



Contaminated Sharps Injuries 2022 Annual Report

Chapter 81, Texas Health and Safety Code

Texas Health and Human Services
Department of State Health Services



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of
State Health Services**

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Executive Summary

Sharps injuries are an occupational concern due to the bloodborne pathogen (e.g., Hepatitis B) risk to healthcare personnel. A sharps injury is any injury by a sharp (e.g., needle, scalpel), such as a cut, abrasion, and/or needlestick. To reduce bloodborne pathogen exposure, Texas adopted rules for sharps-related safe workplace practices, engineered devices, exposure protocols, and parameters for reporting and recording sharps injuries in an annual Sharps Injury Log; this report summarizes the 2022 Texas Sharps Injury Log.

Texas' sharps injury regulations are in the: 1) [Texas Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan](#); and 2) [Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter H](#). Sharps injury definitions and rules are in the: 1) [Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter H](#); 2) [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 96, Section 96.101, Definitions](#); and 3) [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 96, Rule 96.401, Sharps Injury Log](#).

According to [Texas Health and Safety Code, Sec. 81.306](#), sharps exposure information must “be recorded in a written or electronic sharps injury log to be maintained by a governmental unit.” To comply, the Texas Department of State Health Services’ (DSHS) Healthcare Safety Unit, maintains a “Sharps Injury Log” of sharps injury information reported to the department (i.e., DSHS). Per [Texas Health and Safety Code, Sec. 81.302](#), this sharps reporting requirement applies only to Texas governmental units employing individuals who: “(1) provide services in a public or private facility providing healthcare-related services, including a home healthcare organization; or (2) otherwise have a risk of exposure to blood or other material potentially containing bloodborne pathogens in connection with exposure to sharps.”

[Texas Health and Safety Code, Sec. 81.306](#), requires the following information in the Sharps Injury Log (per injury incident): 1) exposure date and time; 2) sharp type and brand; 3) a description of the exposure incident, including A) employee’s job classification or title; B) exposure department or work area; C) the procedure the employee was performing at the time of the incident; D) how the incident occurred; E) the involved body part; and F) whether the sharp had engineered sharps injury protection, and if so, whether the protective mechanism was activated, and whether the injury occurred before, during or after activation of the protective mechanism.

[Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 96, Rule 96.401](#) requires the following in the Sharps Injury Log (per injury incident): 1) facility name and address; 2) chief administrative officer or designee’s name and phone number; 3) injury date and time; 4) injured employee’s age and sex; 5) sharp type and brand; 6) original intended sharp use; 7) whether injury occurred before, during, or after intended sharp use; 8) whether the exposure was during or after sharp use; 9) whether the device had engineered sharps injury protection; if yes, was the protective mechanism activated; and was the exposure incident before, during, or after protective mechanism activation; 10) whether the injured person wore gloves at the time of the injury; 11) whether the injured person completed a hepatitis B vaccination series; 12) whether a sharps container was readily available for sharp disposal; 13) whether the injured person received exposure control plan training within 12 months prior to the incident; 14) the involved body part; 15) the injured person’s job classification; 16) the injured person’s employment status; 17) sharps injury location/facility/agency; and the work area where injury occurred; and 18) a list of needleless systems and sharps with engineered sharps injury protection available for employees in the governmental unit.

For a complete list of Sharps Injury Log requirements, see [Texas Health and Safety Code, Sec. 81.306](#) and [Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 96, Rule 96.401](#). While Sec. 81.306 and Rule 96.401 are complementary, select terms vary between these two statutes (e.g., 81.306 includes less information requirements than Rule 96.401). The DSHS Sharps Injury Log includes a combination of elements from both statutes. This report summarizes data collected on the Sharps Injury Log excluding data that identifies the governmental unit or injured person.

In compliance with [Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 121](#), Texas public health is carried out by local and regional health departments. Sharps exposure incident forms are reported to the local health authority or DSHS Regional Office (if no local authority) by the facility's chief administrative officer or designee. The local or regional health authority reviews the form for completeness, then sends via U.S. or electronic mail to DSHS' Central Office for inclusion in Texas' Sharps Injury Log.

Methods

Population and Inclusion

This report's data were submitted in 2022 by Texas governmental entities on behalf of employees with a sharps injury. According to [Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 96, Section 96.201](#) "a governmental unit includes but is not limited to hospital districts hospitals, city hospitals, county hospitals, hospital authority hospitals, DSHS regions and hospitals, other state hospitals and state supported living centers, community mental health and intellectual disability centers, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, locally or state-funded university student infirmaries, public school district clinics, emergency medical services, locally or state-funded long term care facilities, and blood banks." Data are per Public Health Region (PHR) and Texas overall.

Exclusion and Considerations

There were 468 sharps injuries reported in 2022, with no uncontaminated injuries. Uncontaminated sharps injuries before sharp use for its intended purpose are excluded due to no bloodborne pathogen risk. Sharps injuries and/or contaminated sharps injuries from private healthcare facilities were excluded because Texas law does not require private facility reporting.

Sharps injuries tend to be underreported, so this report likely underestimates the total 2022 Texas sharps injuries in governmental units. The total number of times sharps were used in each facility was not reported, so the injury rate per facility type, work area, brand, Public Health Region, and so forth cannot be assessed (no known denominator). Also, it is not possible to determine whether injuries corresponded with brand, as more injuries with one brand could be due to it being the most widely used sharps brand in the reporting facility.

Descriptive Summary

Contaminated Sharps Injuries Overview

Table 1. Month of Sharps Injury Exposure by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Month	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
January	2	7	0	23	2	12	3	0	49
February	4	8	0	14	0	10	2	0	38
March	3	7	0	18	2	12	7	0	49
April	1	12	0	11	0	10	2	0	36
May	3	7	0	17	0	9	1	0	37
June	4	10	0	12	0	10	1	0	37
July	1	8	0	13	0	12	2	0	36
August	5	14	0	6	1	4	0	0	30
September	2	14	0	11	1	15	0	0	43
October	3	10	0	15	0	9	0	1	38
November	3	11	0	9	1	3	0	0	27
December	0	14	0	2	4	19	0	0	39
Not reported	2	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	9
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

Table 2. Time of Sharps Injury Exposure by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Time	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
0000 – 1159	8	55	0	62	5	20	10	1	161
1200 – 2359	21	64	0	89	6	18	7	0	205
Not reported	4	3	0	7	0	87	1	0	102
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

Table 3. Sharps Injury by Age Group, by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Age group (yrs)	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
0 - 18	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
19 - 25	6	18	0	31	0	16	6	0	77
26 - 35	13	35	0	64	3	64	4	1	184
36 - 45	5	22	0	20	5	25	3	0	80
46 - 55	0	16	0	14	1	9	1	0	41
56 - 65	0	8	0	7	1	2	0	0	18
66+	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Unknown/Not reported	9	21	0	21	1	9	4	0	65
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

Table 4. Sharps Injury by Sex, by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Sex	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Female	23	93	0	98	6	88	13	0	321
Male	8	23	0	53	5	34	5	0	128
Not reported	2	6	0	7	0	3	0	1	19
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

Table 5. Sharps Injury by Sharp Type, by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Device type	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Syringe/needle, all types	12	64	0	63	7	63	7	1	217
Suture needle	12	13	0	35	1	26	3	0	90
Winged steel needle/butterfly	0	6	0	6	0	8	0	0	20
IV catheter/IV	0	8	0	5	0	6	1	0	20
Scalpel	1	5	0	12	2	5	0	0	25
Other†	8	26	0	37	1	17	7	0	96
Not reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

†Blood gas syringe, spinal/epidural needle, lancet/finger stick, surgical instruments (e.g., trocar, drill, retractor, clamp, bone cutter, staple/steel suture, microtome blade, Huber needle), and/or glass items (e.g., glass pipette, glass slide).

Table 6. Sharps Brand by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Brand	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Becton Dickinson (BD)†	0	12	0	5	0	4	0	0	21
Other*	3	5	0	0	0	0	17	1	26
Not reported	30	105	0	153	11	121	1	0	421
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

†Includes multiple types by this brand. *Includes Jelco, McKesson, Monojet, Smiths Medical, Proline, Medline, and/or Gripper Plus.

Table 7. Original Intended Sharp Use by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Original use	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Injection*	12	43	0	32	6	48	4	1	146
Suturing skin	11	11	0	27	1	25	2	0	77
Drawing venous blood sample	2	8	0	21	0	14	4	0	49
Cutting	1	8	0	12	2	7	0	0	30
Other†	7	47	0	63	2	28	7	0	154
Not reported	0	5	0	3	0	3	1	0	12
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

* Intramuscular, subcutaneous, intradermal, other injection through skin; †Start intravenous (IV) or heparin lock, connect to IV line, obtain body fluid or tissue sample, finger or heel stick, draw arterial blood sample, dialysis, tattoo, remove central line/port-o-catheter, heparin/saline flush, other injection or aspiration, drilling, wiring, and/or dental procedures (e.g., extraction, hygiene, orthodontic, periodontal, and restorative).

Table 8. Sharps Injury Occurrence† by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
When injury occurred	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Before*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
During	14	34	0	73	3	11	16	0	151
After	19	85	0	80	8	110	2	1	305
Not reported	0	3	0	5	0	4	0	0	12
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

†Occurrence captures if injury happened before, during, or after sharps use for original purpose;

*Uncontaminated sharps injuries before sharp used for its intended purpose are excluded due to no bloodborne pathogen transmission risk.

Table 9. Sharps Injury Procedure by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Procedure	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Between steps of multi-step process	5	6	0	42	1	41	3	0	98
Suturing	8	10	0	29	1	16	1	0	65
Patient moved during procedure	0	16	0	13	2	15	4	0	50
Activating safety device	3	8	0	11	1	13	2	0	38
Interaction with another person	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Inappropriate place (trash, bed linen)	1	10	0	8	0	8	2	0	29
Other†	13	45	0	40	6	21	6	1	132
Not reported	3	11	0	15	0	11	0	0	40
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

†Use of intravenous (IV)/central line, unsafe practice, recapping, laboratory process, disassembling device or equipment, device malfunction, use of sharps container, and preparation for reuse of device or equipment.

Table 10. Sharps Injury Protection by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Injury protection	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Yes	8	49	0	51	3	62	5	1	179
No	23	54	0	55	6	50	3	0	191
Do not know	1	17	0	39	2	10	10	0	79
Not reported	1	2	0	13	0	3	0	0	19
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

Table 11. Sharps Injury Protective Mechanism Activation by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Activated†	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Yes	2	14	0	25	0	13	3	0	57
No	11	58	0	41	2	53	7	1	173
Do not know	3	12	0	36	1	3	7	0	62
Not reported	17	38	0	56	8	56	1	0	176
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

†Some sharps (disposable needles, syringes) have a component or attachment to protect the user from injury.

Table 12. Sharps Injury Occurrence and Protective Mechanism Activation† by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Time	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Before	3	22	0	24	0	39	9	1	98
During	10	21	0	26	0	7	2	0	66
After	3	20	0	11	2	8	2	0	46
Not reported	17	59	0	97	9	71	5	0	258
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

†Captures if sharps injury occurred before, during, or after protective mechanism activation.

Table 13. Injured Person Wearing Gloves by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Wearing gloves	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Yes	31	115	0	146	8	119	17	1	437
No	2	5	0	5	2	2	0	0	16
Not reported	0	2	0	7	1	4	1	0	15
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

Table 14. Injured Person Hepatitis B Vaccination by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Vaccinated	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Yes	28	112	0	133	9	114	15	1	412
No	2	4	0	6	0	8	2	0	22
Do not know	1	4	0	8	2	1	1	0	17
Not reported	2	2	0	11	0	2	0	0	17
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

Table 15. Sharps Disposal Container by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Sharps container	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Yes	33	116	0	145	11	116	18	1	440
No	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	7
Not reported	0	3	0	10	0	8	0	0	21
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

Table 16. Injured Person Received Exposure Control Training within Last 12 Months of Injury by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Training	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Yes	29	103	0	125	10	85	18	1	371
No	1	5	0	8	1	1	0	0	16
Not reported	3	14	0	25	0	39	0	0	81
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

Table 17. Injured Body Part by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Body part	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Upper extremity	31	119	0	147	11	120	18	1	447
Other†	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	7
Not reported	0	1	0	10	0	3	0	0	14
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

†Includes lower extremity, face/head/neck and/or torso (front or back).

Table 18. Sharps Injury by Job Classification, by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Job classification	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Registered nurse	2	45	0	31	1	37	3	0	119
Intern/resident	9	2	0	29	0	44	0	0	84
Physician/surgeon	2	8	0	9	1	3	1	0	24
Operating room/surgical technician	0	10	0	5	0	7	1	0	23
Dental student	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	1	23
Other†	18	53	0	50	8	32	13	0	174
Not reported	2	4	0	12	1	2	0	0	21
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

†Medical/nursing student, physical/respiratory therapist, licensed vocational nurse, housekeeping, emergency medical technician/paramedic, firefighter, law enforcement, fellow, radiology technician, phlebotomist, clinical lab technician, nursing/medical or physician assistant, dental staff, school personnel, or nurse practitioner.

Table 19. Sharps Injury by Employment Status, by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Employment status	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Employee	27	106	0	117	10	122	17	1	400
Student	1	2	0	18	0	0	0	0	21
Other	2	8	0	5	0	1	1	0	17
Not reported	3	6	0	18	1	2	0	0	30
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

Table 20. Sharps Injury by Location/Facility/Agency Type, by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Facility type	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Hospital	24	92	0	93	0	104	16	0	329
Clinic	6	10	0	15	4	12	1	0	48
School/college	0	4	0	20	0	1	0	0	25
Other†	2	16	0	17	7	6	1	1	50
Not reported	1	0	0	13	0	2	0	0	16
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

†Surgical or outpatient treatment center, emergency medical services (EMS)/fire/police, dental facility, freestanding laboratory or correctional facility.

Table 21. Sharps Injury by Work Area, by Public Health Region, Texas, 2022

Public Health Region									
Work area	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11	Texas
Surgery/operating room	9	26	0	31	0	32	4	0	102
Patient room	1	31	0	21	0	21	4	0	78
Emergency department	7	10	0	8	0	20	1	0	46
Dental clinic	0	1	0	23	0	0	0	1	25
Medical outpatient clinic	4	14	0	5	3	14	1	0	41
Procedure room	2	1	0	15	1	5	0	0	24
Other†	9	36	0	40	7	28	8	0	128
Not reported	1	3	0	15	0	5	0	0	24
Total	33	122	0	158	11	125	18	1	468

†Ambulance, autopsy/pathology, critical care unit, dialysis room/center, labor and delivery/gynecology unit, laboratory, pediatrics, medical surgical unit, nursery, radiology department, pre-operative or post-anesthesia recovery area, seclusion or psychiatric unit, and sterile processing.