



Exposure Prevention Information Network

2000 U.S. EPINet Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Report

International Healthcare Worker Safety Center, University of Virginia

Total hospitals contributing data = 18

Total cases: 470

Total (combined) average daily census: 4,064

JOB CATEGORY		
M.D. (attending/staff)	27	6%
M.D. (intern/resident/fellow)	37	8%
Medical student	1	0%
Nurse RN/LPN/NP/CRNA/Midwife	232	50%
Nursing student	6	1%
Other student	3	1%
Respiratory therapist	17	3%
Surgery attendant	14	3%
Other attendant	22	5%
Phlebotomist/venipuncture/I.V. team	10	2%
Clinical laboratory worker	18	4%
Technologist (non-lab)	24	5%
Dentist	0	0%
Dental hygienist	0	0%
Housekeeper/laundry worker	4	1%
Paramedic	2	0%
CNA/HHA	9	2%
Security	3	1%
Other	40	8%
(469 records)		

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE		
<i>Where did the injury occur in the institution?</i>		
Patient room	147	31%
Outside patient room	7	2%
Emergency department	58	12%
Intensive/critical care unit	82	18%

Operating room	67	14%
Outpatient clinic/office	11	2%
Blood bank	1	0%
Venipuncture	2	0%
Dialysis facility	3	1%
Procedure room	35	8%
Clinical laboratories	21	5%
Autopsy/pathology	0	0%
Service/utility area	1	0%
Labor and delivery	12	3%
Home-care	2	0%
Other	20	4%
(469 records)		

SOURCE PATIENT		
<i>Was the source patient known?</i>		
Yes	456	98%
No	6	1%
Unknown	3	1%
N/A	1	0%
(463 records)		

BODY FLUIDS		
<i>Which body fluids were involved in the exposure?</i>		
Blood or blood product	330	70%
Vomit	18	4%
Sputum	23	5%
Saliva	24	5%
CSF	2	0%
Peritoneal fluid	1	0%
Pleural fluid	3	1%
Amniotic fluid	6	1%
Urine	34	7%
Other	81	17%

EXPOSED PART		
<i>Was the exposed part:</i>		
Intact skin	177	38%

Non-intact skin	86	18%
Eye(s)	271	58%
Nose	17	4%
Mouth	40	9%
Other	36	8%

TYPE OF EXPOSURE		
<i>Did the blood or body fluid:</i>		
Touch unprotected skin	409	84%
Touch skin through gap between protective garments	41	8%
Soak through protective garment	16	3%
Soak through clothing	24	5%

PROTECTIVE ITEMS WORN		
<i>Which protective items were worn at the time of the exposure?</i>		
Single pair latex/vinyl gloves	286	61%
Double pair latex/vinyl gloves	33	7%
Goggles	9	2%
Eyeglasses (not protective)	80	17%
Eyeglasses with sideshields	4	1%
Faceshield	13	3%
Surgical mask	67	14%
Surgical gown	53	11%
Plastic apron	1	0%
Lab coat, cloth (not protective)	27	6%
Lab coat, other	6	1%
Other item	50	11%

RESULT		
<i>Was the exposure the result of:</i>		
Direct patientcontact	235	51%
Specimen container leaked/spilled	38	8%
Specimen container broke	9	2%
IV tubing/bag/pump leaked	35	7%
Other body fluid container spilled/leaked	20	4%
Touched contaminated equipment/surface	12	3%
Touched contaminated drapes/sheets, etc.	3	1%
Feeding/ventilator/other tube separated/leaked/spilled	67	15%

Other	39	9%
(460 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	360	78%
5-14 minutes	60	13%
15 minutes - 1 hour	26	6%
More than 1 hour	15	3%
(461 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)	410	89%
Moderate amount (5-50 cc)	37	8%
Large amount (more than 50 cc)	16	3%
(463 records)		

BODY PART

Right hand	64
Left hand	55
Arm	57
Face/Head	492
Front/Chest	16
Leg	13
Foot	2
Back	0

OSHA

Is this incident OSHA reportable?

Yes	69	20%
No	281	80%
(350 records)		