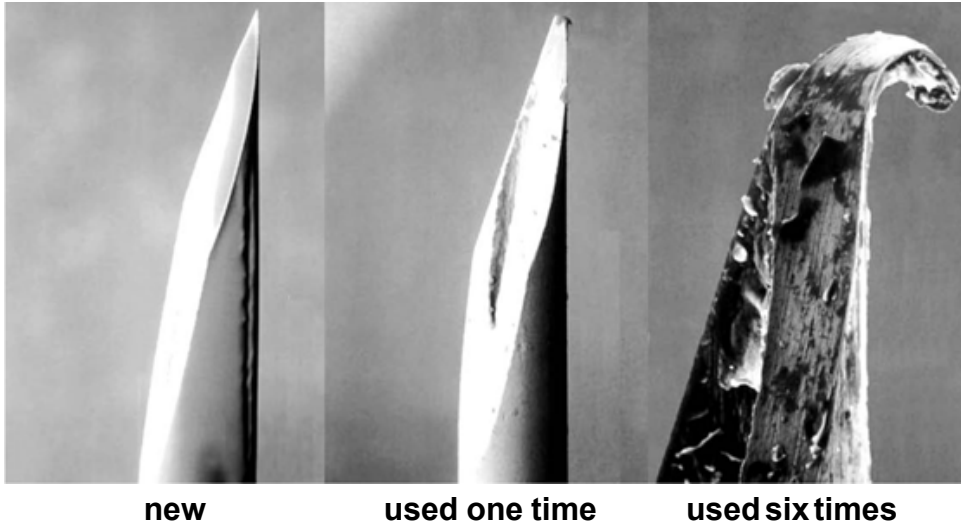


North Carolina Needle-Stick Injury Prevention Laws



HB 850: Possession of Needles/Tell Law Officer Effective December 1, 2013

Under HB850/ S.L. 2013-147, a person who alerts an officer to the presence of a hypodermic needle or other sharp object prior to search shall not be charged with possession of the needle or other sharp object. This exemption does not apply to other drug paraphernalia present and found during the search.

HB 712: Pilot Project/ Used Needle Disposal Effective October 22, 2015

Under HB712/ S.L. 2015-284, a person who alerts an officer to the presence of a hypodermic needle or other sharp object prior to search shall not be charged with possession of the needle or other sharp object, or for residual amounts of a controlled substance contained in the needle or sharp object.

Additionally, HB712/S.L. 2015-284 authorizes 2-4 counties to establish biohazard collection programs to collect used syringes from community members and dispose of them. Program participants (i.e people in possession of a hard-walled plastic bin labeled with the Community Biohazard Collection Program logo) “shall not be charged with or prosecuted for possession of drug paraphernalia for any used needle or hypodermic syringe returned and disposed of, or for residual amounts of a controlled substance contained in the used needle or hypodermic syringe returned and disposed of.