2020 EPINet® Blood Occupational Exposure Data
For Needlesticks, Sharps Injuries, and Blood and Body Fluid Exposures

The International Safety Center is a 501(c)(3) women-led non-profit research and advocacy organization committed to improving occupational health and safety in healthcare. Our Exposure Prevention Information Network (EPINet®) surveillance system data is analyzed and reported publicly every year thanks to the partnership and dedication of our EPINet network facilities. The 2020 data represents occupational incidents and exposures from 41 US facilities.

**Needlestick and Sharp Injuries**

- Nurse
- Doctor Resident/Intern
- Doctor Attending
- Other
- Surg Attend
- Technologist
- Phlebotomist/Med Tech
- C.N.A or home health aide
- Clinical Lab

- ~70% nurses and doctors
- ~70% of all injuries in operating room
- 43.7% of all injuries in operating room
- 26.3% in patient/exam room

**Blood and Body Fluid Exposures**

- Eyes
- Intact Skin
- Non-Intact Skin
- Mouth
- Nose
- Other

- only ~12% were wearing any kind of eye protection
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- ~80% of exposures are to the head

**Top 3 Most Frequent Devices Causing Injury**

- 23.7% Suture
- 16.7% Disposable Syringe
- 6.9% Blood Collection, Winged Needle, or Tube Holder

- Less than 37% were using a sharp with a safety feature
- Of those, 66.7% were NOT activated

**Blood and Body Fluid Exposures**

- ~75% occurred in patient room, surgery, or emergency department

**Resources**

- Annual Exposure Reports [https://internationalsafetycenter.org/exposure-reports/](https://internationalsafetycenter.org/exposure-reports/)
- Sharps Safety 2020 Consensus Statement and Call to Action [https://tinyurl.com/2020SharpsConsensus](https://tinyurl.com/2020SharpsConsensus)