



Exposure Prevention Information Network

Official Summary Report for Needlestick & Sharp Object Injuries, 2005

Total Cases: 1033

Average Daily Census: 3885

9 Teaching facilities (average daily census = 2,290; total injuries = 790)

26 Non-teaching facilities (average daily census = 1,595; total injuries = 243)

| Job category | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| 1 Doctor (attending.staff) List specialty | 110 | 10.70% |
| 2 Doctor (intern/resident/fellow) List specialty | 165 | 16.10% |
| 3 Medical Student | 7 | 0.70% |
| 4 Nurse | 396 | 38.50% |
| 5 Nursing Student | 13 | 1.30% |
| 6 Respiratory Therapist | 26 | 2.50% |
| 7 Surgery Attendant | 92 | 8.90% |
| 8 Other Attendant | 19 | 1.80% |
| 9 Phlebotomist/ Venipuncture/ IV Team | 50 | 4.90% |
| 10 Clinical Laboratory Worker | 7 | 0.70% |
| 11 Technologist (non lab) | 37 | 3.60% |
| 12 Dentist | 1 | 0.10% |
| 13 Dental Hygienist | 1 | 0.10% |
| 14 Housekeeper | 16 | 1.60% |
| 15 Other, describe | 65 | 6.30% |
| 16 Paramedic | 3 | 0.30% |
| 17 Other Student | 14 | 1.40% |
| 18 CNA/HHA | 4 | 0.40% |
| 19 Laundry Worker | 1 | 0.10% |
| 20 Security | 1 | 0.10% |
| Total Records: 1,028 | | |

| Where did the injury occur? | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|--------|
| 1 Patient Room/Ward | 297 | 28.80% |
| 2 Outside Patient Room | 5 | 0.50% |
| 3 Emergency Department | 65 | 6.30% |
| 4 Intensive/Critical Care Unit | 80 | 7.80% |
| 5 Operating Room/Recovery | 358 | 34.80% |
| 6 Outpatient Clinic/Office | 63 | 6.10% |
| 8 Venipuncture Center | 6 | 0.60% |
| 10 Procedure Room | 43 | 4.20% |
| 11 Clinical Laboratories | 7 | 0.70% |

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|-------|
| 12 Autopsy/Pathology | 10 | 1.00% |
| 13 Service/Utility Area | 7 | 0.70% |
| 14 Other, describe | 44 | 4.30% |
| 16 Labor and Delivery Room | 41 | 4.00% |
| 17 Home-care | 4 | 0.40% |
| Total Records: 1,030 | | |

| Was the source patient identifiable? | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| 1 Yes | 979 | 95.30% |
| 2 No | 26 | 2.50% |
| 3 Unknown | 19 | 1.90% |
| 4 N/A | 3 | 0.30% |
| Total Records: 1,207 | | |

| Was the injured worker the original user of the sharp item? | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| 1 Yes | 661 | 64.60% |
| 2 No | 339 | 33.10% |
| 3 Unknown | 8 | 0.80% |
| 4 N/A | 15 | 1.50% |
| Total Records: 1,023 | | |

| Was the sharp item contaminated? | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| 1 Contaminated | 951 | 93.10% |
| 2 Uncontaminated | 19 | 1.90% |
| 3 Unknown | 51 | 5.00% |
| Total Records: 1,021 | | |

| What was the original purpose of the sharp item? | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| 1 Unknown/not applicable | 34 | 3.30% |
| 2 Injection, intramuscular/subcutaneous | 231 | 22.50% |
| 3 Heparin or saline flush | 4 | 0.40% |
| 4 Other injection into IV injection site or port | 15 | 1.50% |
| 5 To connect IV line | 4 | 0.40% |
| 6 To start IV or setup heparin lock | 43 | 4.20% |
| 7 To draw a venous blood sample | 132 | 12.90% |
| 8 To draw an arterial blood sample | 36 | 3.50% |
| 9 To obtain a body fluid or tissue sample | 13 | 1.30% |
| 10 Fingerstick/heel stick | 13 | 1.30% |
| 11 Suturing | 261 | 25.40% |
| 12 Cutting | 76 | 7.40% |
| 13 Electrocautery | 15 | 1.50% |
| 14 To contain a specimen or pharmaceutical | 4 | 0.40% |
| 15 Other, describe | 123 | 12.00% |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|-------|
| 16 To place an arterial/central line | 13 | 1.30% |
| 17 Drilling | 9 | 0.90% |
| Total Records: 1,026 | | |

| When did the injury occur? | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| 2 During use of item | 485 | 47.30% |
| 3 Between steps of a multi-step procedure | 144 | 14.00% |
| 4 Disassembling device or equipment | 30 | 2.90% |
| 5 In preparation for reuse of reusable instruments | 10 | 1.00% |
| 6 While recapping a used needle | 32 | 3.10% |
| 7 Withdrawing a needle from rubber or other resistance | 9 | 0.90% |
| 8 Other after use, before disposal | 104 | 10.10% |
| 9 From item left on or near disposal container | 2 | 0.20% |
| 10 While putting the item into the disposal container | 36 | 3.50% |
| 11 After disposal, stuck by item protruding from disposal | 15 | 1.50% |
| 12 Item pierced side of disposal container | 1 | 0.10% |
| 13 After disposal, item protruding from trash bag or inapp | 10 | 1.00% |
| 14 Other, describe | 90 | 8.80% |
| 15 Restraining patient | 4 | 0.40% |
| 16 Device left on floor, table, bed or other inappropriate | 53 | 5.20% |
| Total Records: 1,025 | | |

| Type of device causing injury: | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| 1 Syringe, disposable | 316 | 31.50% |
| 2 Syringe, prefilled cartridge | 22 | 2.20% |
| 3 Syringe, blood gas | 20 | 2.00% |
| 4 Syringe, other type | 5 | 0.50% |
| 5 Needle on IV tubing | 1 | 0.10% |
| 6 Needle, Winged steel | 67 | 6.70% |
| 7 IV catheter | 33 | 3.30% |
| 8 Needle/holder vacuum tube blood collection | 14 | 1.40% |
| 9 Needle, spinal or epidural | 5 | 0.50% |
| 10 Needle, unattached hypodermic | 4 | 0.40% |
| 11 Needle, arterial catheter introducer | 2 | 0.20% |
| 12 Needle, central line catheter introducer | 7 | 0.70% |
| 14 Needle, other vascular catheter | 3 | 0.30% |
| 28 Needle, unknown type | 15 | 1.50% |
| 29 Needle, describe | 23 | 2.30% |
| 30 Lancet | 11 | 1.10% |
| 31 Suture Needle | 249 | 24.80% |
| 32 Scalpel, reusable | 30 | 3.00% |
| 33 Razor | 4 | 0.40% |
| 35 Scissors | 3 | 0.30% |
| 36 Electrocautery Device | 15 | 1.50% |
| 37 Bone cutter | 1 | 0.10% |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|-------|
| 39 Towel clip | 3 | 0.30% |
| 40 Microtome blade | 1 | 0.10% |
| 41 Trocar | 2 | 0.20% |
| 44 Fingernails/teeth | 3 | 0.30% |
| 45 Scalpel, disposable | 39 | 3.90% |
| 46 Retractors, skin/bone hooks | 13 | 1.30% |
| 47 Staples, steel sutures | 4 | 0.40% |
| 48 Wire | 13 | 1.30% |
| 49 Pin | 11 | 1.10% |
| 50 Drill bit | 5 | 0.50% |
| 51 Pickup/forceps/hemostats | 7 | 0.70% |
| 58 Sharp item, not sure what kind | 7 | 0.70% |
| 59 Other sharp item (please describe) | 34 | 3.40% |
| 60 Medication ampule | 1 | 0.10% |
| 64 Vacuum tube, glass | 1 | 0.10% |
| 65 Specimen/test tube, glass | 1 | 0.10% |
| 78 Glass item, unknown type | 3 | 0.30% |
| 79 Glass item, other | 6 | 0.60% |
| Total Records: 1,004 | | |

| | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| If injury was caused by a needle, was it a "safety design"? | | |
| 1 Yes | 366 | 37.40% |
| 2 No | 568 | 58.00% |
| 3 Unknown | 45 | 4.60% |
| Total Records: 976 | | |
| A. If yes, was safety mechanism activated? | | |
| 1 Yes, fully | 34 | 10.20% |
| 2 Yes, partially | 69 | 20.70% |
| 3 No | 231 | 69.20% |
| Total Records: 334 | | |
| B. If yes, did the injury happen? | | |
| 1 Before activation | 201 | 64.80% |
| 2 During activation | 69 | 22.30% |
| 3 After activation | 40 | 12.90% |
| Total Records: 310 | | |

| | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| Location of injury as selected from list | | |
| Arm | 20 | 2.00% |
| Face/Head | 2 | 0.20% |
| Foot | 1 | 0.10% |
| Front | 1 | 0.10% |
| Hand, left | 635 | 62.20% |
| Hand, right | 351 | 34.40% |
| Leg | 11 | 1.10% |

Total Records: 1,021

| Depth of the injury | | |
|---|-----|--------|
| Superficial-little or no bleeding | 670 | 65.60% |
| Moderate-skin punctured, some bleeding | 324 | 31.70% |
| Severe-deep stick/cut, profuse bleeding | 27 | 2.60% |
| Total Records: 1,021 | | |

| Did the sharp item penetrate? | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|--------|
| 1 Single pair of gloves | 640 | 64.10% |
| 2 Double pair of gloves | 237 | 23.70% |
| 3 No gloves | 121 | 12.10% |
| Total Records: 998 | | |

| Handedness of injured worker | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|--------|
| 1 Right-handed | 928 | 92.40% |
| 2 Left-handed | 76 | 7.60% |
| Total Records: 1,004 | | |