darn hard? When I talk
to vendors they just say there is no
money in it.”

Tradeswoman/safety professional



SHEWT

Safety & Health Empowerment for Women in Trades



Focus group themes: risks to women

- ▶ Inadequate PPE
- ▶ Physical limitations
- ▶ Sexual harassment
- ▶ Gender discrimination
- ▶ Overcompensation
- ▶ Poor work-life balance
- ▶ Fear of reporting

“The heartbreak about onsite job accidents is someone who’s new to the trade that was withheld the training and information from the journey-level workers around them. And while this happens to a lot of new people it specifically and oftentimes uniquely happens to women and minorities in the trades. They are left out to fend for themselves because there is a group of people who don’t think they should be there.”

Retired electrician

Compared to men, women in our survey had a higher risk of being injured at work in the past year and a higher risk of reporting high levels of stress

What can we do?

- ▶ Hire more women!
- ▶ Education
- ▶ More bathrooms
- ▶ Enforce anti-discrimination and harassment policies

“I don’t think women apprentices get adequate **mentoring**”

“When it is possible,
mentors should be
provided for
apprentices...”

“...get connected to another woman in
the trades who can be a **mentor**”

“Offer a **mentoring** program”

“I really think that we should have mentors who
are trained in being **mentors** rather than solely
as journeymen.”

"It would be ideal to have a **mentoring** program for
women as an apprentice in the particular trade she
is in to help understand the construction industry."

THERE IS
NO FORCE
EQUAL
TO A
WOMAN
DETERMINED
TO RISE.



To learn more, visit:
<http://deohs.washington.edu/shewt>



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