

PREVENTING THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE: AN APPROACH TO PROMOTING SAFETY CULTURE WITH RESEARCH LAB PERSONNEL

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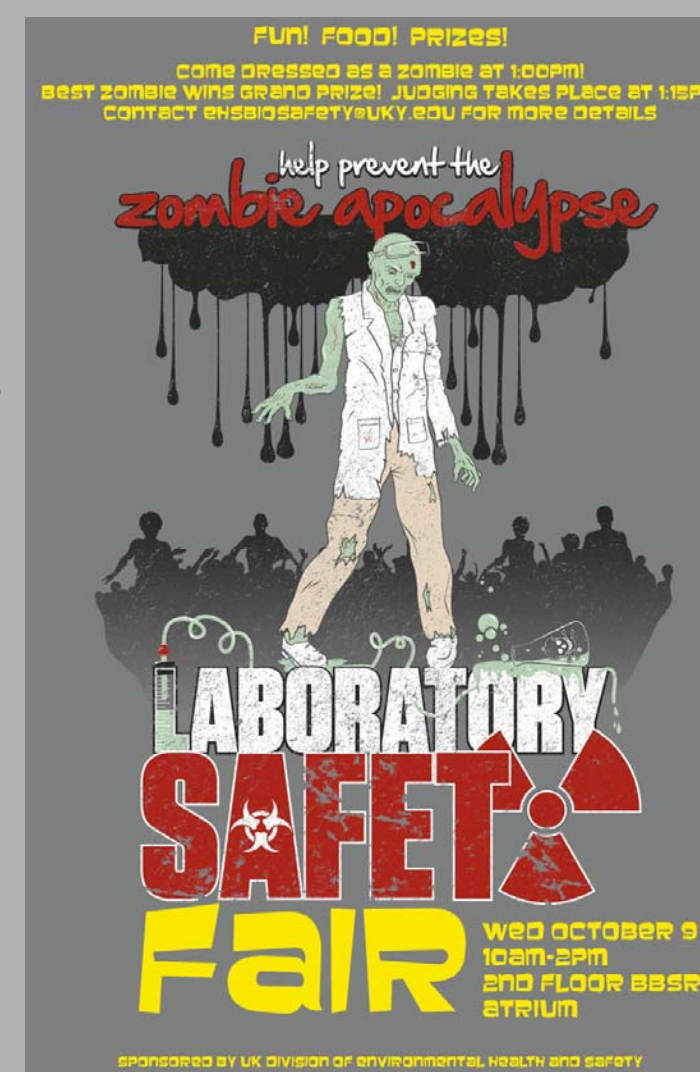
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Objectives

- Engage the research community, mainly at the staff level, in **positive interactions** with the University of Kentucky (UK) Environmental Health & Safety Division (EH&S)
- Promote a **culture of safety** in an informal, non-punitive setting
- Provide an **in-person training** opportunity to supplement an existing, required online training program

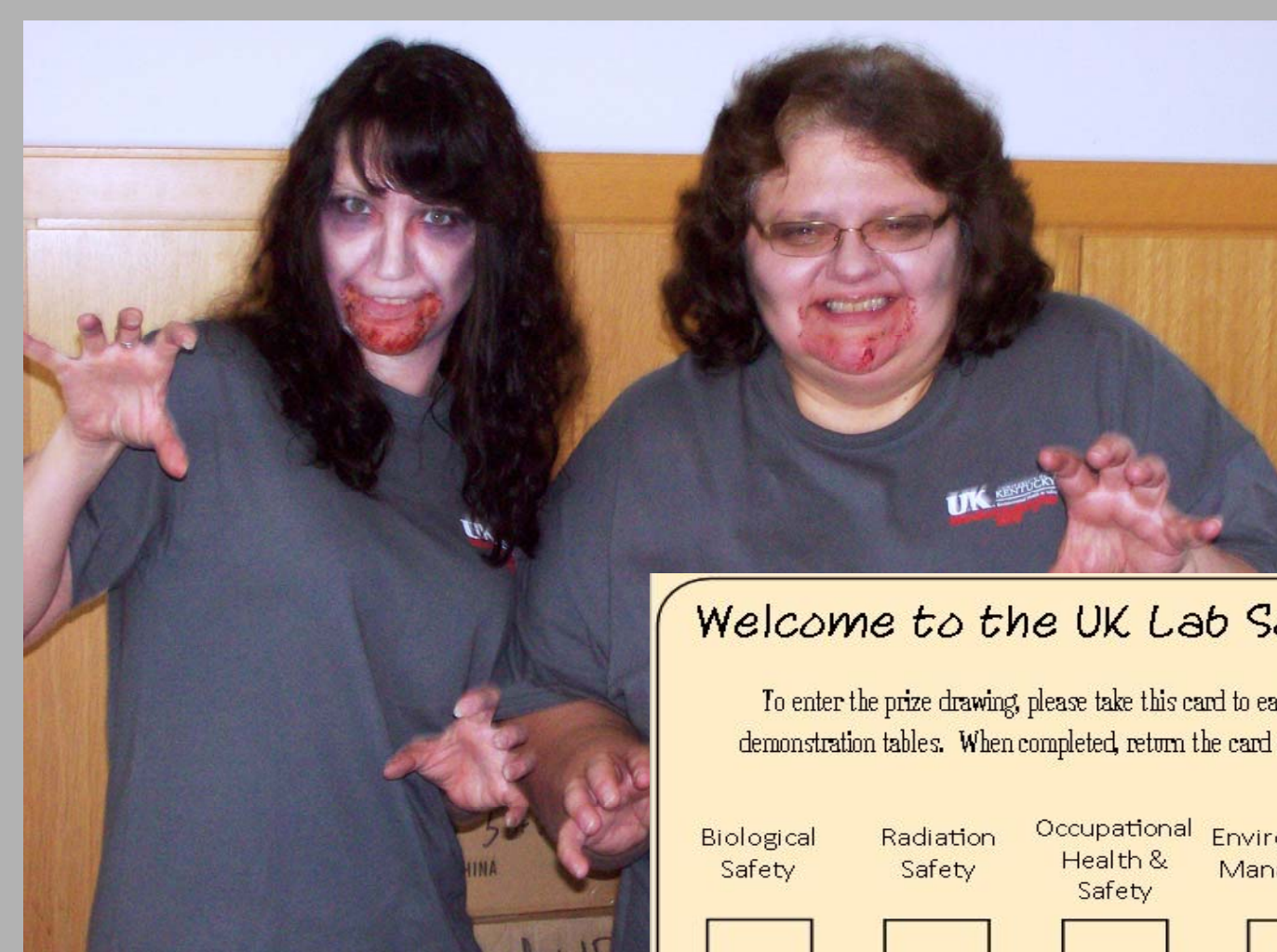
Method

In 2013, UK EH&S organized a Laboratory Safety Fair with five distinct EH&S departments participating. This event included interactive learning activities, prizes, educational displays, and food all provided in a positive, entertaining atmosphere. The fair was scheduled in late October near Halloween. To capitalize on the festive nature of this time of the year, it was decided to brand the fair with a "zombie" style theme with the headline "Help Prevent the Zombie Apocalypse." Staff dressed in zombie and zombie hunter style costumes, and décor was used to support the "zombie apocalypse" theme.



Each of the five UK EH&S departments created an interactive booth for the fair. The goals of each booth were to provide a presentation consisting of both a face to face introduction to the respective department and a brief, in person training opportunity to each participant.

To encourage participants to engage with EH&S staff, a punch card was provided to each participant at the fair welcome table by zombies. To be eligible for prize drawings, a participant would complete the punch card by visiting the five EH&S department booths, completing learning activities, and returning the punch card to the welcome table.



Fire Marshal



Environmental Management



Biological Safety



Radiation Safety



Occupational Health & Safety

Results

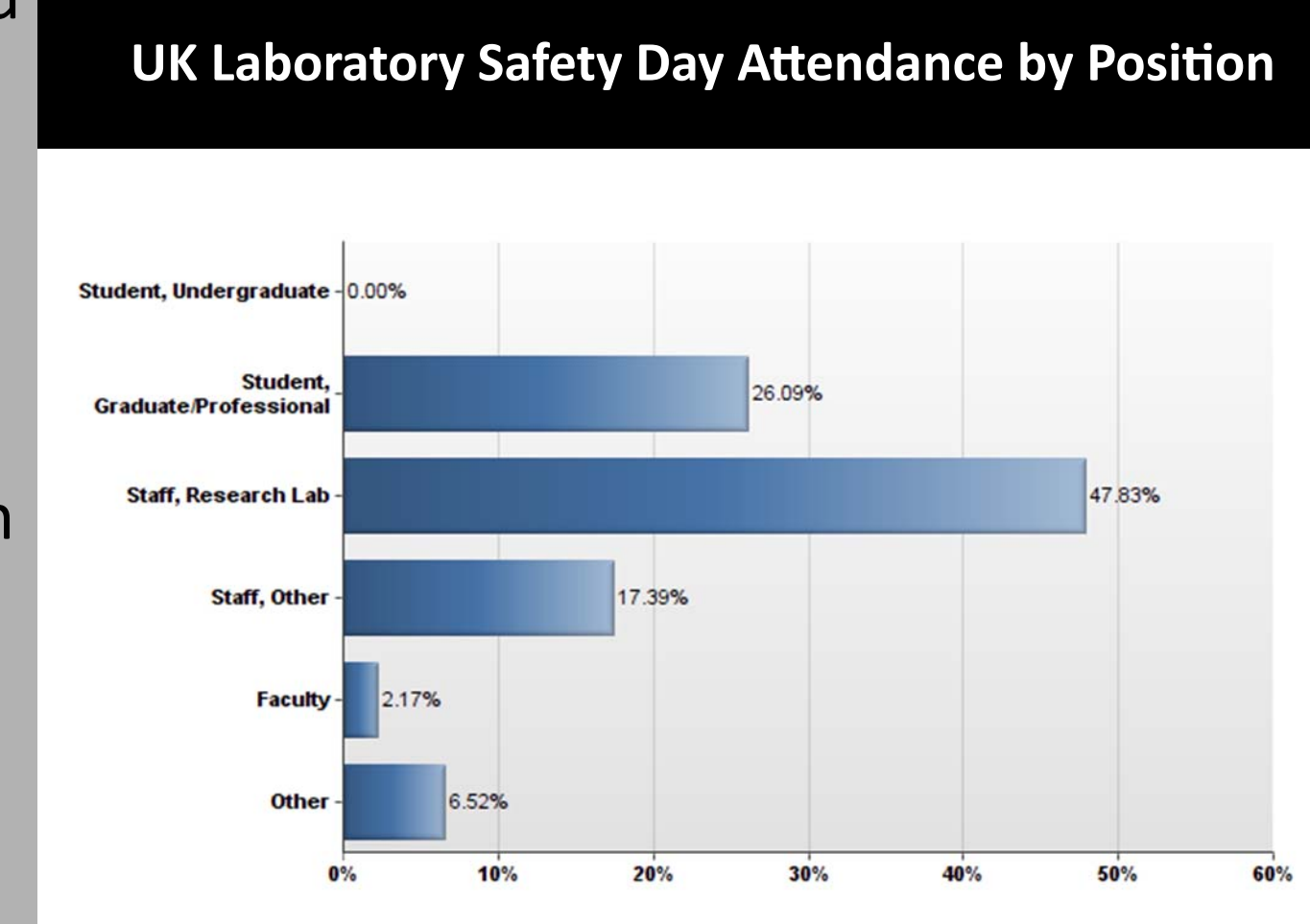
The UK Laboratory Safety Fair attracted large crowds, comprised of an overwhelming representation of our target audience, research lab personnel.

400 Personnel Estimated in Attendance

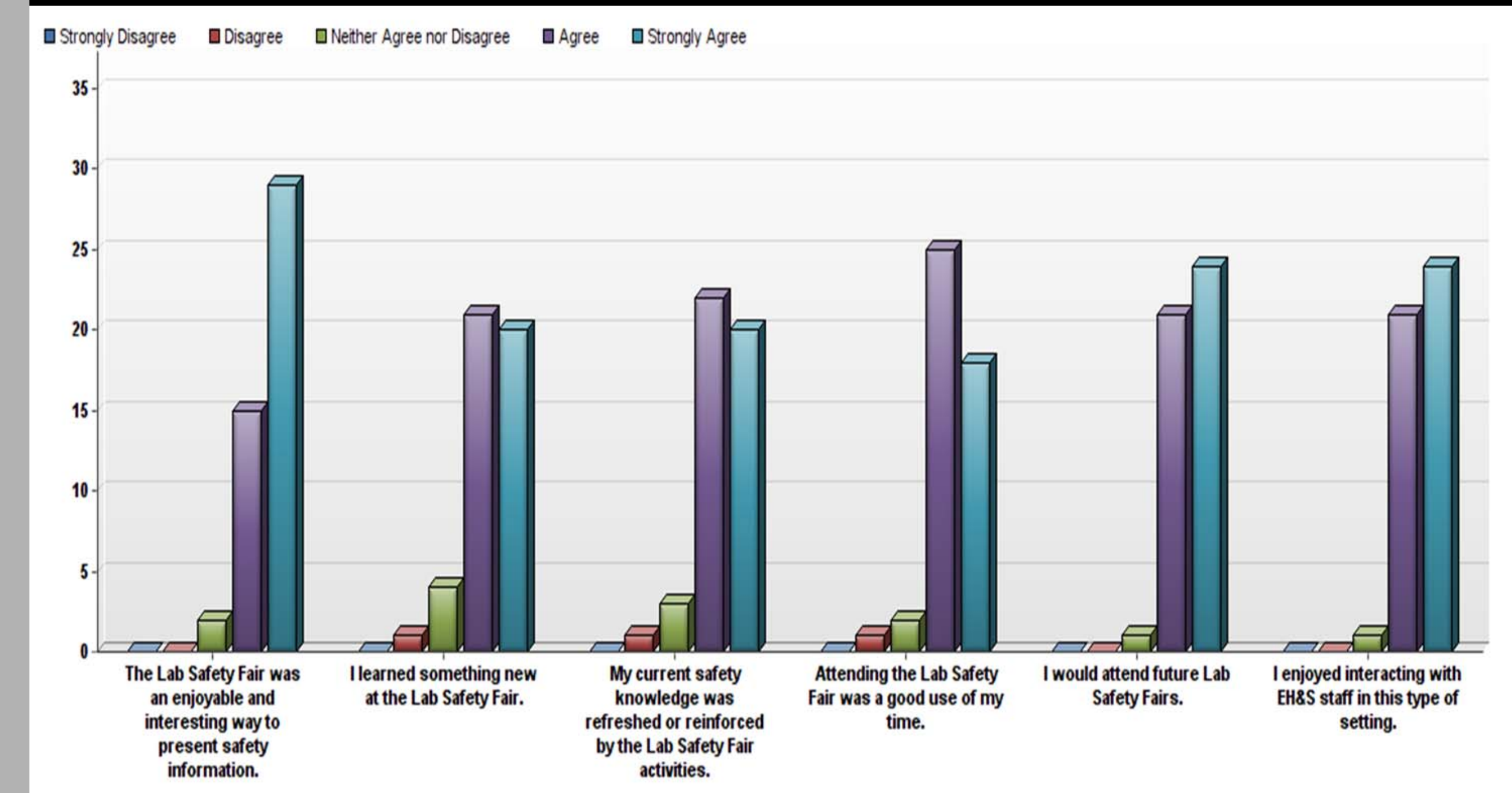
210 Personnel Completed Punch Cards

1050 Documented Interactions with UK EH&S Departments!

A survey conducted after the fair provided a great snapshot of our ability to achieve our goals. Although only 46 participants responded to the survey, data suggested that the community served by EH&S was very pleased to interact with EH&S staff in a more informal, fun environment. We have also received continued feedback from research laboratory personnel that they greatly appreciated this activity.



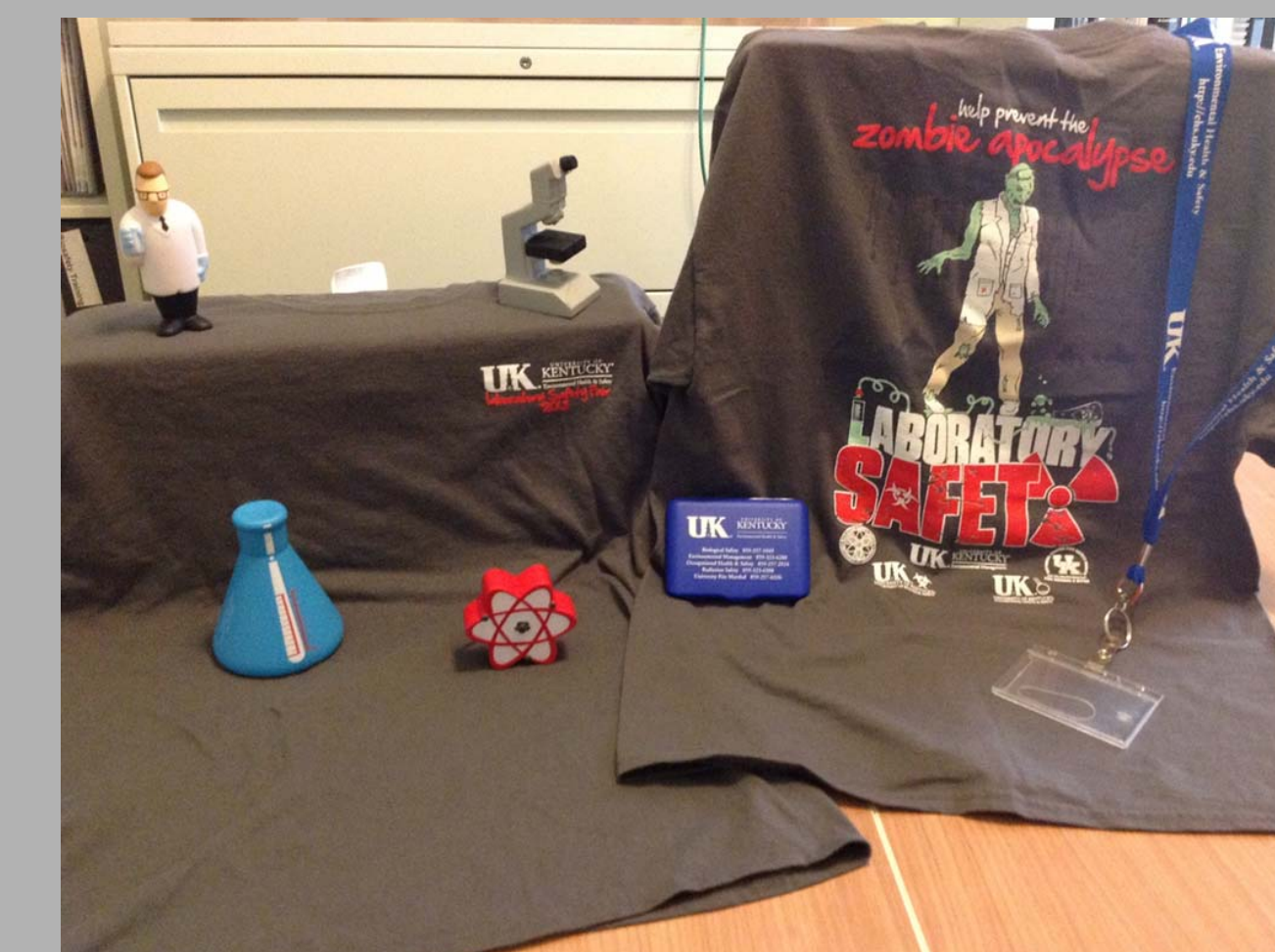
Results of UK Laboratory Safety Day Participant Survey



Conclusion



The UK EH&S Laboratory Safety Fair was a great success and will become an annual activity with rotating locations to capture the entire research laboratory community. This type of informal activity is invaluable to providing personal contact and positive impressions for a community that requires extensive EH&S support.



Outcomes

UK EH&S engaged the research lab community and refreshed their training on a variety of core EH&S topics. We also provided a better understanding of the types of support and services that the different departments within EH&S can provide to our research personnel. Creating positive EH&S relationships is essential to building a culture of safety. For 2014, two unique UK Laboratory Safety Fairs at different campus locations are planned in an effort to reach even more UK laboratory personnel. The theme of these events will be "Laboratory Safety Nightmare." We are estimating 700 total attendees this year.

