When Leaders Are Held Accountable and Take Responsibility, Reporters Are More Likely to Speak Up in the Future

Employees are more likely to report again if they strongly agree accountability is present.

Reporters are approximately 2X more committed to future reporting if leaders are held accountable and accept responsibility. Beliefs about supervisors are particularly powerful.



Reporting Rates

Why Does This Matter?

Ensuring that those who have already chosen to report would do so again is "low hanging fruit" when it comes to promoting a speak-up culture. When those who have spoken up continue to, it benefits the organization and promotes a culture of transparency and adherence to organizational values.

What Should You Do?

- Promote reporting by ensuring that appropriate action is taken when misconduct occurs and, on an ongoing basis, by creating an atmosphere where leaders acknowledge, own, and address problems.
- Communicate regularly with reporters both throughout and after the reporting process so they are aware of the difference they make (and kept safe from retaliation).

Links to ECI Resources



Taking the Walk Case #20: Some (Re)Assembly Required



Accountability: Accepting and Ensuring Responsibility

Encouraging Employee Reporting Through PROCEDURAL JUSTICE

Note: Data are based on the global median of 42 countries from the 2023 Global Business Ethics Survey® (GBES®).

