



Keyword Site Story

[Home](#) [Contact](#) [Site Map](#) [Search](#) [Help/Info](#) [Your First Stop](#)

Omaha World-Herald



IN THE NEWS

- [Metro](#)
- [Region](#)
- [Nation & World](#)
- [Elections](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)**
- [Education](#)
- [Health & Fitness](#)
- [Living](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [AP Update](#)

ENTERTAINMENT

- [News & Reviews](#)
- [Going Out](#)
- [Movie Listings](#)
- [TV Listings](#)

NEWS EXTRAS

- [Big Red Page](#)
- [HS SportsZone](#)
- [Your Legislature](#)
- [Changing Omaha](#)
- [More News Extras](#)

OWH SERVICES

- [Archives](#)
- [Info Center](#)
- [Subscriptions](#)

[Careers](#)

Business

- » [MAIN](#)
- » [AP News](#)
- » [21-Day Archive](#)



Published Monday
January 19, 2004

Meetings a 'waste of time' for many

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Say the words "office meeting," and some workers dive for cover.

A survey of 1,216 employees commissioned by Interactive Meeting Solutions, a high-tech meeting firm in California, found that 29 percent of workers attend three or more meetings per week, and 34 percent say most are a "complete waste of time."

The survey, which was conducted by Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton, had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The survey found that some workers bring their Palm Pilots and cell phones to meetings in order to liven up or escape a dull gathering. In all, 8 percent of the workers polled said they played electronic games at meetings, and 14 percent of those workers were 18 to 24 years old, IMS said.

To escape a boring meeting, 5 percent of workers have had a friend or co-worker give them a bogus page or cell phone call.

Said IMS President Chuck McPherson: "Handled incorrectly, the modern meeting has to rank as one of America's most excruciating and masochistic workplace experiences around. And a bad meeting only creates yet another bad meeting."

- [Today's Health Tip](#)
- [AUTOSHOW 2004](#)
- [Kid&Explore](#)
- [ShopOmaha®](#)
- [Restaurant Guide](#)
- [E-Coupons/Offers](#)
- [Reader Comments](#)
- [AutoMall](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Money & Investing](#)
- [VisitOmaha!](#)
- [Advertise With Us](#)
- [Community Partners](#)
- Virtual Newsstand**
Publications to suit your needs.
- Newspapers:**
- [Omaha World-Herald](#)
- [SARPY COUNTY News](#)
- Magazines:**
- [Alegent Health healthy LIVING](#)
- [in an house HOME](#)
- E-Pubs:**
- [omaha boys town pediatrics](#)
- [Boy Scouts of America](#)
- [METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)
-
- [Qwest Dexonline](#)
- [Member Services](#)
- [Mapquest](#)
- [Weather](#)

The survey does offer some good news: Meetings at small companies tend to be more effective than those at bigger firms.

Small firms also hold fewer meetings. Thirty-seven percent of the workers at large companies attend three or more work-related meetings each week, compared to just 21 percent of the workers at small companies.

Sixty-seven percent of workers at large companies, compared with 52 percent at small firms, said their meetings could benefit from more honesty.

Additionally, 35 percent of the workers at big firms said that if people were really truthful at a meeting, they would probably get fired. Only 24 percent of the workers at small firms said they'd get the ax for being honest.

Of those employed by big companies, 50 percent said they have attended a meeting where an employee in attendance fell asleep. Only 26 percent of people at small companies said they have seen a worker fall asleep.

Contact the Omaha World-Herald [newsroom](#)



 [Back to Top](#)

[◀ Link to the Reader Comment Board ▶](#)

[Home](#) | [Contact](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Search](#) | [Help/Info](#) | [Your First Stop](#)

©2004 Omaha World-Herald. All rights reserved. [Copyright](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Questions?](#) [Comments?](#) [Suggestions?](#) webmaster@omaha.com