



*Exposure Prevention Information Network*

## 2003 U.S. EPINet Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Report

International Healthcare Worker Safety Center, University of Virginia

Total hospitals contributing data = 48

Total cases: 524

Total average daily census: 7,239

JOB CATEGORY		
M.D. (attending/staff)	25	4.8%
M.D. (intern/resident/fellow)	31	5.9%
Medical student	6	1.1%
Nurse RN/LPN/NP/CRNA/Midwife	262	50.2%
Nursing student	3	0.6%
Other student	3	0.6%
Respiratory therapist	22	4.2%
Surgery attendant	18	3.4%
Other attendant	9	1.7%
Phlebotomist/Venipuncture/I.V. team	16	3.1%
Clinical laboratory worker	11	2.1%
Technologist (non-lab)	31	5.9%
Dentist	0	0.0%
Dental hygienist	0	0.0%
Housekeeper/Laundry worker	2	0.4%
Paramedic	13	2.5%
CNA/HHA	22	4.2%
Security	7	1.3%
Other	41	7.9%
(522 records)		

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE		
<i>Where did the injury occur in the institution?</i>		
Patient room/Ward	193	37.0%
Outside patient room	13	2.5%
Emergency department	64	12.3%

Intensive/Critical care unit	53	10.2%
Operating room/Recovery	86	16.5%
Outpatient clinic/office	9	1.7%
Blood bank	1	0.2%
Venipuncture center	1	0.2%
Dialysis facility	0	0.0%
Procedure room	37	7.1%
Clinical laboratories	9	1.7%
Autopsy/Pathology	1	0.2%
Service/utility area	1	0.2%
Labor and delivery	18	3.4%
Home-care	4	0.8%
Other	32	6.1%
(522 records)		

<b>SOURCE PATIENT</b>		
<b><i>Was the source patient known?</i></b>		
Yes	492	96.5%
No	11	2.2%
Unknown	4	0.8%
N/A	3	0.6%
(510 records)		

<b>BODY FLUIDS</b>		
<b><i>Which body fluids were involved in the exposure?</i></b>		
Blood or blood product	389	74.2%
Vomit	23	4.4%
Sputum	42	8.0%
Saliva	30	5.7%
CSF	4	0.8%
Peritoneal fluid	5	1.0%
Pleural fluid	4	0.8%
Amniotic fluid	6	1.1%
Urine	30	5.7%
Other	53	10.1%

EXPOSED PART		
<b><i>Was the exposed part:</i></b>		
Intact skin	180	34.4%
Non-intact skin	69	13.2%
Eye(s)	344	65.6%
Nose	8	1.5%
Mouth	55	10.5%
Other	9	1.7%

TYPE OF EXPOSURE		
<b><i>Did the blood or body fluid:</i></b>		
Touch unprotected skin	424	86.2%
Touch skin through gap between protective garments	52	10.6%
Soak through protective garment	4	0.8%
Soak through clothing	12	2.4%

PROTECTIVE ITEMS WORN		
<b><i>Which protective items were worn at the time of the exposure?</i></b>		
Single pair latex/vinyl/nitrile gloves	312	59.5%
Double pair latex/vinyl/nitrile gloves	41	7.8%
Goggles	21	4.0%
Eyeglasses (not protective)	64	12.2%
Eyeglasses with sideshields	8	1.5%
Faceshield	17	3.2%
Surgical mask	63	12.0%
Surgical gown	69	13.2%
Plastic apron	5	1.0%
Lab coat, cloth (not protective)	15	2.9%
Lab coat, other	9	1.7%
Other item	66	12.6%

RESULT		
<b><i>Was the exposure the result of:</i></b>		
Direct patient contact	252	49.2%
Specimen container leaked/spilled	28	5.5%
Specimen container broke	3	0.6%

IV tubing/bag/pump leaked	42	8.2%
Other body fluid container spilled/leaked	18	3.5%
Touched contaminated equipment/surface	9	1.8%
Touched contaminated drapes/sheets, etc.	0	0.0%
Feeding/ventilator/other tube separated/leaked/spilled	59	11.5%
Unknown	2	0.4%
Other	99	19.3%
(512 records)		

<b>TIME IN CONTACT</b>		
<i>For how long was the blood or body fluid in contact with your skin or mucous membranes?</i>		
Less than 5 minutes	393	77.5%
5-14 minutes	76	15.0%
15 minutes - 1 hour	35	6.9%
More than 1 hour	3	0.6%
(507 records)		

<b>QUANTITY</b>		
<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)	455	90.5%
Moderate amount (5-50 cc)	33	6.6%
Large amount (more than 50 cc)	15	3.0%
(503 records)		

<b>BODY PART</b>	
Right hand	54
Left hand	40
Arm	54
Face/Head	564
Front/Chest	28
Leg	9
Foot	3
Back	2