

# Quick Facts

## What are Sharps?

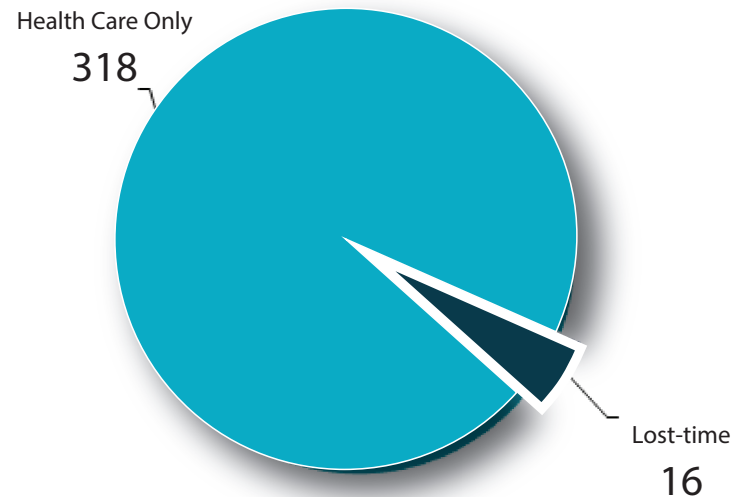
**Sharps** refer to needles, syringes, lancets, auto injectors, infusion sets, connection needles/sets, scalpels, knives, scissors, razors blades, metal wire and glass. Essentially, any object that is able to cut or puncture the skin can be considered a "sharp".

In addition to cuts and punctures, sharps injuries can introduce infectious diseases and chemicals (such as medications) into the body where they may have serious health effects.

## How to Work Safely with Sharps?

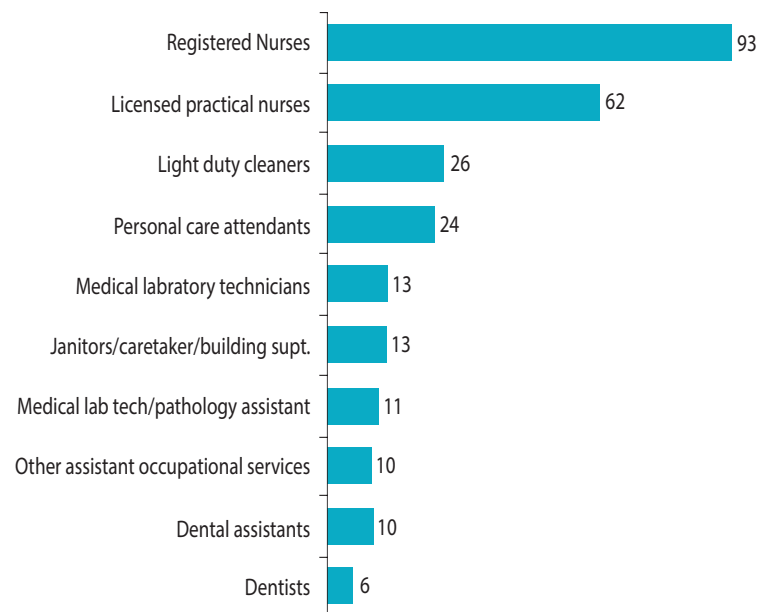
- Use protected needle devices or needle free systems, where practical
- Needles should never be recapped. Used needles should be placed immediately into a sharps container easily accessible at the point-of-care
- Used sharps should never be thrown loosely into the trash
- Place used sharps in a container made specifically to hold used sharps, or a strong, plastic container—like an empty laundry detergent bottle – as long as it is properly labelled
- Replace sharps containers when they are  $\frac{3}{4}$  full to avoid injuries resulting from overfilling
- Never recycle used sharps containers
- When using sharps protect yourself by covering damaged skin and protecting your eyes, nose and mouth from splash hazards
- In the event of a sharps injury, seek first aid and report to your employer as soon as possible

## Frequency of sharps injuries by claim type, 2014-2018 (combined)



## As an employer you must...

- Develop written safe work practices for working with and disposing of sharps
- Develop health surveillance programs to ensure proper reporting, investigation and timely treatment of sharps-related incidents
- Provide education and training to workers on the risk of exposure and controls to take when using sharps



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