

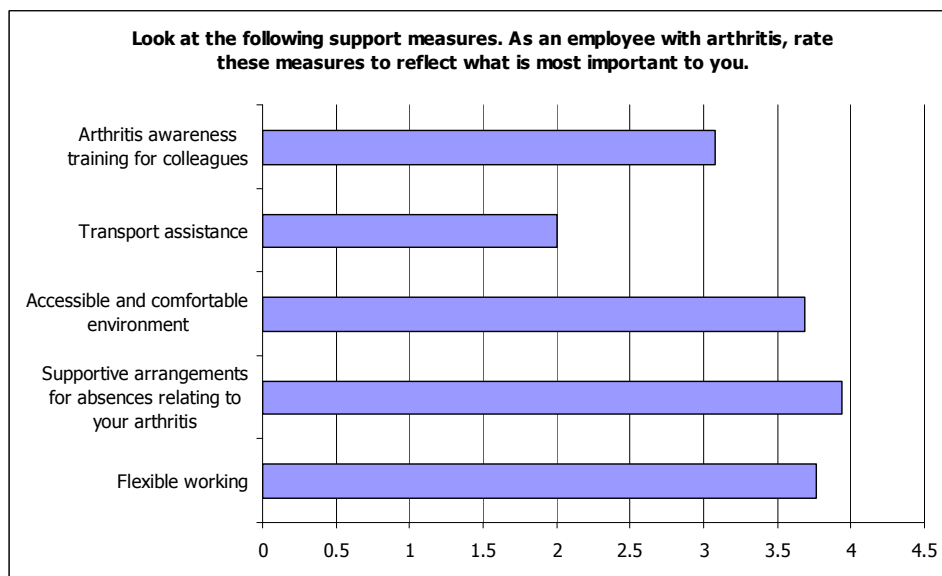
2009 World Arthritis Day Survey

This year over 400 participants took part in a survey we ran throughout August and September, asking people with arthritis about the challenges they face at work and what support they need from their employer in order to remain in work and lead productive working lives.

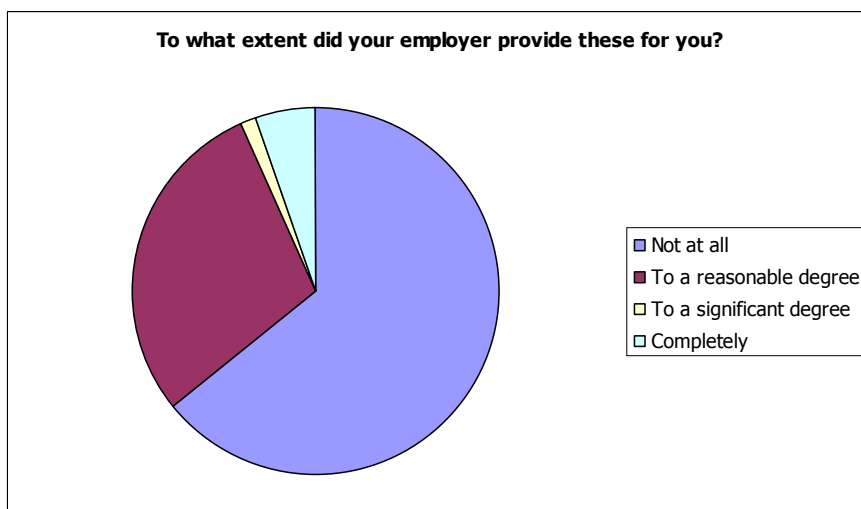
Key findings:

1. Overall, the four most important 'reasonable adjustments' were identified as:

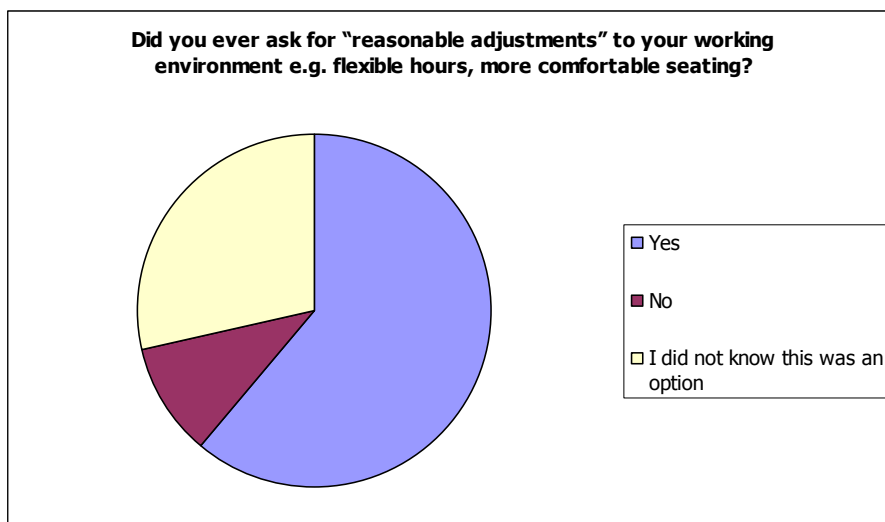
- Supportive arrangements for absences relating to arthritis
- Flexible working
- An accessible and comfortable environment
- Arthritis awareness training for colleagues



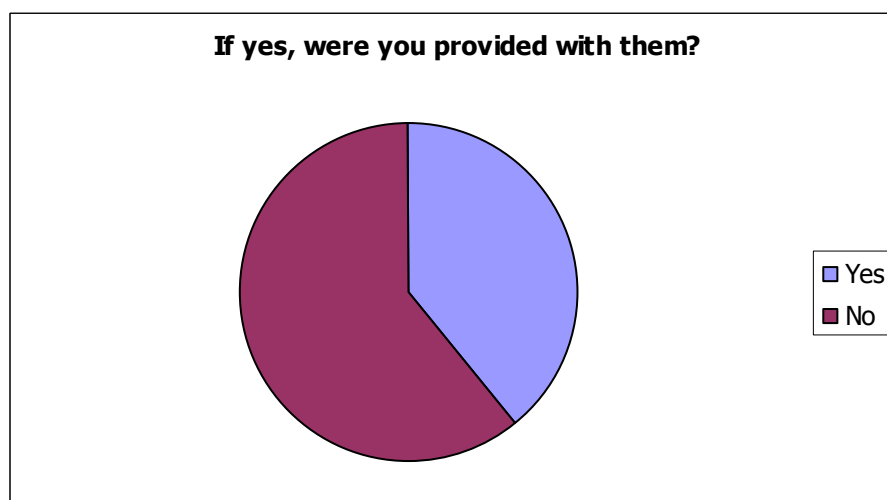
2. 65% of people not working because of their arthritis felt their past employer did not provide the support they needed.



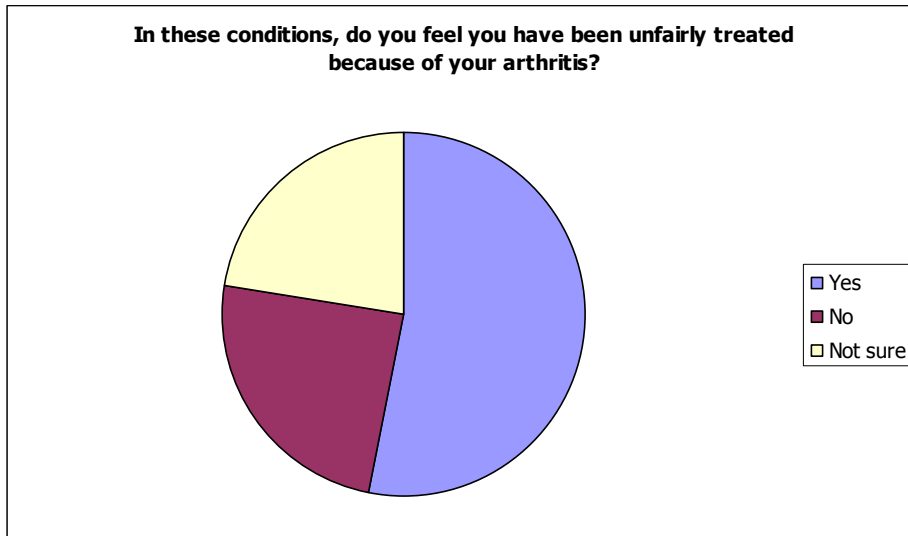
3. About one-third of people who were not working because of their arthritis, did not know that asking for 'reasonable adjustments' was an option.



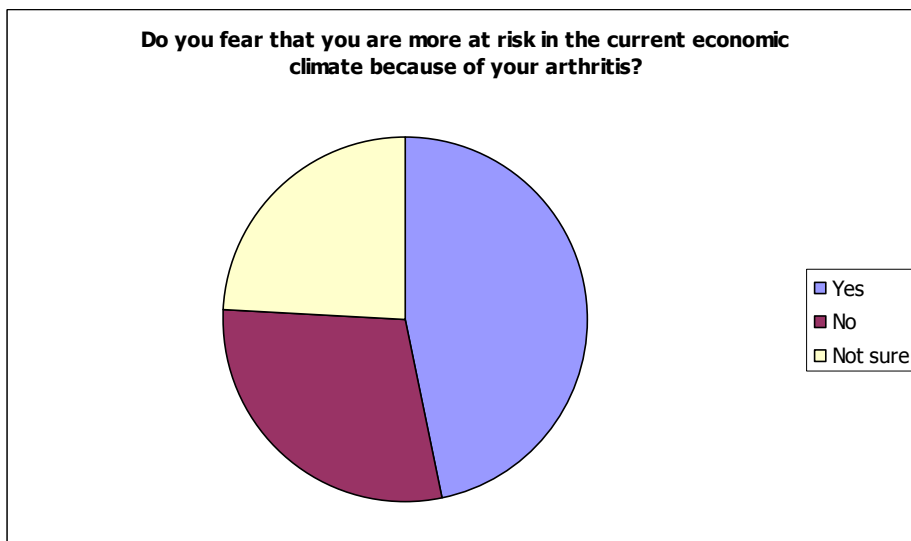
4. Two-thirds of people who left work because of their arthritis did not get reasonable adjustments, having asked for them.



5. Just over half of people not in work felt they had been unfairly treated because of their arthritis.



6. Half of people who are working and have arthritis feel more at risk in the current economic climate because of their arthritis.



(Quotes below)

Quotes

“My employer fulfilled her basic obligations but showed no interest in educating herself about the needs of staff with any form of disability and took a long time to implement any change (under sufferance)

“Employers need to be made aware of the advantages of employing experienced workers with arthritis or any other condition requiring understanding.”

“I am very sad at having to stop work because I miss my colleagues and the boost to self-esteem and confidence that comes with working to provide for myself”

“I felt I was asking and never getting - I didn't know until much later what could have been done for me”