



Construction Owners Optimistic about Prospects for Prevention through Design

Owners' perceptions of barriers to Prevention through Design diffusion

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Overview

Prevention through Design (PtD) incorporates construction worker safety as a factor in design of a building project. Researchers surveyed 103 construction owners, and interviewed 65, to learn what barriers they perceived to adoption of PtD.

Key Findings

- Although almost three-quarters of respondents were unfamiliar with PtD before the survey, owners responded positively to the concept – more than four out of five said they would consider implementing PtD, or were already doing so.
- While prior research has identified a variety of barriers to adoption of PtD, owners did not find these barriers as substantial as predicted.
- While 20% of respondents believed that PtD could increase their firm's liability to lawsuits, 55% believed that PtD could *decrease* liability.
- Approximately one-third of respondents believed that Architecture and Engineering (A/E) firms would resist PtD; that higher A/E firm fees associated with PtD would be a significant barrier; and that drafting suitable language for their firm's design and construction contracts would take a lot of work. However, most respondents believed that these barriers could be overcome.

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See abstract:

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