![EPINet — Exposure Prevention Information Network]

Official Summary Report for Needlestick & Sharp Object Injuries, 2004

Total Cases: 1155
Average Daily Census: 4328

9 Teaching facilities (Average Daily Census:2,347 – Injuries: 779)
35 Non-Teaching facilities (Average Daily Census: 1,981 - Injuries: 376)

Job category		
1 Doctor (attending.staff) List specialty	131	11.4%
2 Doctor (intern/resident/fellow) List specialty	138	12.0%
3 Medical Student	11	1.0%
4 Nurse	462	40.3%
5 Nursing Student	4	0.3%
6 Respiratory Therapist	19	1.7%
7 Surgery Attendant	90	7.9%
8 Other Attendant	27	2.4%
9 Phlebotomist/ Venipuncture/ IV Team	57	5.0%
10 Clinical Laboratory Worker	19	1.7%
11 Technologist (non lab)	62	5.4%
12 Dentist	2	0.2%
13 Dental Hygienist	1	0.1%
14 Housekeeper	20	1.7%
15 Other, describe	77	6.7%
16 Paramedic	4	0.3%
17 Other Student	11	1.0%
18 CNA/HHA	11	1.0%
Total Records: 1,146		

Where did the injury occur?		
1 Patient Room/Ward	330	28.8%
2 Outside Patient Room	10	0.9%
3 Emergency Department	80	7.0%
4 Intensive/Critical Care Unit	97	8.5%
5 Operating Room/Recovery	355	31.0%
6 Outpatient Clinic/Office	72	6.3%
8 Venipuncture Center	6	0.5%
9 Dialysis Facility	6	0.5%
10 Procedure Room	58	5.1%
11 Clinical Laboratories	11	1.0%
12 Autopsy/Pathology	10	0.9%
13 Service/Utility Area	3	0.3%

14 Other, describe	57	5.0%
16 Labor and Delivery Room	41	3.6%
17 Home-care	9	0.8%
Total Records: 1,145		

Was the source patient identifiable?		
1 Yes	1,089	95.1%
2 No	41	3.6%
3 Unknown	12	1.0%
4 N/A	3	0.3%
Total Records: 1,145		

Was the injured worker the original user of the sharp item?		
1 Yes	726	63.6%
2 No	388	34.0%
3 Unknown	6	0.5%
4 N/A	22	1.9%
Total Records: 1,142		

Was the sharp item contaminated?		
1 Contaminated	1,068	93.7%
2 Uncontaminated	20	1.8%
3 Unknown	52	4.6%
Total Records: 1,140		

What was the original purpose of the sharp item?		
1 Unknown/not applicable	52	4.5%
2 Injection, intramuscular/subcutaneous	265	23.1%
3 Heparin or saline flush	16	1.4%
4 Other injection into IV injection site or port	27	2.4%
5 To connect IV line	4	0.3%
6 To start IV or setup heparin lock	53	4.6%
7 To draw a venous blood sample	149	13.0%
8 To draw an arterial blood sample	29	2.5%
9 To obtain a body fluid or tissue sample	26	2.3%
10 Fingerstick/heel stick	13	1.1%
11 Suturing	246	21.4%
12 Cutting	95	8.3%
13 Electrocautery	8	0.7%
14 To contain a specimen or pharmaceutical	7	0.6%
15 Other, describe	128	11.1%
16 To place an arterial/central line	24	2.1%17

Drilling	6	0.5%
Total Records: 1,148		

When did the injury occur?

1 Before use of item	15	1.3%
2 During use of item	469	40.8%
3 Between steps of a multi-step procedure	140	12.2%
4 Disassembling device or equipment	27	2.3%
5 In preparation for reuse of reusable instruments	6	0.5%
6 While recapping a used needle	33	2.9%
7 Withdrawing a needle from rubber or other resistance	20	1.7%
8 Other after use, before disposal	169	14.7%
9 From item left on or near disposal container	6	0.5%
10 While putting the item into the disposal container	52	4.5%
11 After disposal, stuck by item protruding from disposal	12	1.0%
13 After disposal, item protruding from trash bag or inapp	10	0.9%
14 Other, describe	114	9.9%
15 Restraining patient	10	0.9%
16 Device left on floor, table, bed or other inappropriate place	66	5.7%
Total Records: 1,149		

Type of device causing injury:

1 Syringe, disposable	392	35.0%
2 Syringe, prefilled cartridge	19	1.7%
3 Syringe, blood gas	14	1.2%
4 Syringe, other type	9	0.8%
5 Needle on IV tubing	5	0.4%
6 Needle, Winged steel	70	6.2%
7 IV catheter	40	3.6%
8 Needle/holder vacuum tube blood collection	24	2.1%
9 Needle, spinal or epidural	5	0.4%
10 Needle, unattached hypodermic	4	0.4%
11 Needle, arterial catheter introducer	7	0.6%
12 Needle, central line catheter introducer	14	1.2%
13 Needle, drum catheter	1	0.1%
14 Needle, other vascular catheter	4	0.4%
15 Needle, other non vascular catheter	2	0.2%
28 Needle, unknown type	22	2.0%
29 Needle, describe	38	3.4%
30 Lancet	10	0.9%
31 Suture Needle	239	21.3%
32 Scalpel, reusable	43	3.8%
33 Razor	2	0.2%
35 Scissors	10	0.9%
36 Electrocautery Device	8	0.7%

37 Bone cutter	2	0.2%
39 Towel clip	3	0.3%
40 Microtome blade	1	0.1%
41 Trocar	4	0.4%
43 Specimen/test tube, plastic	1	0.1%
44 Fingernails/teeth	5	0.4%
45 Scalpel, disposable	42	3.7%
46 Retractors, skin/bone hooks	8	0.7%
47 Staples, steel sutures	3	0.3%
48 Wire	14	1.2%
49 Pin	5	0.4%
50 Drill bit	3	0.3%
51 Pickup/forceps/hemostats	3	0.3%
58 Sharp item, not sure what kind	8	0.7%
59 Other sharp item (please describe)	23	2.1%
60 Medication ampule	3	0.3%
64 Vacuum tube, glass	4	0.4%
65 Specimen/test tube, glass	2	0.2%
66 Capillary tube	1	0.1%
78 Glass item, unknown type	2	0.2%
79 Glass item, other	2	0.2%
Total Records: 1,121		

If injury was caused by a needle, was it a "safety design"?		
1 Yes	422	38.0%
2 No	610	54.9%
3 Unknown	79	7.1%
Total Records: 1,111		

A. If yes, was safety mechanism activated?		
1 Yes, fully	19	4.9%
2 Yes, partially	65	16.7%
3 No	305	78.4%
Total Records: 389		

B. If yes, did the injury happen?		
1 Before activation	238	65.9%
2 During activation	89	24.7%
3 After activation	34	9.4%
Total Records: 361		

Location of injury as selected from list		
Arm	34	3.0%
Back	1	0.1%
Face/Head	1	0.1%
Foot	4	0.4%

	Front	3	0.3%
	Hand, left	644	57.4%
	Hand, right	422	37.6%
	Leg	13	1.2%
Total Records: 1,122			

Depth of the injury			
	Superficial-little or no bleeding	704	62.4%
	Moderate-skin punctured, some bleeding	402	35.6%
	Severe-deep stick/cut, profuse bleeding	23	2.0%
Total Records: 1,129			

Did the sharp item penetrate?			
1	Single pair of gloves	778	71.2%
2	Double pair of gloves	154	14.1%
3	No gloves	160	14.7%
Total Records: 1092			

Handedness of injured worker			
1	Right-handed	1,025	92.3%
2	Left-handed	86	7.7%
Total Records: 1,111			