



Exposure Prevention Information Network

2002 U.S. EPINet Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Report

International Healthcare Worker Safety Center, University of Virginia

Total hospitals contributing data = 47

Total Cases: 469

Total Average Daily Census: 7,431

JOB CATEGORY		
M.D. (attending/staff)	25	5%
M.D. (intern/resident/fellow)	31	7%
Medical student	3	1%
Nurse RN/LPN/NP/CRNA/Midwife	210	45%
Nursing student	5	1%
Other student	3	1%
Respiratory therapist	17	4%
Surgery attendant	22	5%
Other attendant	15	3%
Phlebotomist/venipuncture/I.V. team	8	2%
Clinical laboratory worker	16	3%
Technologist (non-lab)	30	6%
Dentist	0	0%
Dental hygienist	0	0%
Housekeeper/laundry worker	5	1%
Paramedic	6	1%
CNA/HHA	26	6%
Security	3	1%
Other	42	9%
(467 records)		

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE		
<i>Where did the injury occur in the institution?</i>		
Patient room	177	38%
Outside patient room	10	2%
Emergency department	54	12%
Intensive/critical care unit	41	9%
Operating room/recovery	75	16%
Outpatient clinic/office	6	1%
Blood bank	1	0%
Venipuncture center	1	0%
Dialysis facility	1	0%
Procedure room	33	7%
Clinical laboratories	19	4%
Autopsy/pathology	0	0%
Service/utility area	2	0%
Labor and delivery	23	5%
Home-care	0	0%
Other	25	5%
(468 records)		

SOURCE PATIENT		
<i>Was the source patient known?</i>		
Yes	440	96%
No	14	3%
Unknown	4	1%
N/A	2	0%
(460 records)		

BODY FLUIDS		
<i>Which body fluids were involved in the exposure?</i>		
Blood or blood product	356	76%
Vomit	11	2%
Sputum	42	9%
Saliva	34	7%
CSF	1	0%
Peritoneal fluid	2	0%
Pleural fluid	6	1%

Amniotic fluid	12	3%
Urine	14	3%
Other	48	10%
EXPOSED PART		
<i>Was the exposed part:</i>		
Intact skin	201	43%
Non-intact skin	71	15%
Eye(s)	265	57%
Nose	10	2%
Mouth	43	9%
Other	11	2%

TYPE OF EXPOSURE		
<i>Did the blood or body fluid:</i>		
Touch unprotected skin	376	84%
Touch skin through gap between protective garments	46	10%
Soak through protective garment	11	3%
Soak through clothing	15	3%

PROTECTIVE ITEMS WORN		
<i>Which protective items were worn at the time of the exposure?</i>		
Single pair latex/vinyl gloves	287	61%
Double pair latex/vinyl gloves	31	7%
Goggles	17	4%
Eyeglasses (not protective)	50	11%
Eyeglasses with sideshields	7	2%
Faceshield	23	5%
Surgical mask	64	14%
Surgical gown	60	13%
Plastic apron	2	0%
Lab coat, cloth (not protective)	26	6%
Lab coat, other	9	2%
Other item	53	11%

RESULT		
<i>Was the exposure the result of:</i>		
Direct patient contact	211	46%
Specimen container leaked/spilled	22	5%

Specimen container broke	5	1%
IV tubing/bag/pump leaked	28	6%
Other body fluid container spilled/leaked	23	5%
Touched contaminated equipment/surface	11	2%
Touched contaminated drapes/sheets, etc.	4	1%
Feeding/ventilator/other tube separated/leaked/spilled	55	12%
Unknown	2	0%
Other	98	21%
(459 records)		

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	372	81%
5-14 minutes	52	11%
15 minutes - 1 hour	32	7%
More than 1 hour	6	1%
(462 records)		

QUANTITY		
<i>Estimate the quantity of blood/body fluid that came in contact with your skin or mucous membranes:</i>		
Small amount (up to 5 cc)	406	88%
Moderate amount (5-50 cc)	40	9%
Large amount (more than 50 cc)	13	3%
(459 records)		

BODY PART	
Right hand	57
Left hand	55
Arm	52
Face/Head	472
Front/Chest	31
Leg	12
Foot	3
Back	2