



Exposure Prevention Information Network

1999 U.S. EPINet Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Report

Total hospitals contributing data = 14

Total Cases: 500

Total Average Daily Census: 4,197

JOB CATEGORY		
M.D. (attending/staff)	15	3%
M.D. (intern/resident/fellow)	51	10%
Medical student	4	1%
Nurse RN/LPN	242	49%
Nursing student	2	0%
Respiratory therapist	15	3%
Surgery attendant	10	2%
Other attendant	26	5%
Phlebotomist/venipuncture/I.V. team	10	2%
Clinical laboratory worker	21	4%
Technologist (non-lab)	25	5%
Dentist	0	0%
Dental hygienist	0	0%
Housekeeper/laundry worker	3	1%
Paramedic	5	1%
CNA/HHA	10	2%
Security	3	1%
Other	57	11%
(499 records)		

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE		
<i>Where did the injury occur in the institution?</i>		
Patient room	166	33%
Outside patient room	10	2%
Emergency department	46	9%
Intensive/critical care unit	76	15%
Operating room	67	14%
Outpatient clinic/office	24	5%

Blood bank	5	1%
Venipuncture	2	0%
Dialysis facility	3	1%
Procedure room	27	5%
Clinical laboratories	19	4%
Autopsy/pathology	2	0%
Service/utility area	3	1%
Labor and delivery	17	3%
Home-care	2	0%
Other	29	6%
(498 records)		

SOURCE PATIENT		
<i>Was the source patient known?</i>		
Yes	453	92%
No	20	4%
Unknown	18	4%
N/A	1	0%
(492 records)		

BODY FLUIDS		
<i>Which body fluids were involved in the exposure?</i>		
Blood or blood product	355	71%
Vomit	16	3%
Sputum	17	3%
Saliva	25	5%
CSF	2	0%
Peritoneal fluid	9	2%
Pleural fluid	1	0%
Amniotic fluid	11	2%
Urine	42	8%
Other	202	40%

EXPOSED PART		
<i>Was the exposed part:</i>		
Intact skin	196	39%
Non-intact skin	87	17%
Eye(s)	273	55%

Nose	24	5%
Mouth	51	10%
Other	166	33%

TYPE OF EXPOSURE		
<i>Did the blood or body fluid:</i>		
Touch unprotected skin	435	86%
Touch skin through gap between protective garments	32	6%
Soak through protective garment	14	3%
Soak through clothing	28	6%

PROTECTIVE ITEMS WORN		
<i>Which protective items were worn at the time of the exposure?</i>		
Single pair latex/vinyl gloves	322	64%
Double pair latex/vinyl gloves	37	7%
Goggles	11	1%
Eyeglasses (not protective)	82	16%
Eyeglasses with sideshields	7	1%
Faceshield	21	4%
Surgical mask	61	12%
Surgical gown	55	11%
Plastic apron	5	1%
Lab coat, cloth (not protective)	37	7%
Lab coat, other	15	3%
Other item	178	36%

RESULT		
<i>Was the exposure the result of:</i>		
Direct patientcontact	232	47%
Specimen container leaked/spilled	36	7%
Specimen container broke	8	2%
IV tubing/bag/pump leaked	47	10%
Other body fluid container spilled/leaked	37	8%
Touched contaminated equipment/surface	12	2%
Touched contaminated drapes/sheets, etc.	7	1%
Feeding/ventilator/other tube separated/leaked/spilled	45	9%
Other	138	14%
(495 records)		

TIME IN CONTACT

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

Less than 5 minutes	385	79%
5-14 minutes	67	13%
15 minutes - 1 hour	24	5%
More than 1 hour	19	3%
(495 records)		

QUANTITY

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

Small amount (up to 5 cc)	430	87%
Moderate amount (5-50 cc)	50	10%
Large amount (more than 50 cc)	15	3%
(495 records)		

BODY PART

Right hand	69
Left hand	58
Arm	83
Face/Head	504
Front/Chest	24
Leg	14
Foot	2
Back	1

OSHA

Is this incident OSHA reportable?

Yes	61	18%
No	282	82%
(343 records)		