Mind the (Security) Gap: SAT Perceptions vs. Reality

Why do we keep investing in the same security awareness training when incidents are still on the rise?

Legacy security awareness training programs are not delivering on their promise of improving security, creating a striking gap between admin expectations and reality.

The Investment

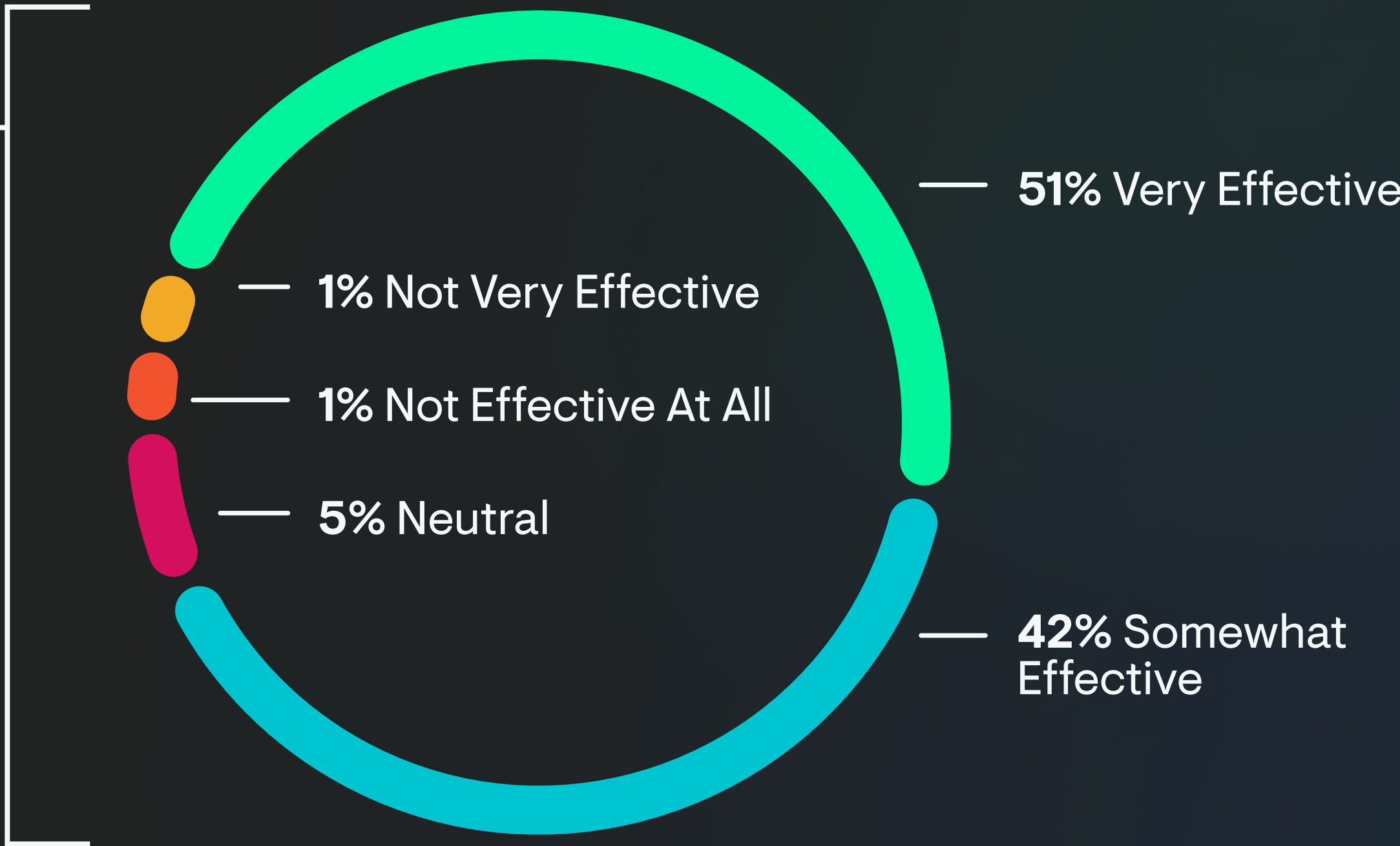**93%** ⬆ of security professionals have increased their SAT budget in the past 3 years.

88% of security admins believe their organization should put more resources toward SAT.

The Perception

93% of security professionals believe their current SAT program is effective.

88% of employees agree that their company's SAT program is effective.

**86%** of employees say their SAT has helped them avoid or recognize a real threat.

- **1%** Not Very Effective
- **1%** Not Effective At All
- **5%** Neutral
- **51%** Very Effective
- **42%** Somewhat Effective

The Reality

62% of security professionals say their organization's human risk exposure has increased after implementing SAT.

94% of security professionals report that human error incidents have increased over the past 3 years.

60% of all data breaches involve the human element.[1]
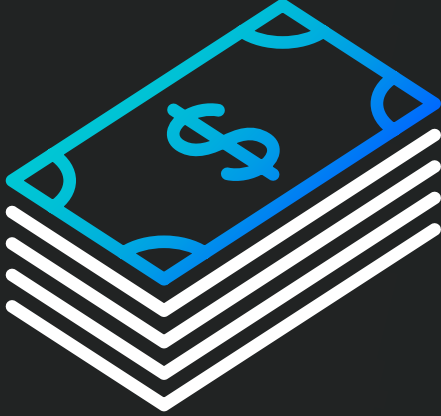
$4.44m The average cost of a data breach is $4.44 million globally.[2]

> " As we see budgets for SAT increase, it's important to take a step back and ask the question: What results are we looking to gain from expanding our investment in SAT, and how does this investment help achieve them? Investing in more of the same, when it hasn't reduced your human risk, will only continue the same pattern at a higher cost. As security leaders spend more on security awareness, they should focus on outcomes that actually reduce human risk levels. "

Dima Kumets
Huntress Principal Product Manager

TL;DR

Despite increased investment and high confidence, human risk is still growing. The disconnect between perception and reality highlights the need for a new approach to security awareness, one focused on human risk management.

Reduce Your Human Risk.

Get your copy "Mind the (Security) Gap: SAT in 2025" or see Managed SAT in action with the Huntress team.

huntress.com/demo >

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[1] https://www.verizon.com/business/resources/reports/dbir/?cmp=2025:05
[2] https://www.ibm.com/think/x-force/2025-cost-of-a-data-breach-navigating-ai