



Exposure Prevention Information Network

1998 U.S. EPINet Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Report

Total hospitals contributing data = 36

Total cases: 753

Total average Daily Census: 8,181

JOB CATEGORY		
M.D. (attending/staff)	31	4%
M.D. (intern/resident/fellow)	46	6%
Medical student	2	0%
Nurse RN/LPN	384	51%
Nursing student	6	1%
Respiratory therapist	33	4%
Surgery attendant	14	2%
Other attendant	53	7%
Phlebotomist/venipuncture/I.V. team	10	1%
Clinical laboratory worker	25	3%
Technologist (non-lab)	32	4%
Dentist	0	0%
Dental hygienist	0	0%
Housekeeper/laundry worker	8	1%
Paramedic	10	1%
Other Student	7	1%
Other	88	12%
(4 missing)		

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE		
<i>Where did the injury occur in the institution?</i>		
Patient room	311	41%
Outside patient room	18	2%
Emergency department	67	9%
Intensive/critical care unit	101	13%
Operating room	69	9%
Outpatient clinic/office	23	3%
Blood bank	3	0%

Venipuncture	0	0%
Dialysis facility	4	1%
Procedure room	50	7%
Clinical laboratories	32	4%
Autopsy/pathology	1	0%
Service/utility area	6	1%
Labor and delivery	13	2%
Home	6	1%
Other	41	5%
(8 missing)		

SOURCE PATIENT		
<i>Was the source patient known?</i>		
Yes	707	94%
No	24	3%
Unknown	10	1%
N/A	4	1%
(8 missing)		

BODY FLUIDS		
<i>Which body fluids were involved in the exposure?</i>		
Blood or blood product	518	69%
Vomit	24	3%
CSF	4	1%
Peritoneal fluid	12	2%
Pleural fluid	6	1%
Amniotic fluid	14	2%
Urine	51	7%
Other	199	26%

EXPOSED PART		
<i>Was the exposed part:</i>		
Intact skin	327	43%
Non-intact skin	138	18%
Eye(s)	411	55%
Nose	38	5%
Mouth	76	10%
Other	16	2%

TYPE OF EXPOSURE		
<i>Did the blood or body fluid:</i>		
Touch unprotected skin	652	87%
Touch skin through gap between protective garments	50	7%
Soak through protective garment	10	1%
Soak through clothing	44	6%

PROTECTIVE ITEMS WORN		
<i>Which protective items were worn at the time of the exposure?</i>		
Single pair latex/vinyl gloves	472	63%
Double pair latex/vinyl gloves	47	6%
Goggles	11	1%
Eyeglasses	97	13%
Faceshield	18	2%
Surgical mask	90	12%
Surgical gown	89	12%
Plastic apron	7	1%
Lab coat, cloth	62	8%
Lab coat, other	8	1%
Other item	107	14%

RESULT		
<i>Was the exposure the result of:</i>		
Direct patient exposure	404	54%
Specimen container leaked/spilled	60	8%
Specimen container broke	11	1%
IV tubing/bag/pump leaked	53	7%
Other body fluid container spilled/leaked	49	7%
Touched contaminated equipment	22	3%
Touched contaminated drapes/sheets, etc.	5	1%
Unknown	3	0%
Other	138	18%
(8 missing)		

TIME IN CONTACT		
<i>For how long was the blood or body fluid in contact with your skin or mucous membranes?</i>		
Less than 5 minutes	583	77%
5-14 minutes	104	14%

15 minutes - 1 hour	33	4%
More than 1 hour	20	3%
(13 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)	664	88%
Moderate amount (5-50 cc)	59	8%
Large amount (more than 50 cc)	17	2%
(11 missing)		

BODY PART

Right hand, back	73
Right hand, front	58
Left hand, front	51
Left hand, back	36
Right arm	43
Left arm	39
Head	742
Chest	28
Back	0
Mid-body	17
Right leg	13
Left leg	11
Right foot	4
Left foot	3

OSHA

Is this incident OSHA reportable?

Yes	114	15%
No	568	75%
(71 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

