



*Exposure Prevention Information Network*

## 2000 U.S. EPINet Needlestick and Sharp-Object Injury Report

International Healthcare Worker Safety Center, University of Virginia

Total hospitals contributing data = 26

Total Cases: 1,787

Total Average Daily Census: 4,721

JOB CATEGORY		
M.D. (attending/staff)	125	7%
M.D. (intern/resident/fellow)	193	11%
Medical student	15	1%
Nurse RN/LPN	769	43%
Nursing student	4	0%
Respiratory therapist	34	2%
Surgery attendant	121	7%
Other attendant	42	2%
Phlebotomist/venipuncture/I.V. team	82	5%
Clinical laboratory worker	41	2%
Technologist (non-lab)	67	4%
Dentist	5	0%
Dental hygienist	2	0%
Housekeeper	67	4%
Laundry worker	1	0%
Paramedic	2	0%
CNA/HHA	32	2%
Security	4	0%
Other student	31	2%
Other	146	8%
(1,783 records)		

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE		
<i>Where did the injury occur in the institution?</i>		
Patient room	497	28%
Outside patient room	44	3%

Emergency department	172	10%
Intensive/critical care unit	122	7%
Operating room	450	25%
Outpatient clinic/office	142	8%
Blood bank	1	0%
Venipuncture center	14	1%
Dialysis facility	8	0%
Procedure room	86	5%
Clinical laboratories	47	3%
Autopsy/pathology	14	1%
Service/utility area	45	3%
Labor and delivery	42	2%
Home-care	25	1%
Other	74	4%
(1,783 records)		

<b>SOURCE PATIENT</b>		
<i>Was the source patient known?</i>		
Yes	1,592	89%
No	110	6%
Unknown	48	3%
N/A	32	21%
(1,782 records)		

<b>ORIGINAL USER</b>		
<i>Was the injured worker the original user of the sharp item?</i>		
Yes	1,119	63%
No	596	33%
Unknown	15	1%
N/A	49	3%
(1,779 records)		

<b>CONTAMINATION</b>		
<i>Was the sharp item:</i>		
Contaminated	1,552	87%
Uncontaminated	91	5%
Unknown	138	8%
(1,781 records)		

<b>ORIGINAL PURPOSE</b>		
<i>For what purpose was the sharp item originally used?</i>		
Unknown, N/A	119	7%
Injection, IM/subcutaneous	340	19%
Heparin or saline flush	45	3%
Other injection into IV site or port	71	4%
Connect IV line	17	1%
Start IV or heparin lock	90	5%
Draw venous blood sample	288	16%
Draw arterial blood sample	44	3%
Obtain body fluid/tissue sample	30	2%
Fingerstick/heel stick	45	3%
Suturing	283	16%
Cutting (surgery)	124	7%
Electrocautery	6	0%
Contain specimen/pharmaceutical	27	2%
Place arterial line	23	1%
Fingernails/teeth	0	0%
Drilling	9	1%
Other	224	13%
(1,785 records)		

<b>HOW INJURY OCCURRED</b>		
<i>Did the injury occur:</i>		
Before use	23	1%
During use	537	30%
Between steps	204	12%
Disassembling	67	4%
Preparing for reuse	30	2%
Recapping	66	4%
Withdrawing from resistant material	51	3%
Other after use, before disposal	366	21%
Item left on disposal container	3	0%
Putting item into disposal container	129	7%
After disposal, item protruding from disposal container	38	2%
Pierced side of disposal container	7	0%
Pierced trash/side of inappropriate disposal container	41	2%
Restraining patient	20	1%
Device left on floor/bed/table/inappropriate place	83	5%
Other	113	6%
(1,778 records)		

<b>DEVICE</b>		
<i>What device or item caused the injury?</i>		
Disposable syringe	508	29%
Prefilled cartridge syringe	40	2%
Blood gas syringe	22	1%
Syringe, other type or not sure which	21	1%
Needle on IV line/tubing	16	1%
Winged needle IV set	146	8%
IV catheter (stylet)	87	5%
Vacuum tube blood collection needle/holder	75	4%
Spinal or epidural needle	9	1%
Unattached hypodermic needle	22	1%
Arterial catheter introducer needle	10	1%
Central line catheter introducer needle	2	0%
Drum catheter needle	0	0%
Other vascular catheter needle	7	0%
Other non-vascular catheter needle	0	0%
Needle, not sure what kind	37	2%
Other needle	82	5%
.		
Lancet	39	2%
Suture needle	268	15%
Scalpel, reusable	68	4%
Razor	13	1%
Pipette (plastic)	1	0%
Scissors	14	1%
Bovie electrocautery device	7	0%
Bone cutter	2	0%
Bone chip	1	0%
Towel clip	4	0%
Microtome blade	1	0%
Trocar	5	0%
Vacuum tube, plastic	1	0%
Specimen/test tube, plastic	3	0%
Fingernails/teeth	30	2%
Scalpel, disposable	44	3%
Retractor, skin/bone hooks	9	1%
Staples/steel sutures	3	0%
Wire	13	1%
Pin	5	0%
Drill bit/bur	14	1%
Pickups/forceps/hemostats/clamps	6	0%
Sharp item, not sure what kind	18	1%

Other item	69	4%
Medication ampule	4	0%
Medication vial (small)	5	0%
Pipette, glass	1	0%
Vacuum tube, glass	3	0%
Specimen/test tube, glass	5	0%
Capillary tube	3	0%
Glass slide	4	0%
Glass item, not sure what kind	4	0%
Other glass item	5	1%
(1,756 records)		

<b>SAFETY DESIGN</b>		
<i>If the item causing the injury was a needle, was it a safety design with a shielded, recessed, or retractable needle?</i>		
Yes	218	13%
No	1,504	87%
Unknown	9	0%
(1,731 records)		

<b>IF SAFETY DESIGN:</b>		
<i>If the item causing the injury was a safety design with a shielded, recessed, or retractable needle, was the safety mechanism activated?</i>		
Yes, fully	5	5%
Yes, partially	24	22%
No	80	73%
(109 records)		

<b>IF SAFETY DESIGN:</b>		
<i>If the item causing the injury was a safety design with a shielded, recessed, or retractable needle, did the injury happen?</i>		
Before activation	72	68%
During activation	24	23%
After activation	10	9%
(106 records)		

<b>SEVERITY OF INJURY</b>		
---------------------------	--	--

*Was the injury:*

Superficial	901	51%
Moderate	785	45%
Severe	69	4%
(1,755 records)		

**BODY PART**

Right hand	665
Left hand	917
Arm	67
Face/Head	14
Chest/Front	10
Back	2
Leg	24
Foot and ankle	7
(1,706 records)	