



Exposure Prevention Information Network

2001 U.S. EPINet Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Report

International Healthcare Worker Safety Center, University of Virginia

Total hospitals contributing data = 49

Total cases: 463

Total average daily census: 7,716

JOB CATEGORY		
M.D. (attending/staff)	25	5%
M.D. (intern/resident/fellow)	25	5%
Medical student	1	0%
Nurse RN/LPN/NP/CRNA/Midwife	250	54%
Nursing student	3	1%
Other student	5	1%
Respiratory therapist	16	4%
Surgery attendant	23	5%
Other attendant	5	1%
Phlebotomist/venipuncture/I.V. team	5	1%
Clinical laboratory worker	12	3%
Technologist (non-lab)	31	7%
Dentist	0	0%
Dental hygienist	0	0%
Housekeeper/laundry worker	4	1%
Paramedic	7	2%
CNA/HHA	17	4%
Security	0	0%
Other	32	7%
(461 records)		

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE		
<i>Where did the injury occur in the institution?</i>		
Patient room	175	38%
Outside patient room	9	2%
Emergency department	61	13.2%
Intensive/critical care unit	34	7%

Operating room	81	18%
Outpatient clinic/office	8	2%
Blood bank	3	1%
Venipuncture	1	0%
Dialysis facility	1	0%
Procedure room	31	7%
Clinical laboratories	7	2%
Autopsy/pathology	0	0%
Service/utility area	2	0%
Labor and delivery	8	2%
Home-care	6	1%
Other	36	8%
(463 records)		

SOURCE PATIENT		
<i>Was the source patient known?</i>		
Yes	427	97%
No	12	3%
Unknown	3	1%
N/A	0	0%
(442 records)		

BODY FLUIDS		
<i>Which body fluids were involved in the exposure?</i>		
Blood or blood product	332	72%
Vomit	10	2%
Sputum	36	8%
Saliva	29	6%
CSF	2	0%
Peritoneal fluid	3	01%
Pleural fluid	6	1%
Amniotic fluid	12	3%
Urine	23	5%
Other	50	11%

EXPOSED PART		
<i>Was the exposed part:</i>		
Intact skin	187	40%

Non-intact skin	82	18%
Eye(s)	268	58%
Nose	7	2%
Mouth	37	8%
Other	12	3%

TYPE OF EXPOSURE		
<i>Did the blood or body fluid:</i>		
Touch unprotected skin	355	83%
Touch skin through gap between protective garments	48	11%
Soak through protective garment	13	3%
Soak through clothing	12	3%

PROTECTIVE ITEMS WORN		
<i>Which protective items were worn at the time of the exposure?</i>		
Single pair latex/vinyl gloves	283	61%
Double pair latex/vinyl gloves	28	6%
Goggles	18	4%
Eyeglasses (not protective)	50	11%
Eyeglasses with sideshields	2	0%
Faceshield	13	3%
Surgical mask	42	9%
Surgical gown	39	8%
Plastic apron	2	0%
Lab coat, cloth (not protective)	25	5%
Lab coat, other	4	1%
Other item	50	11%

RESULT		
<i>Was the exposure the result of:</i>		
Direct patientcontact	218	48%
Specimen container leaked/spilled	21	5%
Specimen container broke	10	2%
IV tubing/bag/pump leaked	38	8.7%
Other body fluid container spilled/leaked	23	5%
Touched contaminated equipment/surface	5	1%
Touched contaminated drapes/sheets, etc.	3	1%
Feeding/ventilator/other tube separated/leaked/spilled	45	10%

Unknown	5	1%
Other	89	20%
(457 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	357	81%
5-14 minutes	49	11%
15 minutes - 1 hour	30	7%
More than 1 hour	6	1%
(442 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)	387	88%
Moderate amount (5-50 cc)	37	8%
Large amount (more than 50 cc)	14	3%
(438 records)		

BODY PART	
Right hand	81
Left hand	47
Arm	45
Face/Head	453
Front/Chest	36
Leg	10
Foot	1
Back	0