

Quick Facts

What are Sharps?

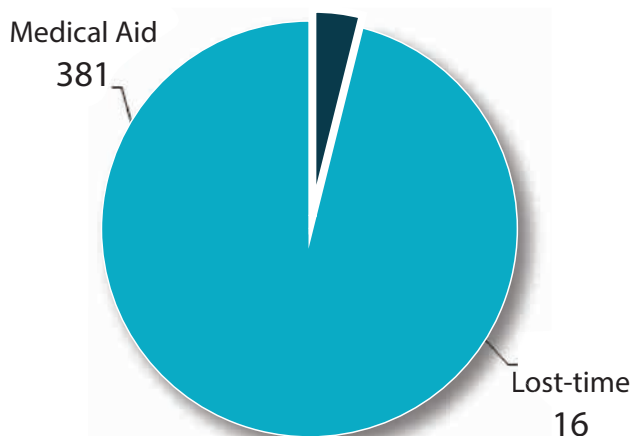
Sharps refer to needles, syringes, lancets, auto injectors, infusion sets, connection needles/sets, scalpels, knives, scissors, razors blades, metal wire and glass. Essentially, any object that is able to cut or puncture the skin can be considered a “sharp”.

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.

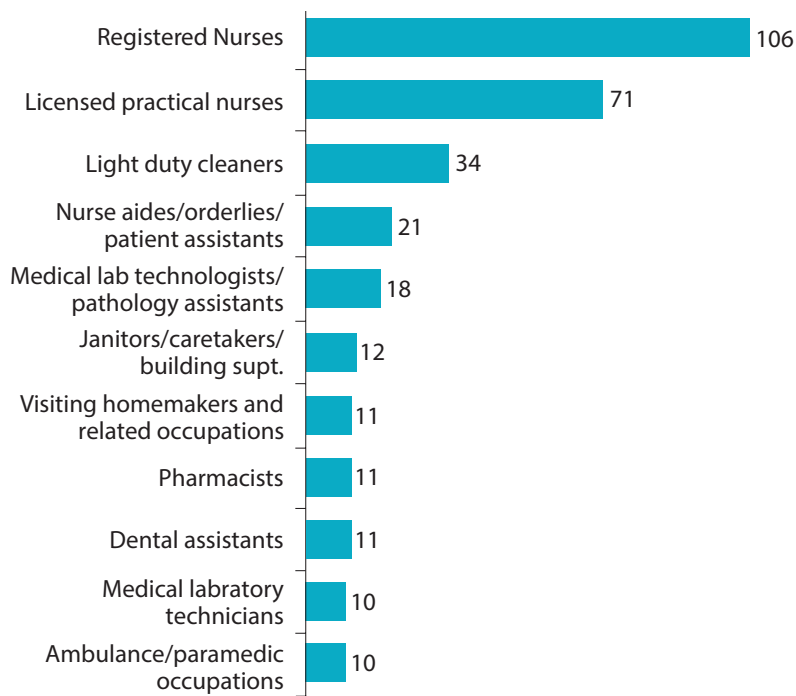
Frequency of sharps injuries by claim type, 2017-2021 (combined)



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

Most frequent occupations with sharps injuries 2017-2021



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