

# Nurses<sup>1</sup> in BC

## *A WorkSafeBC Overview*

*February 2009*

British Columbia's health care sector employs approximately 246,000 workers – about 11% of the provincial workforce. On average, healthcare workers have over 7,500 time-loss claims, loss over 300,000 days of work, and cost more than \$50 million in claims costs each year.

### ***Every Year<sup>2</sup> in BC***

- Approximately 1,225 nurses sustain injuries requiring WorkSafeBC time-loss compensation
- Over \$12 million in claim costs were paid
- Roughly 60,000 day of work were lost

### ***How are Nurses Getting Hurt?***

- 55% Overexertion/Repetitive movement
- 13% Violent and aggressive behaviour
- 12% Slips and trips
- 11% Exposure to biohazardous material, including blood and body fluids

### ***What or Who Causes the Injury?***

- 41% of the time the patient is the cause of the injury
- 14% of the time a virus or bacteria is the cause of the injury
- 12% of the time medical equipment is the cause of the injury
- 2% of the time a motor vehicle is the cause of the injury

### ***Where are Nurses Getting Hurt?***

- 77% occur in Acute Care
- 10% occur in Long Term Care
- 8% occur in Community Health Support Services

### ***How Old are the Nurses who get Hurt?***

- 22% are 25 – 34 years
- 25% are 35 – 44 years
- 32% are 45 – 54 years
- 17% are 55+ years

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<sup>1</sup>Nurses refers to Registered Nurses (RNs), Nurse Supervisors and Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs)

<sup>2</sup>All data is based on non-healthcare only claims with an injury date in 2007