



Exposure Prevention Information Network

1997 U.S. EPINet Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Report

International Healthcare Worker Safety Center, University of Virginia

Total hospitals contributing data = 43

Total Cases: 849

Total Average Daily Census: 8,714

JOB CATEGORY		
M.D. (attending/staff)	25	3%
M.D. (intern/resident/fellow)	59	7%
Medical student	4	0%
Nurse RN/LPN	435	51%
Nursing student	10	1%
Respiratory therapist	24	3%
Surgery attendant	13	2%
Other attendant	70	8%
Phlebotomist/venipuncture/I.V. team	13	2%
Clinical laboratory worker	32	4%
Technologist (non-lab)	46	5%
Dentist	0	0%
Dental hygienist	0	0%
Housekeeper/laundry worker	8	1%
Paramedic	7	1%
Other Student	3	0%
Other (1 missing)	99	12%

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE		
<i>Where did the injury occur in the institution?</i>		
Patient room	347	41%
Outside patient room	20	2%
Emergency department	87	10%
Intensive/critical care unit	100	12%
Operating room	83	10%

Outpatient clinic/office	24	3%
Blood bank	4	0%
Venipuncture	2	0%
Dialysis facility	9	1%
Procedure room	56	7%
Clinical laboratories	31	4%
Autopsy/pathology	4	0%
Service/utility area	5	1%
Labor and delivery	9	1%
Home	7	1%
Other	60	7%
(1 missing)		

SOURCE PATIENT		
<i>Was the source patient known?</i>		
Yes	800	94%
No	29	3%
Unknown	10	1%
N/A	6	1%
(4 missing)		

BODY FLUIDS		
<i>Which body fluids were involved in the exposure?</i>		
Blood or blood product	601	71%
Vomit	35	4%
CSF	5	1%
Peritoneal fluid	10	1%
Pleural fluid	10	1%
Amniotic fluid	13	2%
Urine	60	7%
Other	183	22%

EXPOSED PART		
<i>Was the exposed part:</i>		
Intact skin	411	48%
Non-intact skin	175	21%
Eye(s)	451	53%
Nose	58	7%

Mouth	107	13%
Other	11	1%

TYPE OF EXPOSURE		
<i>Did the blood or body fluid:</i>		
Touch unprotected skin	752	89%
Touch skin through gap between protective garments	64	8%
Soak through protective garment	26	3%
Soak through clothing	54	6%

PROTECTIVE ITEMS WORN		
<i>Which protective items were worn at the time of the exposure?</i>		
Single pair latex/vinyl gloves	511	60%
Double pair latex/vinyl gloves	51	6%
Goggles	32	4%
Eyeglasses	99	12%
Faceshield	28	3%
Surgical mask	104	12%
Surgical gown	105	12%
Plastic apron	11	1%
Lab coat, cloth	64	8%
Lab coat, other	9	1%
Other item	35	4%

RESULT		
<i>Was the exposure the result of:</i>		
Direct patient exposure	458	54%
Specimen container leaked/spilled	64	8%
Specimen container broke	14	2%
IV tubing/bag/pump leaked	66	8%
Other body fluid container spilled/leaked	60	7%
Touched contaminated equipment	18	2%
Touched contaminated drapes/sheets, etc.	11	1%
Unknown	4	0%
Other	148	17%
(4 missing)		

TIME IN CONTACT

For how long was the blood or body fluid in contact with your skin or mucous membranes?

Less than 5 minutes	674	79%
5-14 minutes	99	12%
15 minutes - 1 hour	45	5%
More than 1 hour	22	3%
(9 missing)		

QUANTITY

Estimate the quantity of blood/body fluid that came in contact with your skin or mucous membranes:

Small amount (up to 5 cc)	738	87%
Moderate amount (5-50 cc)	78	9%
Large amount (more than 50 cc)	27	3%
(6 missing)		

BODY PART

Right hand, back	92
Right hand, front	82
Left hand, front	61
Left hand, back	46
Right arm	64
Left arm	37
Head	841
Chest	37
Back	1
Mid-body	7
Right leg	17
Left leg	13
Right foot	5
Left foot	2

OSHA

Is this incident OSHA reportable?

Yes	156	18%
No	587	69%
(105 missing)		

For those cases that are OSHA reportable:

Cumulative number of days away from work:	0
Cumulative number of days of restricted work activity:	0