

Surveying the Risk and Threat Landscape to Family Offices

Insights and
Recommendations

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In addition to all of our partners who contributed, Dentons would like to extend a special thanks to the representatives of Boston Private for their extraordinary contribution to this report, an unabridged version of which can be found at <http://www.dentons.com/SurveyingTheRisk-full>.



Introduction

The risk and threat landscape for family offices continues to evolve and present new challenges. COVID-19 created new risk issues for families to consider and manage, but the pandemic is only one dimension of the increasingly complex threat environment that family offices face.

Risks to wealthy families are nothing new. John D. Rockefeller, and other magnates of his era, used family offices to oversee their vast fortunes. However, Rockefeller's family office never had to deal with cyber ransomware attacks or privacy breaches stemming from the social media accounts of his children.

The evolving ways that family office risk and threat management systems can be breached has made the task so much harder. Executives continue to struggle to find effective responses to these multi-faceted threats (physical, financial, health, cyber, and privacy-related).

Moreover, the attitudes around risk of many principals and family office executives opens this group up to specialized problems. Vendors and families alike have seen this manifest itself in: 1) an underestimation and overlooking of threats; 2) frustration and perplexity concerning effective protective measures; and 3) a reactionary mindset at family offices or constantly putting out operational fires.

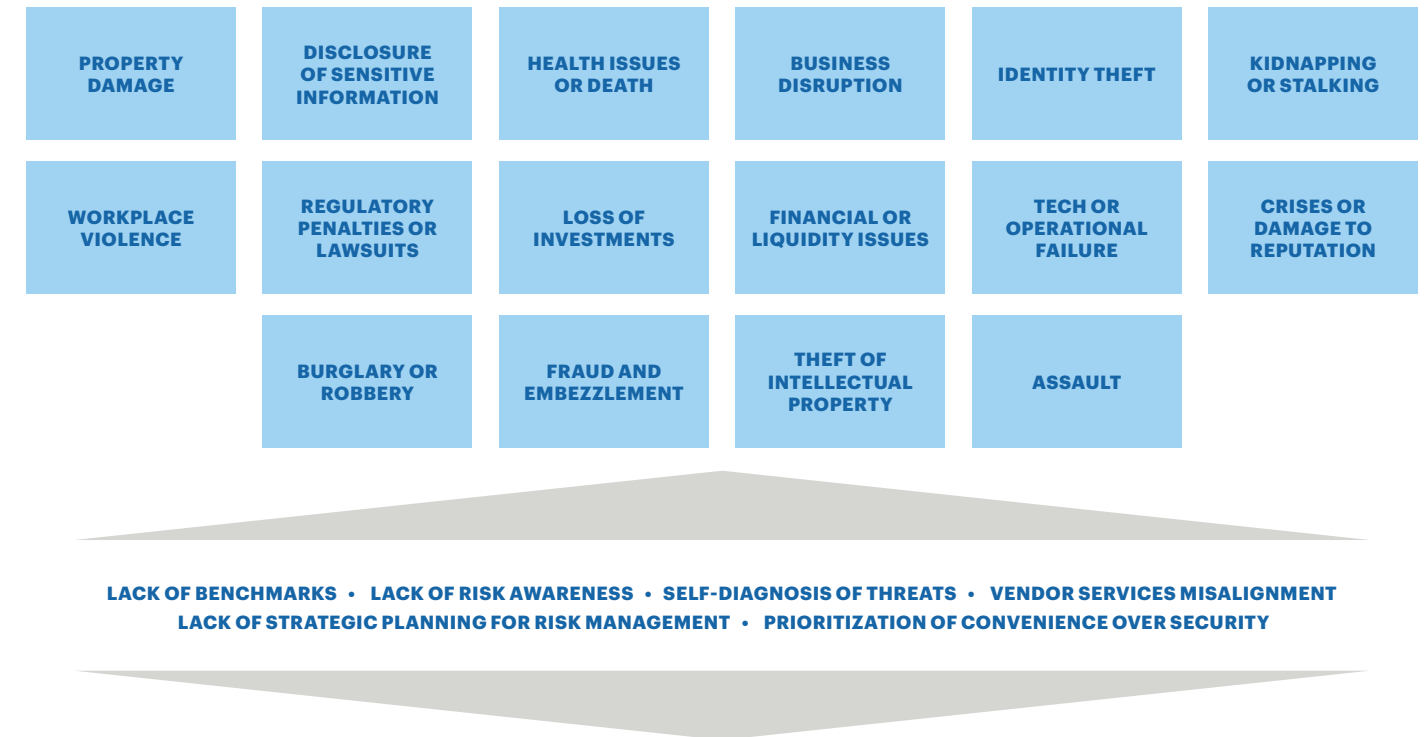
The figure on the next page provides a view of the multitude of risks and threats that family offices face and a list of services that vendors have available to protect and mitigate those problems. The figure also illustrates the common barriers that prevent both family offices and vendors from working effectively today, specifically around:

- Lack of relevant risk and threat benchmarks for family offices;
- Lack of risk awareness by family offices;
- Self-diagnosis of risks and threats by family offices;
- Misalignment of vendor services and a lack of relevant experience in working with family offices;
- Failure to implement strategic planning around risk and;
- General complacency or prioritization of convenience over security in a family office environment.

Family offices sometimes fall through the cracks of being big enough to be specifically targeted, but not having in place the strong risk management measures typical of bigger organizations, hence leaving them very vulnerable.

– Kevin Hulbert, Dentons LLP

THE FAMILY OFFICE RISK VENDOR LANDSCAPE: RISK AND THREAT CONSEQUENCES



RISK SERVICES CATEGORIZED BY SOURCE OF THREAT TO A FAMILY OFFICE

INTERNAL SOURCES	BLEND	EXTERNAL SOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background checks on employees and business/ personal associates • Insider threat program - family and employees • Personal security awareness training • Workplace threat management and training • Continuity of operation • Common operating picture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment and general business due diligence • Regular threat assessments • Psychological profiling • Acute medical emergencies • Chronic medical conditions • Reputation management • Internet of things • Crisis management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective details • Residential, estate and commercial facility security • Threat intelligence • Kidnapping and terrorism threat management • Private aviation and maritime security • Collectibles and high-value item security and logistical support • Technical security countermeasures • 24/7 watch centers • Natural disasters

To study these issues with the aim of shedding light on some of the underlying causes of these problems, we conducted a research project to better understand the family office risk landscape. We asked over 200 family office insiders to give us their thoughts on risk and threat matters they face every day. The results were illuminating and answered many questions and provided some unexpected insights into the risk management characteristics and behaviors of family offices. These findings open new areas to evaluate and present opportunities for families and vendors to address risk more effectively.

Key Findings

An online survey conducted by our partners with over 200 family office executives at single and multi-family offices, primarily in the US, has uncovered some worrying approaches to the risks family offices face, particularly cyber risk, family-related risk, investment risk and employment-related/insider risks.



POOR RISK MANAGEMENT MINDSETS

A change in mindset is needed at many family offices, which either underestimate threat levels (47%) or are complacent about risks (41%). Limited staff, as well as an emphasis on cost and convenience, are other obstacles to better risk management.



PREVALENCE OF CYBER ATTACKS ON FAMILY OFFICES

Over a quarter (26%) of family offices have suffered a cyberattack. In almost two-thirds of these cases, it happened within the last 12 months.



FINDING GOOD VENDORS IS A CHALLENGE

For over a third (35%) of family offices finding a good external risk and threat management vendor is a major challenge, along with a lack of tailored approaches for family offices (35%) among external vendors.



HEALTH AND TRAVEL RISKS ARE NEGLECTED

International travel and health advisory risk and threat management services are neglected by a large majority of family offices. Only 16% use medical advisory services, despite the disruption from significant health issues and the increasing sophistication of medical advisory and risk management tools.



UNDERESTIMATING CYBER RISKS

Smaller and newer family offices underestimate both the likelihood (15% compared to 25% at larger family offices) and potential impact of cyberattacks (38% expect a major or catastrophic impact from a cyberattack compared to 52% at larger family offices). Older and larger family offices are more likely to have implemented cybersecurity measures (60% versus 31% for newer family offices).



LACK OF COVID-19 READINESS

Almost three-in-ten family offices (29%) did not have a business continuity plan in place before the COVID-19 pandemic. And over a quarter (27%) said implementing secure remote working protocols is one of their top risk management challenges.



POTENTIAL RISK VULNERABILITIES CAUSED BY THIRD-PARTY VENDORS

Over a quarter (28%) of family offices have never carried out a review of the risks and threats from using a third-party vendor.



NEED FOR A STRONG PEER NETWORK OF FAMILY OFFICES CENTERED AROUND RISK

Over a quarter of family offices have developed a network of family offices to share best practices and vendor recommendations, while almost 60% want to see more conferences to help do this.



NEED FOR INCREASED TRAINING AND STRESS TESTING

While over half (58%) of family offices have trained employees and family members on risks, only around a quarter (28%) have conducted stress tests or scenario analysis to back up training and planning.



NEED FOR BETTER INSIDER THREAT INTEL AND PROCEDURES

Eighty one percent do not conduct periodic background checks on all personnel, with 68% only doing this when staff are first hired.



A FOCUS ON DOWNSIDE INVESTMENT RISK

Mitigating tail risk is the most common primary focus for family offices (36%) when considering investment risk.

Risk and Threat Management Overhaul Needed

A Culture of Underestimating Risks and a Need to Change Family Office Mindsets

Family offices face a range of challenges, from an uncertain investment climate, to the repercussions of the global COVID-19 pandemic, to the operational challenges of maintaining privacy and managing assets securely in a digital world. While most family offices, manned by experienced and capable professionals, may feel able to cope with the investment issues they face, risk and threat management is becoming a tougher nut to crack. While their relatively small size can bring advantages, such as speed and flexibility, the inherently limited budget at many family offices can make risk management more challenging due to a potential lack of resources and specialized expertise.

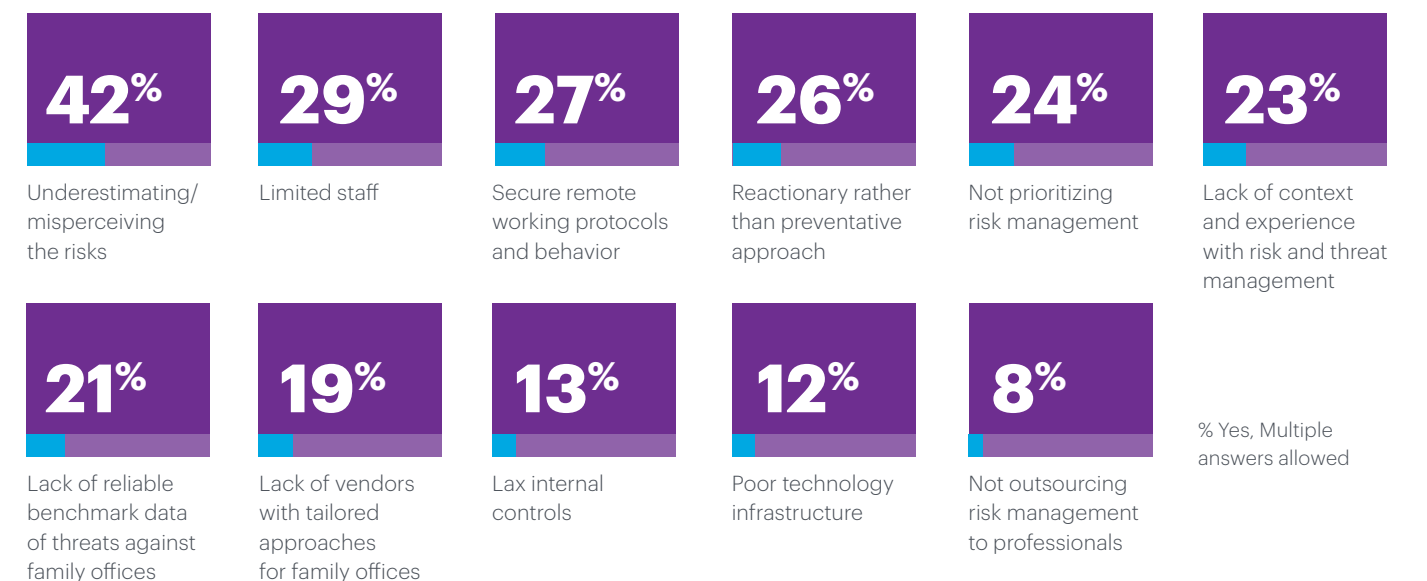
Furthermore, if family offices lack the internal expertise, controls, and technology infrastructure to defend against the wide-ranging hazards they face, then the threat of these risks could be multiplied by poor attitudes towards risk management, characterized by a mindset of complacency and underestimating risk.

The survey findings clearly show how a dangerous combination of limited resources and poor attitudes could expose family offices in terms of risk management. For instance, 42% of respondents put underestimating or misperceiving the risks as one of their top risk management challenges. If risks are being underestimated, this helps explain the finding that 41% of respondents state that complacency is one of the main obstacles in implementing risk management measures in their family office.

Other findings provide more evidence that family offices are in danger of falling short on risk management, due to deficiencies in their mindset and culture, as well as a lack of suitable resources. So while 29% of family offices say having limited staff is a top risk management challenge, this is compounded by around a quarter (26%) of family offices having a reactionary, rather than preventative approach as one of their top risk management challenges, along with 24% agreeing that not prioritizing risk management is a significant challenge.

FAMILY OFFICES FACE VARIOUS RISK MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

What are the top risk management challenges for your family office?



Allied to the challenges of remote working and risk management, nearly a quarter (23%) of family offices put a lack of context and experience with risk and threat management as a top risk management challenge. A smaller number (13%) see lax internal controls as a top risk management challenge, while 12% cite poor technology infrastructure and just under one-in-ten (8%) cite not outsourcing risk management to professionals as risk management challenges for family offices.

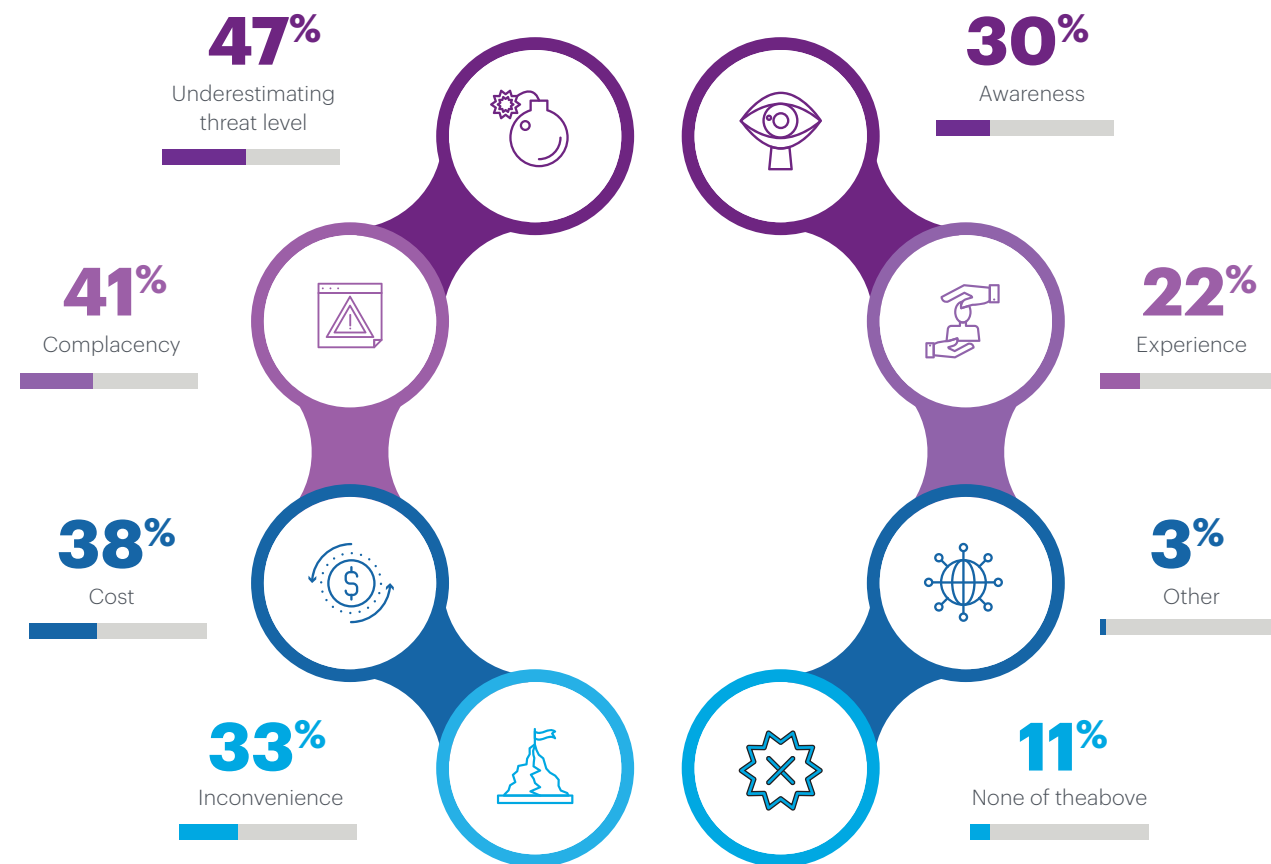
Two other risk management challenges are finding reliable benchmark data on the threats to family offices and also vendors with tailored approaches to family offices. Around one in five family offices give these two issues as top risk management challenges for them. Again, these challenges add to the worrying picture

of a lax and complacent approach to risk management, and a lack of staff and other resources that are needed.

As well as needing to improve their mindset towards risk management, family offices also face cost and inconvenience, among other obstacles to risk management. Nearly four in ten (38%) family offices cite cost as a main obstacle and a third (33%) see inconvenience as an obstacle. Awareness (30%) and experience (22%) can also be obstacles to implementing risk management measures at family offices. These findings further show that family offices need to address both cultural issues and also find the resources needed to ensure that their risk management systems are capable of dealing with the mix of threats they face.

UNDERESTIMATING THREATS AND COMPLACENCY ARE OBSTACLES TO RISK MANAGEMENT AT FAMILY OFFICES

What are the main obstacles to implementation of risk management measures in your family office?



% Yes, Multiple answers allowed

Over 25% of Family Offices Have Been Hacked... Now What?

Just over a quarter (26%) of family offices have suffered a cyberattack in the past and nearly a fifth (17%) say this has happened within the last 12 months. These results show that cyberattacks are a very real threat for family offices.

Over half (54%) of family offices say that they are prepared for risk to their organization in the coming year, while 38% are somewhat prepared. However, this finding is at odds with other results, such as the fact that 47% of respondents say underestimating the threat level is obstructing the implementation of risk management in their family office, or that 41% say that complacency is an obstacle to the implementation of risk management measures at their family office. These findings strongly suggest that many family offices are overestimating their risk management capabilities, especially when taken with other findings on the risk management challenges faced by family offices.

CYBERATTACKS AGAINST FAMILY OFFICES

Has your family office suffered a cyberattack in the last 12 months?



Has your family office ever suffered a cyberattack?



Of note is that on the one hand so many family offices are open about their security shortcomings... acknowledging that they routinely underestimate/misperceive the threats... but on the other hand, 54% of family offices believe they are prepared for the risks next year. This disconnect shows the importance of working with outside experts to help see the forest through the trees and to protect against complex risks.

- Chad Sweet, The Chertoff Group

FAMILY OFFICES ON THEIR RISK MANAGEMENT ABILITIES

How prepared are you in dealing with risks to your organization in the coming year?



The risks of overestimating risk management programs by family offices are also shown by the finding that 39% of respondents think that their family office risk management program is better than their peers, while 51% see it as being on a par with their peers and only 9% see it as worse than their peers. These results are consistent with the finding that as many as 41% of family offices say that complacency is an obstacle to risk management at family offices. In any event, the mismatch between these findings and results elsewhere suggest that a comprehensive review of risk management could be very timely, given the fact that cyberattacks are becoming more common and remote working is increasingly the norm, due to COVID-19.

When comparing themselves to their peers, smaller family offices with less staff are less likely to rate their risk management program as better than their peers. Only 22% of family offices with three or fewer staff do this, compared to 52% for family offices with more than 15 staff, 36% for those with nine to 15 staff, and 39% for those with four to eight staff. Here, smaller family offices are likely to be less sophisticated in terms of using risk management programs and also be aware of this shortcoming.

Almost three-quarters (73%) of family offices say their overall risk budget in their family office has stayed the same in the last year. One in four (26%) say it has increased and only 1% say it has decreased.

Misconceptions Over the Threat of Cyberattacks

The survey finds that family offices could be vulnerable to cyberattacks as a result of misconceptions about the nature of cybercrime and a focus on short-term convenience over longer term planning and risk management. This further backs up the findings on a poor mindset and resource constraints which may hamper effective risk management.

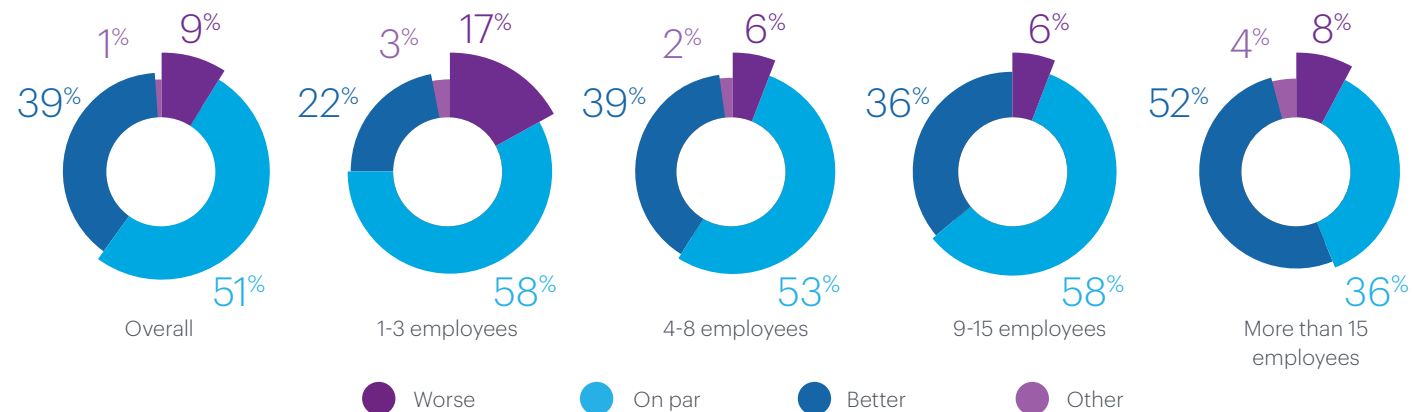
44% of family office respondents agree that family offices tend to prioritize convenience over security, while 31% agree that family office principals focus on short-term operational matters at the expense of long-

term strategic planning and risk management (and 32% are neutral on this). These findings add weight to the view that risk management is less of a priority and focus for family offices than it should be.

At the same time, many respondents see cyberattacks as less of a threat to family offices, compared to larger and more prominent institutions. Over a quarter (27%) of family office respondents agree that the majority of sophisticated cyberattacks are directed at large corporations and governments, while exactly a quarter are neutral on this. And a fifth of respondents believe that family offices are less susceptible to cyberattacks because they are 'under the radar' and another 23% are neutral on this.

LARGER FAMILY OFFICES SEE THEIR RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AS BETTER

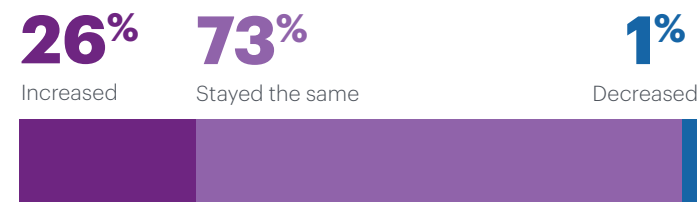
Relative to your peers, how would you rate your family office risk management program?



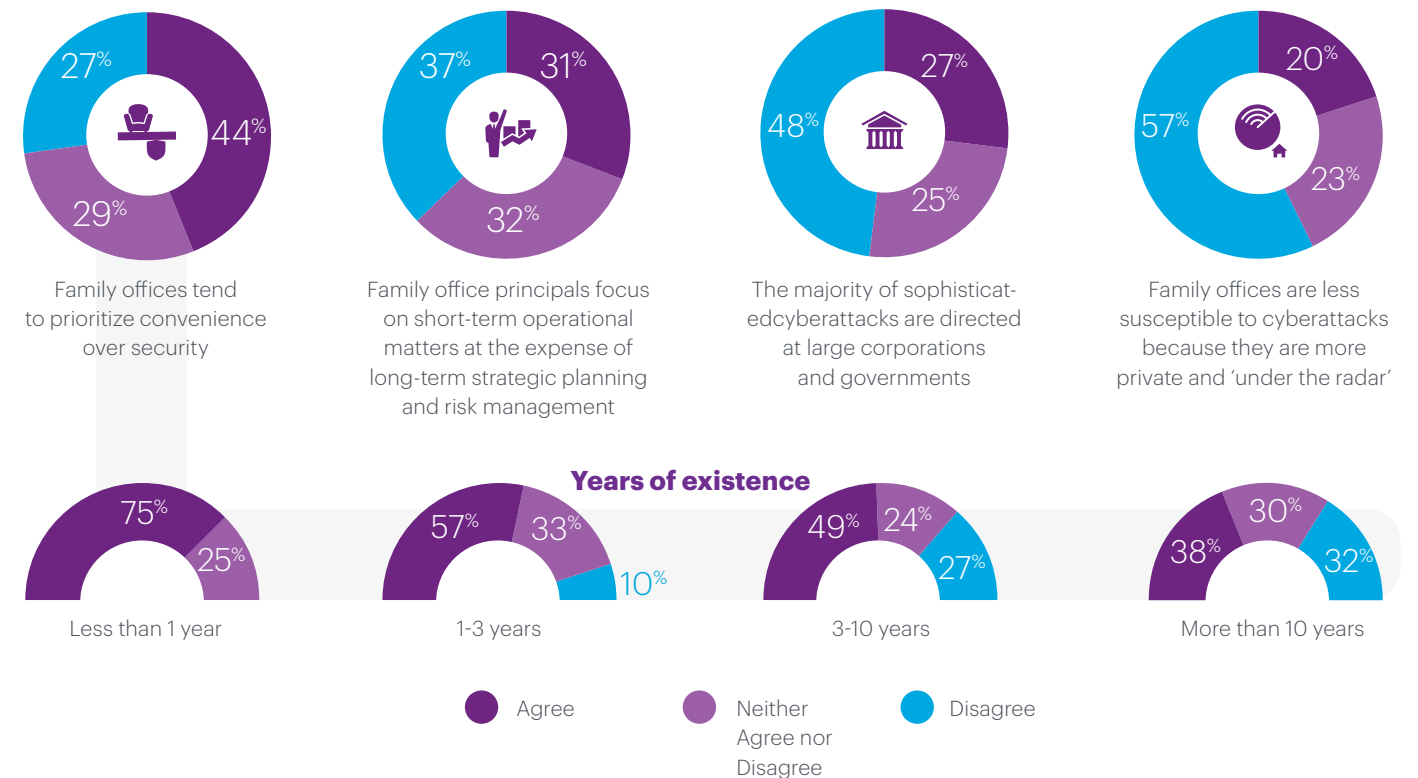
MOST RISK BUDGETS UNCHANGED IN THE LAST YEAR

How has the overall risk budget in your family office changed in the last year?

Almost three-quarters (73%) of family offices say their overall risk budget in their family office has stayed the same in the last year. One in four (26%) say it has increased and only 1% say it has decreased.



MANY FAMILY OFFICES FOCUS ON CONVENIENCE AND THE SHORT-TERM



Taken together, this indicates that there are family offices with a weak grasp on security and risk management, and that also believe cybercriminals are less likely to target family offices, which could, in the circumstances, be a dangerous belief to hold.

One interesting finding here is that newer family offices are more likely to agree that family offices tend to prioritize convenience over security. Over half (57%) of family offices in existence for up to three years agreed or strongly agreed, with this, compared to 49% in existence for three to 10 years and 38% in existence for more than 10 years. Here, it is likely that older family offices have learned through experience that security is more important than convenience, a lesson which younger family offices are likely to learn with the passing of time.

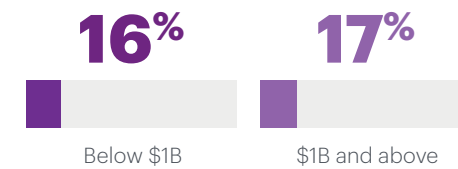


Family offices face the challenge that there is little or no ROI on proving a negative from what-if scenarios. For every dollar spent in other parts of a FO or organization, security many times is overlooked because it cannot be measured until a problem occurs. At that point, it's too late. Remediation and incident response could cost orders of magnitude higher compared to being proactive and being ready with an effective defensive risk and threat management game.

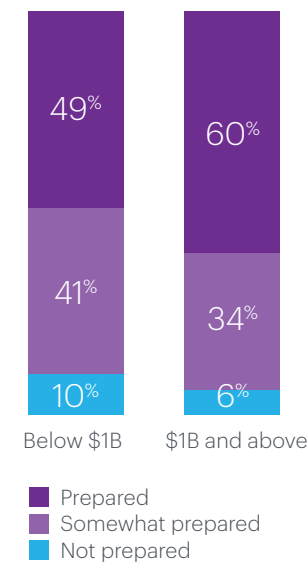
– Jeremy King, Benchmark

Smaller Family Offices (by Asset Size) Underestimate Cyberattacks

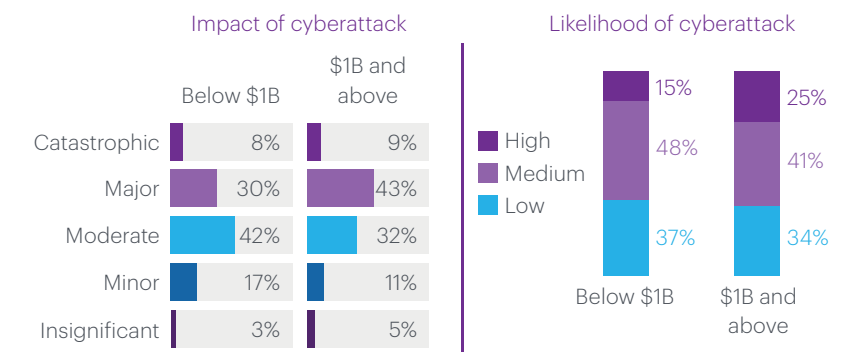
DESPITE FACING A SIMILAR NUMBER OF CYBERATTACKS IN THE LAST YEAR...



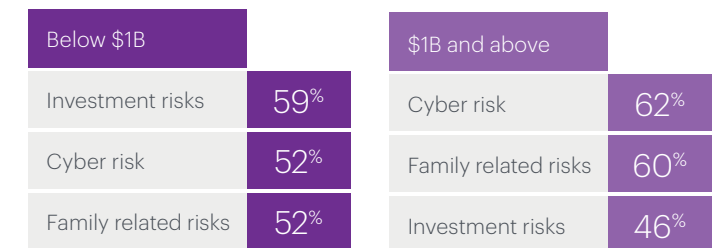
SMALLER FAMILY OFFICES ARE LESS PREPARED TO HANDLE RISK.



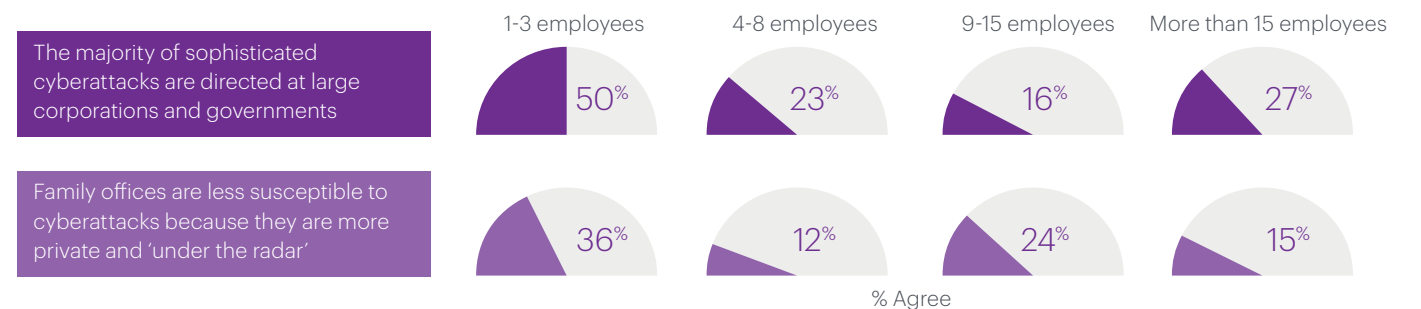
...SMALLER FAMILY OFFICES UNDERESTIMATE CYBERATTACKS - BOTH ITS IMPACT AND LIKELIHOOD.



CYBER RISKS ALSO RANK LOWER THAN INVESTMENT RISKS FOR SMALLER FAMILY OFFICES.



SMALLER FAMILY OFFICES, IN TERMS OF STAFF MEMBERS, HAVE DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS FROM LARGER FAMILY OFFICES.



Misalignment of Needs and Services

A Need for a Better-Coordinated Set of Risk Management Services

With cybersecurity among the top risks, it is a little surprising then that less than half (47%) of family offices offer cybersecurity as a risk management service. In addition to cybersecurity, insurance (68%) and legal services (51%) are among the top risk and threat management services implemented by family offices as part of their operations.

However, few family offices provide holistic risk and threat management services. Critical services like privacy and reputation management, physical security, international travel and personnel evaluation and monitoring are provided by only about a quarter of family offices.

International Travel and Health Advisory Services are Critical Risk Services but Infrequently Implemented by Family Offices

The survey data suggests that family offices have developed strong risk management mechanisms within the financial risk management domain. However, much more common is the major disruption of family affairs and continuity due to significant health issues or untimely death. Yet only 16% of respondents

of the survey indicated that they hire professional management for their health care risk management.

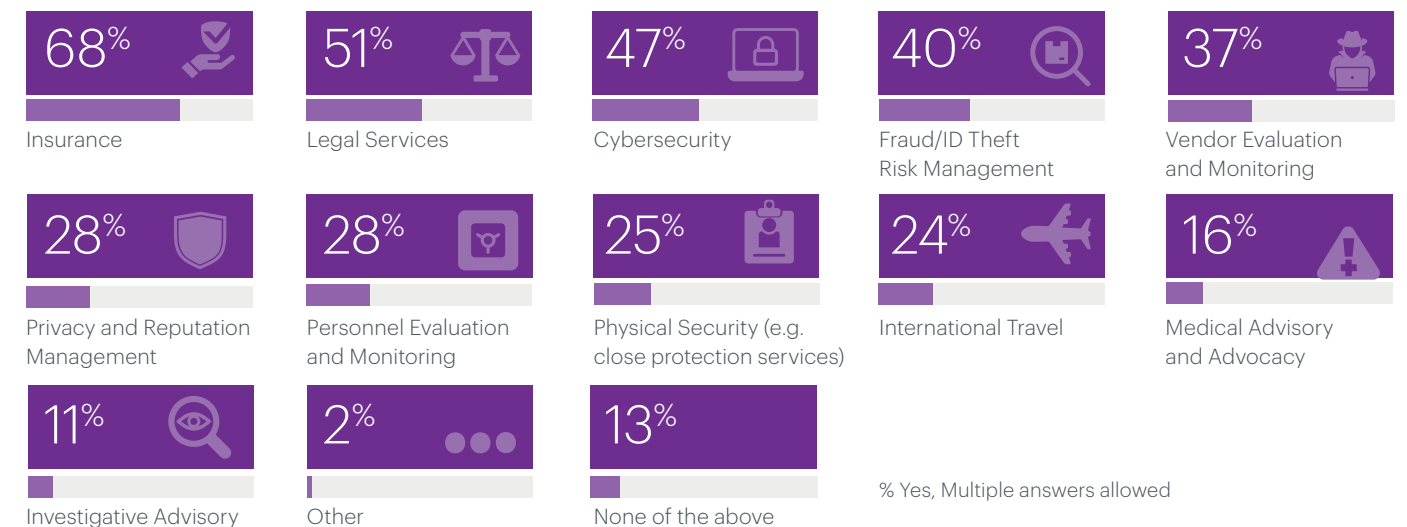
Today, the tools one has to manage health risk and significantly increase longevity are now actually better than the financial risk management tools used to protect wealth. Private health advisory for family offices offers an array of sophisticated tools for preventive diagnostic health assessments, carefully coordinated major case management and global coverage in case of emergency.

Rapid innovation in medicine has created an amazing opportunity to reduce health risk and measurably extend healthy life. However, the same rapid innovation cycle creates information and health system navigation gaps that leave even sophisticated family offices struggling to choose optimal solutions.

– John Prufeta, Medical Excellence International

RISK AND THREAT MANAGEMENT SERVICES IMPLEMENTED BY FAMILY OFFICES

Which of the following risk and threat management services do you implement as part of the family office operations?



How Family Offices Are Tackling Cybersecurity

Given the increasing risks of cyberattacks on family offices, there is an urgent need for family offices to implement cybersecurity measures to protect themselves. This has been addressed to an extent, although it is clear that more can, and should, be done.

For example, 72% of family offices have trained staff on how to work properly and securely in a remote environment. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to most investment professionals having to work remotely, this is a basic requirement for family office personnel. If over a quarter of family office staff have not been trained in working safely from a remote location, this represents a potential vulnerability at this time.

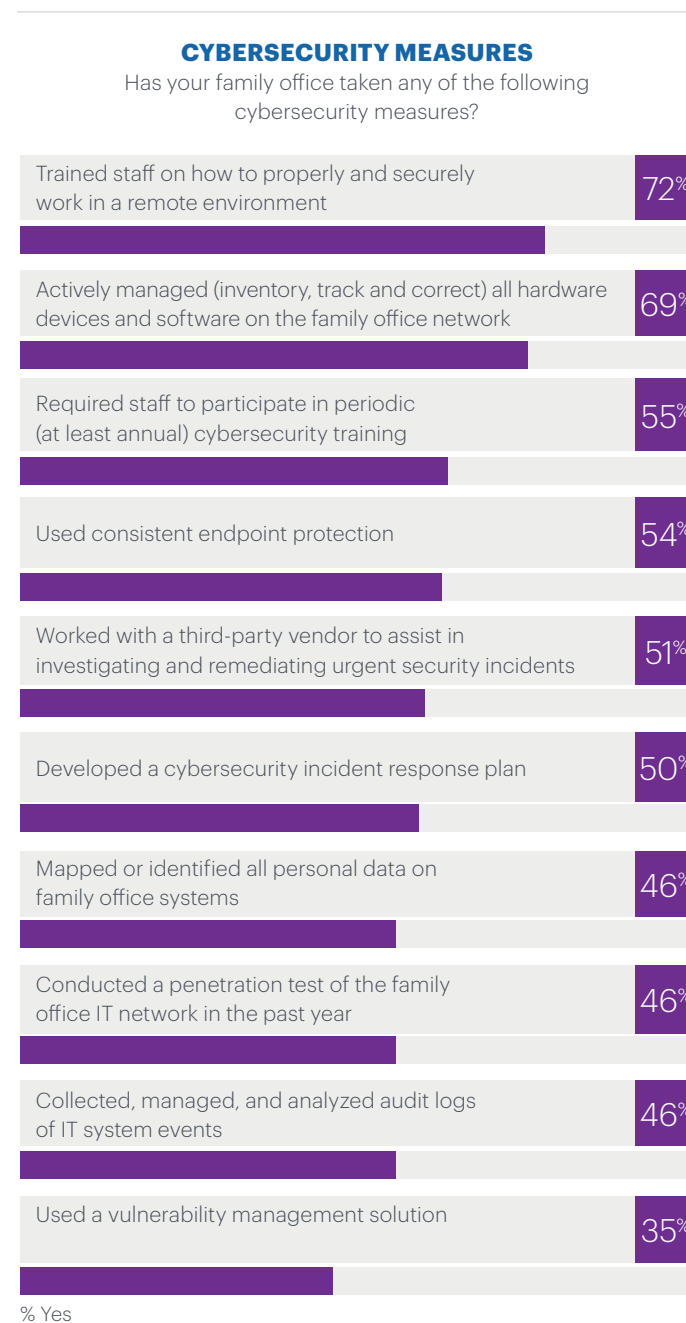
A similar number (69%) say that they actively manage all hardware and software on the family office network. Again, while it is good to see that this is being done by most family offices, it means a significant number are not doing this. As remote working during the pandemic could lead to family office personnel using new devices and software, it is more important than ever to maintain network security at family offices.

Around half of family offices use a variety of cybersecurity measures, including:

- Requiring staff to participate in periodic cybersecurity training (55%);
- Using consistent endpoint protection (54%);
- Working with a third-party vendor on investigating urgent security incidents (51%);
- Developing a cybersecurity incident response plan (50%);
- Mapping or identifying all personal data on family office systems (46%);
- Conducting penetration tests of the family office IT network in the past year (46%); and
- Keeping and using an audit log of IT system events (46%);

While it is good that these cybersecurity measures are being used, it could be argued that they should be used by virtually all family offices.

It is also surprising that only just over a third (35%) of family offices say they have used a vulnerability management solution. Whereas firewalls and antivirus software tools defend a network against attack on a reactive basis, a vulnerability management solution will actively look for weakness in a network and then take remedial action on a priority basis to reduce or



eliminate vulnerable areas in a network. It is therefore a more proactive approach to assessing and managing cybersecurity and should be used more widely by family offices.

Looking at the age of family offices, it is clear that older family offices, (in existence for more than 10 years), have generally taken more cybersecurity measures compared to newer family offices, (with less than 10 years' existence). For example, older family offices are more likely to have developed a cybersecurity response plan (60% for older family offices versus 31% for newer family offices), collected, managed and analyzed audit logs of IT system events (56% versus 33%), required staff to participate in periodic cybersecurity training (62% versus 44%), and mapped or identified all personal data on family office systems (53% versus 36%).

These differences are likely a reflection of a more structured and comprehensive risk management approach at older family offices, which is very likely to be due to their greater experience and resources. Family offices that have been set up more recently are more likely to be concentrating on investment and financial risks as priorities, as they commence operations. But these newer offices still need to take action on cybersecurity, as it is a major threat to all family offices.

Family Offices Fail to Carry Out Regular Background Checks on Staff

Insider threats stem from legitimate users who have approved access to computer systems in an organization. Threats from insiders can develop from either nefarious intent to cause harm to networks or from unsuspecting staff or family members who unintentionally compromise information systems or leak data. Insider threats can also come from former employees or third parties who have regular or privileged access to systems.

In the family office context, it is quite common to see employees with outsized access to information because of the lean staffing nature of most family offices. Combined with a focus of efficiency of operations over effective security and the low resource

allocation to IT and security functions that family offices encounter, insider threat issues are abundant in the family office world.

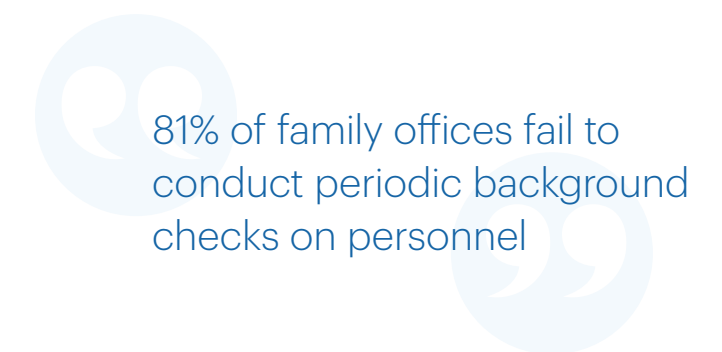
Moreover, detecting insider threats is not easy. They already have access (sometimes privileged access) to systems, they have valid access to systems, and determining the difference between malicious or nefarious activity versus regular activity can be difficult.

The study presented some interesting results on insider threats that should be examined further in future research, especially insider threats resulting from family members.

Personnel evaluation and monitoring is another critical service offered by only 28% of family offices. Of note, 81% of family offices fail to conduct regular background checks on family office staff. While 68% of family offices conduct background checks on hiring, most of them neglected to conduct follow up evaluations which creates a large source of vulnerability for family offices. More than one in ten (13%) never conduct background checks.

Only one in ten (12%) cite employee related/insider threats to be among the biggest risks facing family offices and a quarter say their impact will be catastrophic or major. Only 17% think these risks are likely.

Of those who conduct background checks, the data they are most likely to review are criminal records (86%), employment verification (80%) and professional licensing (72%).



Family Offices Need to Look to Outside Risk and Threat Expertise

The failure of family offices to use third-party security experts was a very interesting finding of this report. It underscores the importance of education of principals and staff on this critical topic for two reasons: family offices are usually not large enough to warrant staffing with risk and threat experts with relevant experience and the evolving nature of threats that family offices face requires outside expertise and updated technology solutions. When you add the complexities

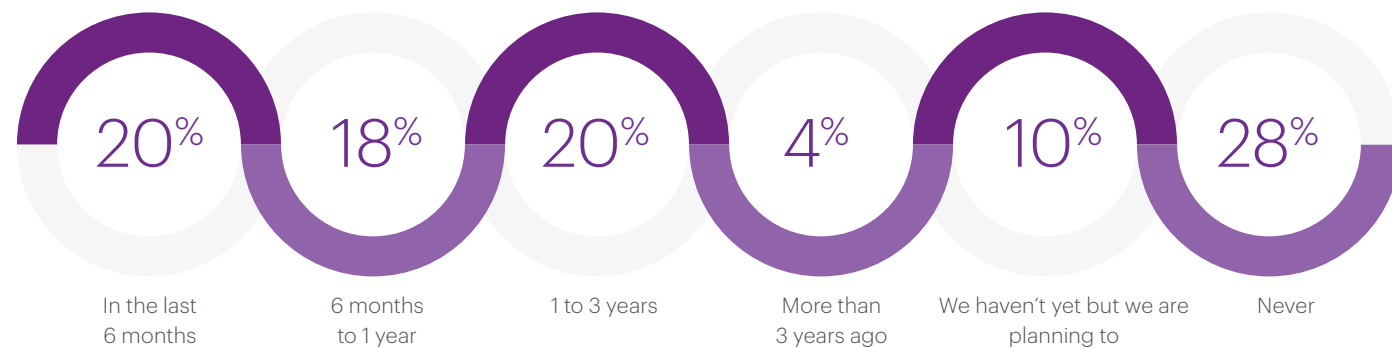
of remote working (even if temporary during a crisis), the need for specialized expertise becomes even more important.

Approximately two in five family offices have not conducted a review of the risks and threats to family office members using a third-party vendor, with 28% never conducting a review and 10% planning to do so.

Two-fifths (38%) have managed to conduct a review in the past year while a fifth (20%) have done so in the past one to three years. Just 4% last did a review more than three years ago.

REVIEW BY THIRD-PARTY VENDORS ON RISK AND THREAT

When was the last time your team conducted a review of the risks and threats to family members or family office clients using third-party vendor?



Many family offices tend to evaluate their risk and threat exposure within a functional silo, such as cybersecurity, without considering or contemplating how enterprise risks are amorphous and can often extend across functional boundaries. A myopic assessment of functional risk often results in unrecognized gaps and vulnerabilities – only discovered in the course of an actual incident or risk event. Enterprise risk mitigation is a team sport requiring a bench of diverse skill sets, tools and strategies.

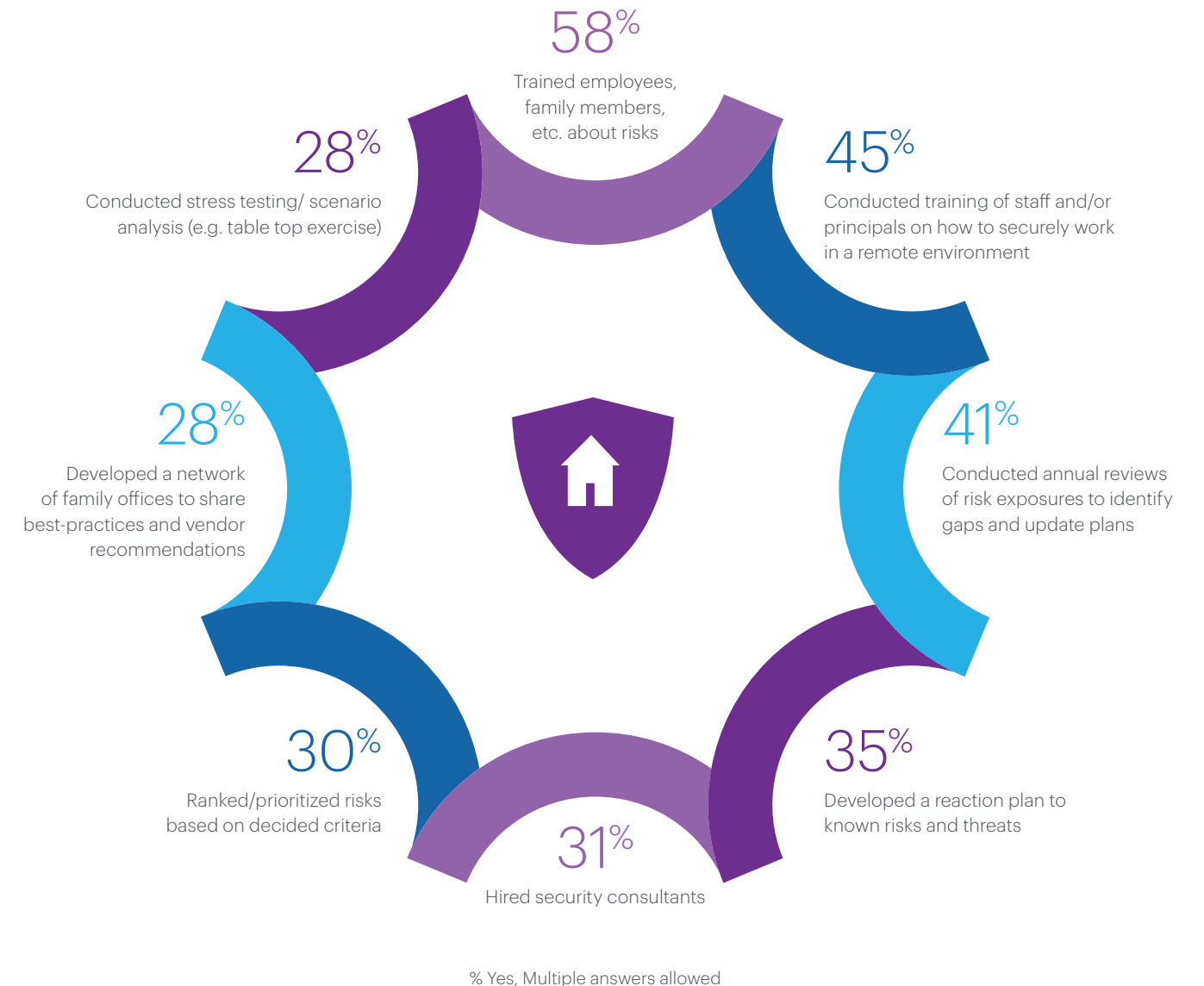
– Wesley S. Bull, Mantle Advisors LLC

Family Offices Use Training to Mitigate Risks – But Is It Enough?

In order to counter risks to their family office, more than half (58%) of respondents have trained employees, family members and others about risks. More than two in five also conducted training on how to securely work in a remote environment (45%) and conducted annual reviews of risk (41%).

STEPS TO COUNTER RISKS

Which of the following steps, if any, have you taken to counter risks to your family office?



Practical Tips and Recommendations

This report highlights some of the critical areas where family offices need to improve their existing risk and threat management planning and operations. The key to success of any risk management plan is the development of an “all risk” approach that takes the entire family enterprise into account. This approach requires integrating proactive and reactive policies and measures across the different outcomes of risk.

We provide this list as a set of recommendations that family offices can leverage to improve their positions:

- Conduct a risk baseline assessment using a qualified risk and security consultant with direct experience working with family offices. Conduct at least annual evaluations after the initial assessment.
- Conduct initial background checks on all family office employees and develop mechanisms of working with legal and risk experts to monitor and conduct follow up background checks for existing employees.
- Work with healthcare advisory experts to develop and test plans around disruption of family affairs and continuity due to significant health issues or untimely death.
- Risk and threat management for family offices is a specialized area that requires professionals with applicable experience. For example, cybersecurity expertise is not the same as information technology expertise.
- Intelligence on all risks is important. For example, there are a number of cyber products available that can monitor and provide intelligence from the dark web, social media and signals coming from outside your network.
- Insist on working with vendors that go beyond “desktop due diligence” which rely solely/heavily on open-source/public information whether evaluating the family office or conducting due diligence on deals.
- Evaluate current risk and threat management providers regularly to see if service upgrades or additional help is warranted.
- Proactively discuss the annual budget for the family office allocated to risk management.
- When choosing vendors, consider the benefits of attorney-client privilege as part of a comprehensive risk and threat management strategy.
- Have crisis plans for specific scenarios (death of a principal, cybersecurity breach, social media bullying, confidential information is being leaked) and practice it.
- Keep a log of risk and threat issues the family or family office has faced in the past.
- Develop and practice continuity of operational and disaster recovery plans for physical, financial and digital assets.
- Evaluate insurable exposures regularly and during changes in the family and/or business and ensure comprehensive understanding of terms and conditions current coverage.
- Protect the devices used for business, even if it is an employee-owned device, with monitored and managed end-point security.
- Secure the local (home, home-office) ISP network, including a virtual private network (VPN) for outbound communications.

- Train and test the employees regularly on risk and threat issue identification and mitigation and review policies and procedures for employee duties and responsibilities as they pertain to information security.
- Develop networks with other family offices to share best practices and vendor recommendations.
- Inventory all devices used to access the internet; computers, laptops, phones, iPads and tablets, and maintain a list of all networks used by family members and family office staff.
- Identify all email addresses used by family members and family office staff.
- Use autonomous end-point security systems and install VPN apps to each mobile computer and smartphone.
- Employ SD-WAN security systems for comprehensive and autonomous protection of fixed-networks and devices.
- Generate and test policies for work email and internet browsing and privatize personal mail.
- Use two-factor authentication for applications whenever possible.
- Avoid easy to guess passwords, change passwords regularly, and use different passwords for different services.
- Back up data regularly and in multiple ways (on and off-site).
- Leverage password manager solutions to avoid using the same password for multiple services.
- Keep software updated on mobile and non-mobile devices.
- Use encrypted mail for sending any personal or sensitive business information (due diligence data, account numbers, family financials, credit card numbers, addresses, investment details, birth dates or social security numbers, etc.).
- Work with legal counsel to develop and execute non-disclosure agreements with family office staff.
- Identify, document and review signatory procedures throughout the family office.
- Assess and test internal controls with accounting firms that have experience working with family offices.
- Review family office policies to ensure compliance with federal, state and local laws.
- Develop and maintain a document collection and management process that is applicable to current and potential future family office requirements.
- Plan and conduct table top exercises (“simulated war games”) with relevant family members, family office staff and external advisors.
- Develop, document, and practice a cyber and privacy “breach plan” with internal and external stakeholders.

Background of the Survey

Methodology

Data for this report was collected using an online survey among 200 family office executives. Data was collected from May 25 – August 10, 2020. The survey was administrated by an independent research company, CoreData Research and the analysis of results were completed by Boston Private and our survey partners. Respondents were sourced from a mix of Boston Private and our survey partner databases.

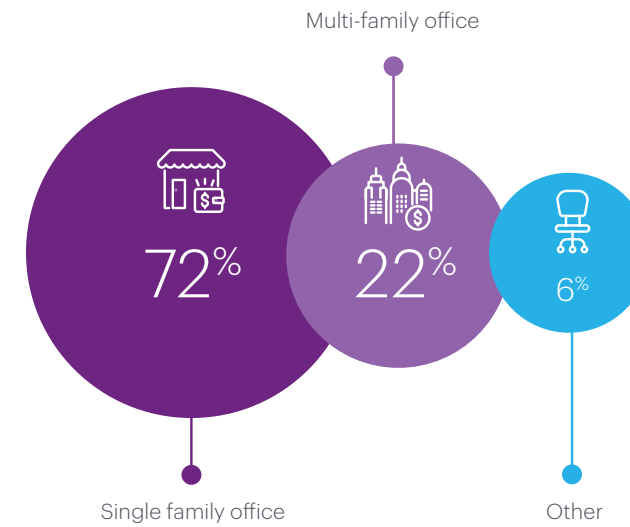
Demographics

Respondents represented a diverse mix of family office archetypes. Below are some of the demographic highlights of our respondents:

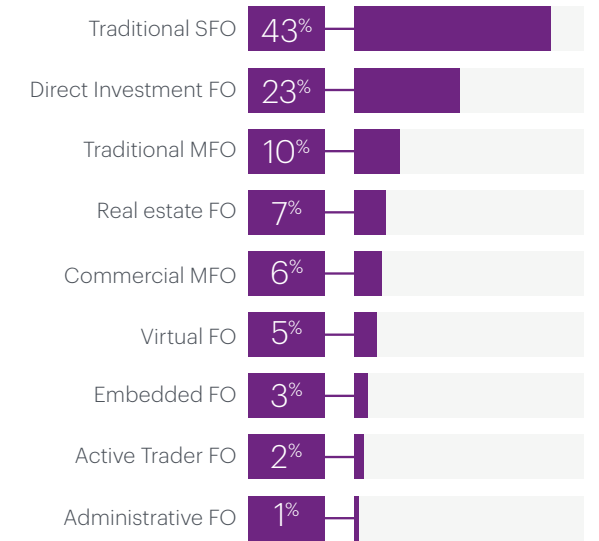
- Most respondents were single family offices and described themselves as traditional SFOs.
- Most of the family offices were between \$100 million and \$5 billion in net worth (2% of family offices did not disclose their net worth).

- A majority of the family office executives had worked in the family office industry for more than a decade.
- Staffing size of the family offices was split quite evenly across the range with a slightly higher number of family offices with 4-8 staff members.
- Most of the family offices had been in business for 10+ years (60%) or at least 3-10 years (27%).
- Family offices were evenly split on the question of association with an operating business.
- Geographically, family offices were concentrated in the Northeast and Southern states of the U.S. with 9% international responses (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa and United Kingdom).
- Most family offices served three generations or less and 19% served the original wealth creator.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES THE TYPE OF ORGANIZATION YOU WORK IN?



WHAT SUB-TYPE OF FAMILY OFFICE (FO) WOULD BEST DESCRIBE YOU?



Commercial MFO: A business staffed with professionals that offer family office services. Sometimes executed through a discrete partnership and other times on an existing platform of a bank, financial services firm, accounting firm, or law firm.

Real Estate FO: Primary assets are real estate and tend to invest mostly in real estate assets. Family office functions are often embedded in the operating company and focus on managing the personal affairs of the principals.

Traditional SFO: Provide solutions over a broad range of service and advisory needs, historically through their own staff.

Traditional MFO: One family partners with a few other families to provide services to unrelated families; not designed as a commercial entity but more of an effort to share expenses and connect with a small number of like-minded families.

Embedded FO: Integrated into operating companies and usually provide family office services leveraging existing family business employees.

Virtual FO: Outsource staff as much as possible and family office service delivery coordinated by a single party (e.g. law firm, accounting firm, financial services firm).

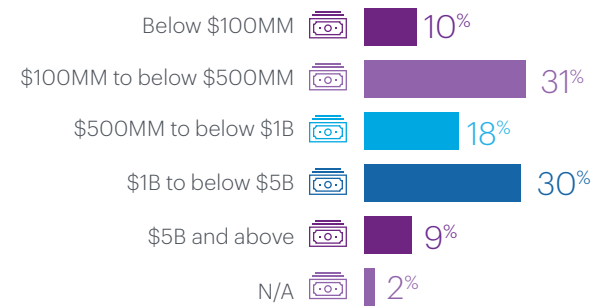
Direct Investment FO: Focus their investment activities almost exclusively on private investing.

Active Trader FO: Typically larger family offices that focus on active investment strategies in liquid capital markets; e.g. former hedge fund managers.

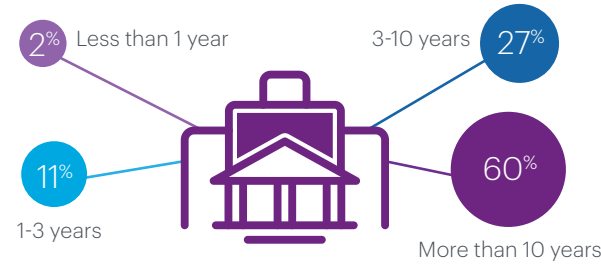
Administrative FO: Limited generally to non-investment related activities. Focus their efforts on managing personal assets, administration, wealth education, among other areas.



What is the cumulative value of assets over which your organization is responsible, including real estate and private investments if applicable?



How long has your family office been in existence?

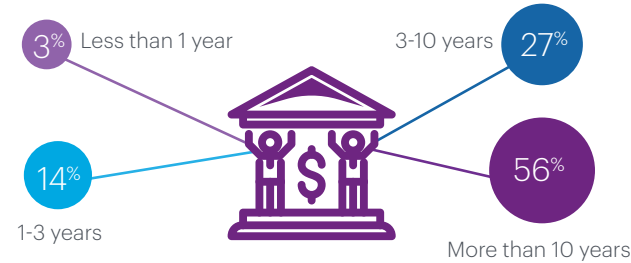


Our Survey Partners

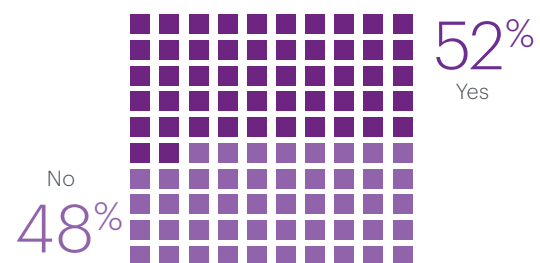
Many thanks to our survey partners at Boston Private, The Chertoff Group, McNally Capital and Datatrive for their support in the development and deployment of the survey, and for lending their expert insights into the global risks and threats family offices face.



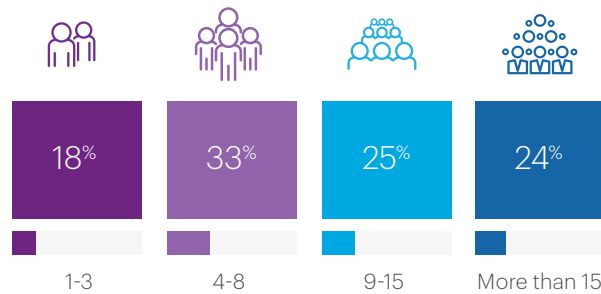
How long have you worked in the family office industry?



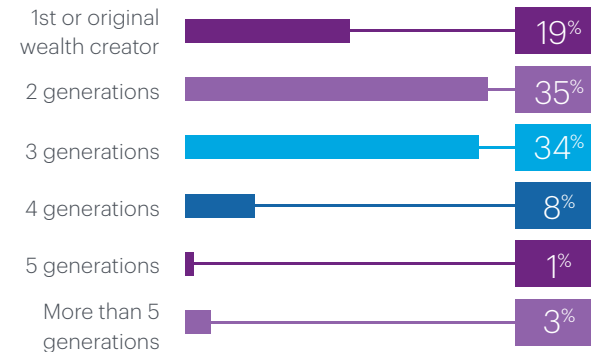
Is your family office associated with an operating business?



How many people work in your family office?



How many generations of family members do you serve at the family office?



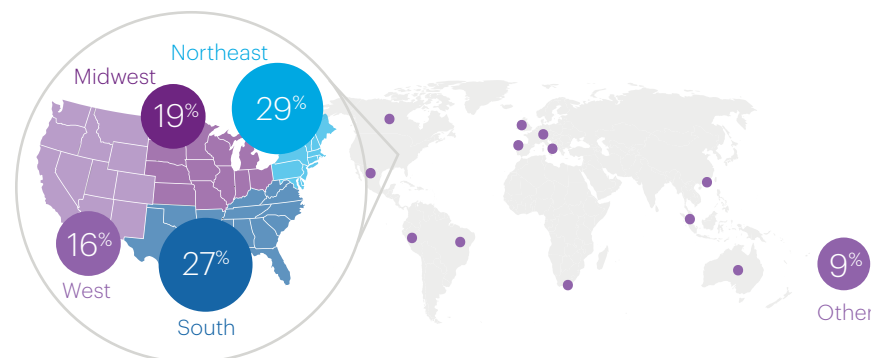
About the Author



Edward V. Marshall is the Global Head of the Family Office and High Net Worth sector at Dentons. He is a family office insider and a leading family office researcher, advisor, and author.

For more information on how Dentons works with family offices, please visit www.dentons.com/familyoffice.

What state in the US or country in the world is your organization located?



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