

# Sharps Injuries in USA Health Care Facilities

Year two of a National Survey

**Authors** Grimmond T & Good L

**Publication** Assoc of Occ Health Professionals  
in Healthcare 2014;34 (1): 13-15. <http://aohp.org>

**“Sharps injuries fell immediately following the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act (NSPA) of 2001. However it is disturbing that the 2012 EXPO-S.T.O.P. incidence of 28.2 per 100 occupied beds is higher than the 22.2 rate found among the 58 EPINet hospitals in 2001.” - Authors**

## What was the study?

Blood Exposure (BE) among healthcare workers is a serious occupational risk that healthcare facilities strive to reduce. In the study:

**‘EXPO-S.T.O.P. 2012 Year two of a national survey of sharps injuries and mucocutaneous blood exposures among healthcare workers in USA Hospitals’**, a survey of top ‘sharps safe’ occupational health professionals was carried out to ascertain BE incidence in their hospitals for the 2012 calendar year.

Responses from 157 hospitals in 32 states were received making the survey the largest in the United States. Incidence rates were calculated and compared with EXPO-S.T.O.P.-2011, EPINet and MADPH 2010 survey results. Among respondents, the 5 with the lowest BE rates were interviewed to determine ‘Best Practices’ they have used.

## What were the results?

### Sharps Injury Incidence

Sharps Injury (SI) incidence was shown to have risen when compared with previous EXPO-S.T.O.P., EPINet and MADPH databases. The following figures show SI per 100 occupied beds for all hospitals covered in the relevant surveys:

- 2012 EXPO-S.T.O.P.: 28.2
- 2012 MADPH: 24.0
- 2011 EXPO-S.T.O.P.: 24.0
- 2011 EPINet data: 19.5
- 2001 EPINet data: 22.2

### Best practices

Low-exposure hospitals were found to be proactive in implementing continual education, communication, investigation and engagement regarding SI management.

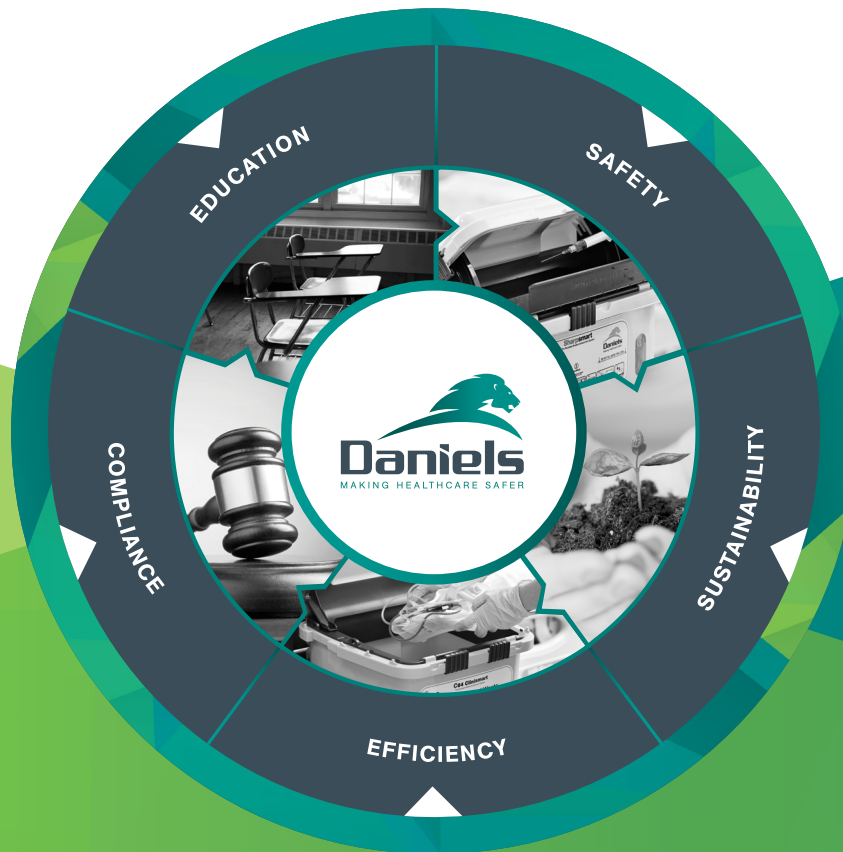
## What does this mean for you?

Healthcare Institutions cannot remain passive in their efforts to reduce Sharps Injuries. Simple compliance with OSHA (NSPA) law alone cannot eliminate Sharps Injuries. Aggressive research into how and why Sharps Injuries are still occurring is still essential to every institution.

Furthermore, facility wide commitment to the hierarchy of controls, including the elimination of risks and the implementation of safety engineered devices, is an essential part of Sharps Injury prevention.

**“Peer review is the critical assessment by experts, of manuscripts submitted to journals... unbiased, independent, critical assessment is an intrinsic part of all scholarly work.”**

International committee of Medical Journal editors



## The Daniels Difference

**Healthcare Waste Management cost efficiencies are derived from the successful deployment of five key elements. At Daniels Health we work closely with our customers to ensure that all healthcare staff are protected, trained and equipped, that the facilities' risk profile is managed, and waste management costs are minimized.**

**Safety:** Our highest commitment is safety; through intelligent products, systemized solutions and bespoke training, we work with our customers to reduce needlestick injuries, minimize infection transfer and provide solutions that protect the safety and minimize risk for staff and patients.

**Sustainability:** Our reusable products and environmentally responsible treatment services are designed to maximize segregation, reduce CO2 burden and minimize waste going to landfill. Through waste mapping, auditing and environmentally graded solutions, we work with our customers to achieve the highest green ratings.

**Efficiency:** Daniels Health optimizes the efficiencies of healthcare environments through smart products, process re-engineering and redefined waste handling methodologies. Significantly reducing the labor used in handling of waste through point-of-use bagless containment systems, an extensive range of mounting options and accessories and logistical solutions, our customized services guarantee optimized time and movement efficiencies.

**Compliance:** Experts in the regulatory complexities governing the healthcare sector, we position ourselves through the use of the Daniels range of products and services as an astute partner delivering expert guidance inside the four walls of a facility providing compliant solutions to our customers. All Daniels solutions are vetted against state and federal regulations and executed through waste plans and training to achieve optimized safety and compliance.

**Education:** Our ongoing commitment to educate staff within healthcare ensures that together we achieve greater safety awareness and drive behavioral change in waste management, segregation, compliance and best practice management. Through a blended learning approach using onsite training, a range of educational material and module-based e-learning, we ensure all healthcare staff are trained and compliance certified.