

Janitorial Workload Newsletter



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Why research janitorial work?

Janitorial work is stressful, physically demanding, and workers are at high risk for injuries. Some janitors might not report their injuries because they do not know how to report, and they might fear losing their jobs.



Who will do the research?

The Washington State Legislature asked SHARP to study janitors' high injury rates. SHARP is a Department of Labor & Industries program that studies how to improve workplace safety and health.

The goal is to learn about work conditions and safety concerns directly from janitors. SHARP will conduct individual interviews, focus groups, telephone surveys, a statewide survey, and on-site workload evaluations.



Participant Testimony

I decided to reach out to the union and contact SHARP because [the heavy workload] began to affect my health. It is also about the well-being of my coworkers over time, the workload was going to affect their health and it is not good to work in a place that treats you as if you are a machine.”

-Ma Cruz de Villar del Amador, 4 years janitorial experience

Working Together

Many janitorial companies are also concerned about injuries to their workers, and a few have agreed to have us come observe their employees.

This means we can evaluate tasks in real-time, and working together, we can come up with solutions for the issues janitors face.



We want to hear from you!

So far, janitors have expressed these health and safety concerns:

- Increased workload and pace.
- Broken cleaning equipment.
- Lack of cleaning supplies.
- Lack of safety training.
- Conflict and harassment.
- Not reporting injuries due to lack of information and fear.