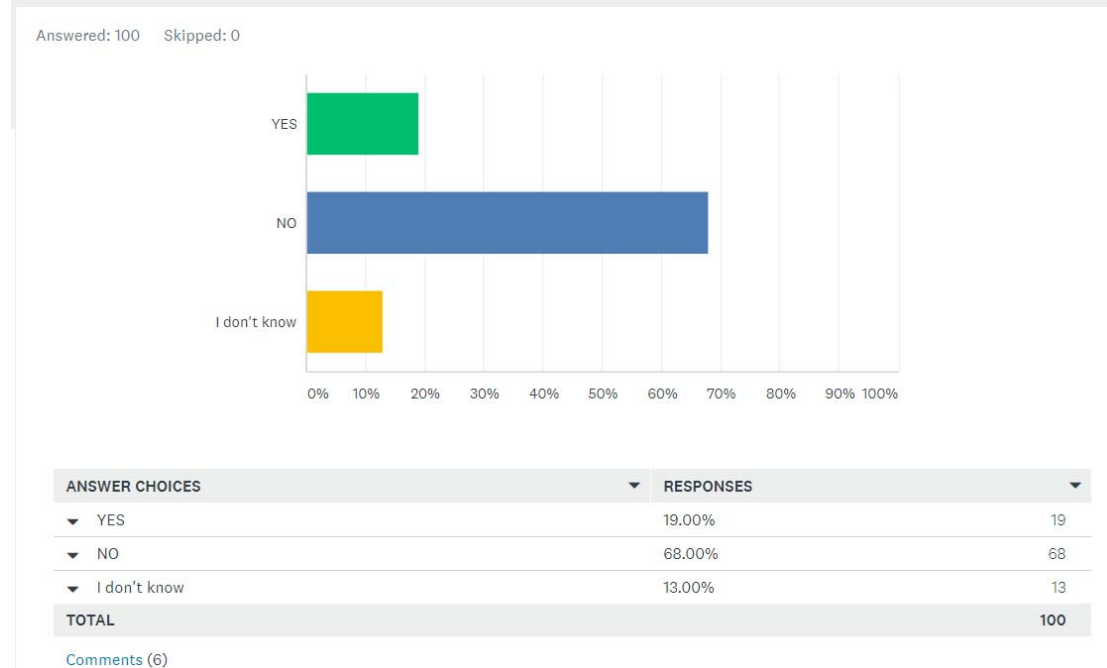


Survey 3 Workplace Injuries

RESPONDENTS: 100 of 115

Q1 In 2013, the Association of Alberta Dental Assistants AADA took over the initiative started by the Edmonton Dental Assistants Association in 2006 to secure compulsory Worker Compensation Benefits for all dental staff in our province. The AADA has met with a number of government representatives over the past 6 years including senior staff in Alberta Health Services, the NDP Minister of Labour Christina Gray and the senior director of Occupational Health and Safety to present our case for coverage. The AADA has been in contact by phone with the Alberta Federation of Labour to secure their support for our cause. Does your employer currently provide you with WCB coverage?



I work in Education, so mandatory in a large institution, however in industry never. The 35 years I was in a dental office there was very little concern about protecting and caring for the dental team.

We have Short Term disability provided by our insurance company

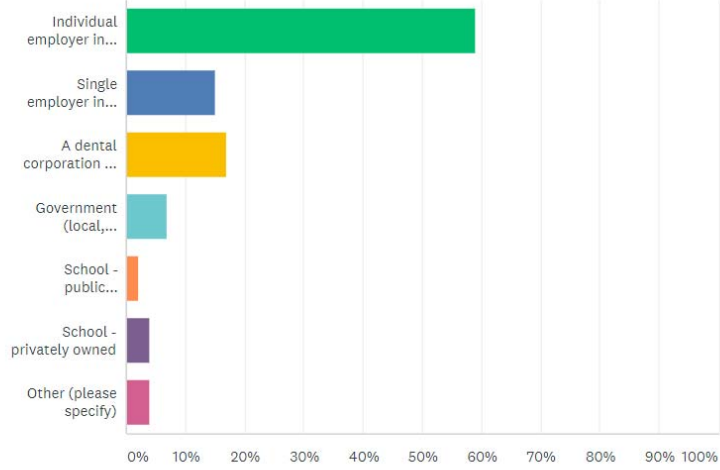
If it costs money then no

I wish we have WCB

I am completely shocked that it's 2019 and we still do not have this coverage. Thank you AADA for continuing to push for this.

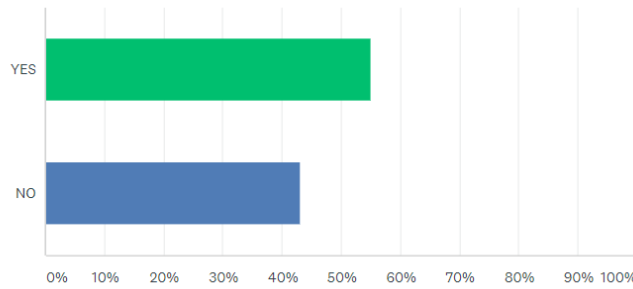
27 years with no worker compensation. That's way to long to be waiting for it to become mandatory. I pray nothing ever happens.

Q2 Is your employer: (check all that apply)



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|--|-------------------|
| ▼ Individual employer in private practice | 59.00% 59 |
| ▼ Single employer in group private practice | 15.00% 15 |
| ▼ A dental corporation - multiple dentists working under a corporate owner | 17.00% 17 |
| ▼ Government (local, provincial, federal) | 7.00% 7 |
| ▼ School - public government funded | 2.00% 2 |
| ▼ School - privately owned | 4.00% 4 |
| ▼ Other (please specify) | Responses 4.00% 4 |
| Total Respondents: 100 | |

Q3 Have you ever been injured at work, on the way to work, on the way home from work, or become ill as a result of your work as an RDA?



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|----------------|------------|
| ▼ YES | 55.00% 55 |
| ▼ NO | 43.00% 43 |
| TOTAL | 100 |

[Comments \(10\)](#)

Tightness in neck, body pains

I have a back problem that is directly related to the ergonomics in operatories. Back problems are a work place hazard in this profession..

Not injured per say but definitely back issues from many years of assisting, that I regularly have to seek medical treatment for.

Many times. There was never any time off or even early leave and definitely no compensation or help. You went to work everyday and kept your injuries and illnesses to yourself. Looking back at my 40 year of Dental Assisting I do not know how I managed to work through some of the mishaps.

Herniated disk, closing a sterilizer

does mental illness count?

Not sure if this includes the deterioration of lower back, neck, shoulder with pain?

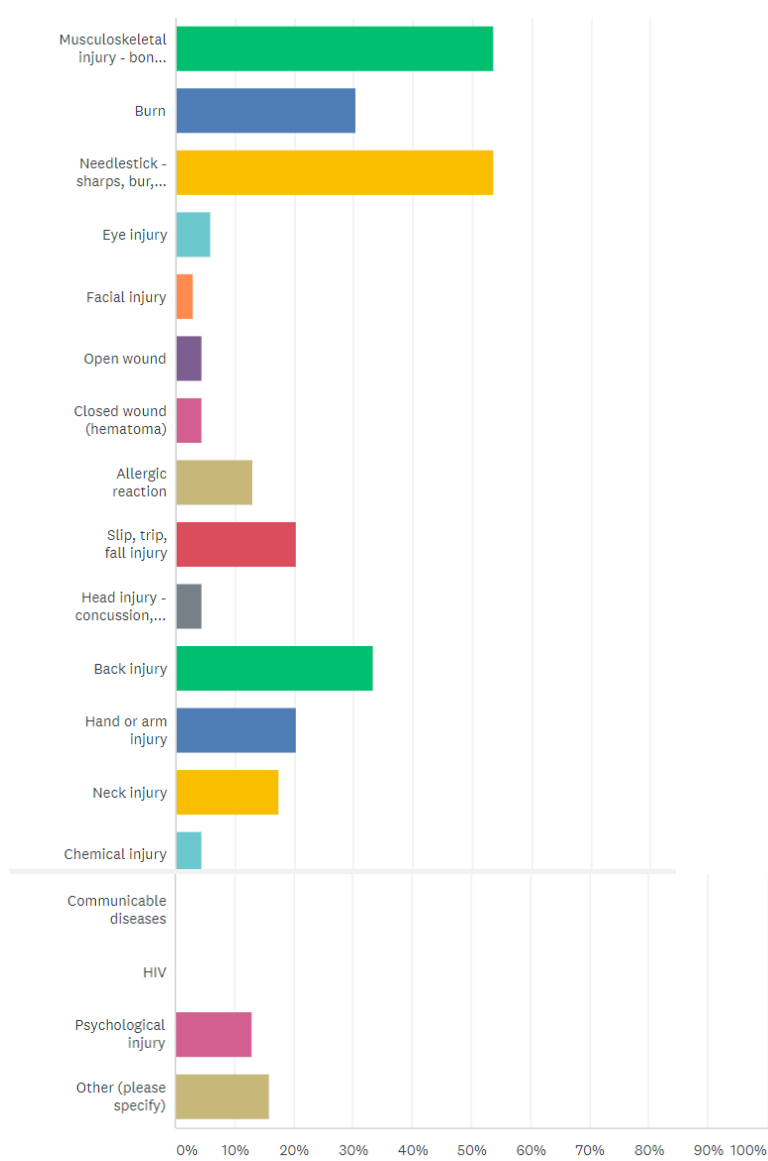
I do however have coworkers and colleagues that have been.

Carpal tunnel syndrome

Slipped and fell injuring my back still bothers me 15 years later

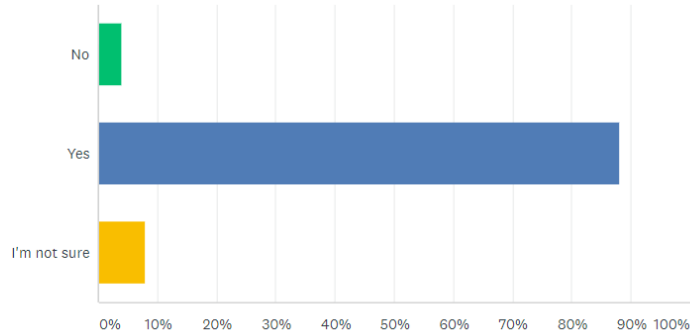
Q4 What type of injury or illness did you experience? (check all that apply)

- Answered: 69
- Skipped: 31



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|--|---------------------|
| ▼ Musculoskeletal Injury - bone, joint, muscle | 53.62% 37 |
| ▼ Burn | 30.43% 21 |
| ▼ Needlestick - sharps, bur, needle, instrument (pierced through skin) | 53.62% 37 |
| ▼ Eye injury | 5.80% 4 |
| ▼ Facial injury | 2.90% 2 |
| ▼ Open wound | 4.35% 3 |
| ▼ Closed wound (hematoma) | 4.35% 3 |
| ▼ Allergic reaction | 13.04% 9 |
| ▼ Slip, trip, fall injury | 20.29% 14 |
| ▼ Head injury - concussion, wound | 4.35% 3 |
| ▼ Back Injury | 33.33% 23 |
| ▼ Hand or arm injury | 20.29% 14 |
| ▼ Neck injury | 17.39% 12 |
| ▼ Chemical Injury | 4.35% 3 |
| ▼ Communicable diseases | 0.00% 0 |
| ▼ HIV | 0.00% 0 |
| ▼ Psychological injury | 13.04% 9 |
| ▼ Other (please specify) | Responses 15.94% 11 |
| Total Respondents: 69 | |

Q5 Dental office staff are included in the approximately 10-15% of Alberta workers whose employers have a choice to provide WCB coverage or not. Do you believe dental office staff are entitled to compulsory WCB coverage paid by their employer?



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|----------------|------------|
| ▼ No | 4.00% 4 |
| ▼ Yes | 88.00% 88 |
| ▼ I'm not sure | 8.00% 8 |
| TOTAL | 100 |

[Comments \(6\)](#)

I think if they employer does not offer extended health benefits then WCB should be offered.

I do not think we have any coverage but I sure would like it

The opportunity for the need /risk is greater than in a lab setting where it is compulsory for WCB

Unless there is coverage from another source, then the employer should be able to opt out.

Absolutely.

We work with blood and on people who do not have perfect health histories. I hear stories where Alberta health care won't cover things that workers compensation should cover . Cost come out of our pockets.

Q6 Please leave any general comments that you would like to convey to the AADA about any of the previous topics or any new initiatives you would like the Association of Alberta Dental Assistants AADA to pursue on behalf of Alberta RDAs.

- Answered: 11
- Skipped: 89

After 39 years as a RDA I am disappointed to say that I find that the employment conditions are at the lowest in my career, in terms of pay, following employments standards and quality of dentistry. In my experience female dentists treat employees harsher than male dentists and are more likely to ignore employment standards.

Thank you.

It would be nice if there was some information from the association on what to do with a WCB claims OR when to actually file a claim. Some times I feels assistants are left on their own with claims and don't know what to do, or don't have a relationship with their provider to be able to ask for help.

Thanks

WCB coverage would definitely help

I can only hope that one day this issue will pass at a Government level and become mandatory.

I think it is very important for RDA's to receive compulsory WCB. RDA's are professional workers that are invested in Alberta's Oral Health. We need to help out RDA's and make them feel more secure in their profession.

What needs to be addressed as why dental employees are the only health care profession not unionize !!!!!

Would love to see RDAs covered by workers comp. Please feel free to contact me to hear my story of workplace injury/disability that was caused by my work. (email redacted for privacy)

Let's get this done before I retire . Or become a statistic.

Employers has to provide health benefits to RDAs, it's ironic that in this profession, we deal with patients with their dental benefits and health spending yet some of the offices we work for don't even provide us with health benefits themselves