

## Prevalence of needle-stick and sharps injuries among healthcare workers, Najran, Saudi Arabia

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**Introduction:** An investigation estimates that needle-stick and sharps injuries affect about 3.5 million individuals on the global level. In healthcare workers nurses and physicians appear especially at risk.

**Objective:** To examine the epidemiology of occupational sharps injuries in healthcare workers.

**Materials and Methods:** It is retrospective cross-sectional study was carried out among the healthcare workers of Maternity and Children's hospitals, KSA from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 with participation of 750 HCWs by Convenient Sampling Technique. Data entry and analysis was done on EPI-Net™.

**Results:** A total 32 cases of sharps injuries occurred during the six months period. Nurses accounted 46.9%, constituting the largest group of the healthcare workers. Most frequently site of occurrence was operating/recovering room 34%. 64.5% injuries occurred "during use of device". In 90.6% of cases injuring item was contaminated. 59.4% injuries occurred while wearing single pair of gloves, only 21.9% with double pair of gloves. Most common site of injury was the right hand.

**Conclusion:** There can be serious consequences of needle-stick injuries in hospitals as large proportion of injuries involves used needles and sharps if healthcare workers do not take appropriate measures of protection.