



Exposure Prevention Information Network

2007 U.S. EPINet Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Report

© International Healthcare Worker Safety Center, University of Virginia

Total Cases: 247

Average Daily Census: 3,400

9 Teaching facilities (average daily census = 2,317; total exposures = 200)

20 Non-teaching facilities (average daily census = 1,083; total exposures = 47)

Job category		
1 Doctor (attending.staff) List specialty	19	7.7%
2 Doctor (intern/resident/fellow) List specialty	19	7.7%
3 Medical Student	4	1.6%
4 Nurse	120	48.6%
5 Nursing Student	4	1.6%
6 Respiratory Therapist	9	3.6%
7 Surgery Attendant	5	2.0%
8 Other Attendant	6	2.4%
9 Phlebotomist/ Venipuncture/ IV Team	3	1.2%
10 Clinical Laboratory Worker	6	2.4%
11 Technologist (non lab)	11	4.5%
15 Other, describe	23	9.3%
16 Paramedic	7	2.8%
18 CNA/HHA	8	3.2%
20 Security	3	1.2%
Total Records: 247		

Where did the exposure occur?		
1 Patient Room/Ward	73	29.6%
2 Outside Patient Room	4	1.6%
3 Emergency Department	29	11.7%
4 Intensive/Critical Care Unit	49	19.8%
5 Operating Room/Recovery	39	15.8%
6 Outpatient Clinic/Office	5	2.0%
7 Blood Bank	2	0.8%
10 Procedure Room	14	5.7%
11 Clinical Laboratories	4	1.6%
13 Service/Utility Area	1	0.4%
14 Other, describe	21	8.5%
16 Labor and Delivery Room	5	2.0%
17 Home-care	1	0.4%
Total Records: 247		

Was the source patient identifiable?		
1 Yes	239	97.6%
2 No	3	1.2%
3 Unknown	2	0.8%
4 N/A	1	0.4%
Total Records: 245		

Which body fluids were involved?		
Blood or blood products	195	78.9%
Vomit	5	2.0%
Sputum	21	8.5%
Saliva	16	6.5%
CSF	2	0.8%
Peritoneal	4	1.6%
Pleural	1	0.4%
Amniotic	5	2.0%
Urine	9	3.6%
BFOther	37	15.0%
Total Records: 247		

Was the body fluid, other than blood, visibly contaminated with blood?		
1 Yes	177	79.7%
2 No	31	14.0%
3 Unknown	14	6.3%
Total Records: 222		

Were the exposed parts:		
Intact Skin	74	30.0%
Non-Intact Skin	30	12.1%
Eyes (Conjunctiva)	168	68.0%
Nose (Mucosa)	12	4.9%
Mouth (Mucosa)	26	10.5%
Other Exposed Parts	7	2.8%
Total Records: 247		

Did the blood or body fluids touch/soak?		
Touch Unprotected Skin	194	87.0%
Touch Skin Between Gap in Protective Garment	22	9.9%
Soaked through Protective Garment	3	1.3%
Soaked through Clothing	4	1.8%
Total Records: 223		

Which barrier items were worn at the time of exposure?		
Single Pair of Gloves	181	73.3%
Double Pair of Gloves	19	7.7%
Goggles	6	2.4%
Eyeglasses, (not protective)	27	10.9%
Eyeglasses with Sideshields	1	0.4%
Faceshield	11	4.5%
Surgical Mask	39	15.8%
Surgical Gown	48	19.4%
Plastic Apron	3	1.2%
Labcoat, Cloth, (not protective)	3	1.2%
Labcoat, Other	4	1.6%
Other	15	6.1%
Total Records: 247		

Was the exposure the result of?		
1 Direct patient contact	113	46.5%
2 Specimen container leaked/spilled	16	6.6%
3 Specimen container broke	5	2.1%
4 IV tubing/bag/pump leaked/broke	21	8.6%
5 Other body fluid container spilled/leaked	12	4.9%
6 Touched contaminated equipment/surface	1	0.4%
7 Touched contaminated drapes/sheets/gown	1	0.4%
8 Unknown	3	1.2%
9 Other, describe	58	23.9%
10 Feeding/ventilator/other tube separated/leaked/spilled	13	5.3%
Total Records: 243		

For how long was the blood or body fluid in contact with your skin or mucous membrane?		
1 Less than 5 minutes	193	79.1%
2 5-14 minutes	30	12.3%
3 15 minutes to 1 hr	16	6.6%
4 More than 1 hr	5	2.0%
Total Records: 244		

How much blood/body fluid came in contact with your skin or mucous membrane?		
1 Small amount (up to 5 cc)	232	94.3%
2 Moderate amount (up to 50 cc)	13	5.3%
3 Large amount (more than 50 cc)	1	0.4%
Total Records: 246		

Exposure location: Largest exposure		
Arm	8	3.3%
Face/Head	196	80.3%
Foot	2	0.8%
Front	1	0.4%
Hand, left	13	5.3%
Hand, right	21	8.6%
Leg	3	1.2%
Total Records: 244		

Exposure location: Middle exposure		
Arm	6	5.6%
Back	1	0.9%
Face/Head	87	80.6%
Foot	1	0.9%
Front	3	2.8%
Hand, left	4	3.7%
Hand, right	5	4.6%
Leg	1	0.9%
Total Records: 108		

Exposure location: Smallest exposure		
Arm	10	40.0%
Back	1	4.0%
Face/Head	2	8.0%
Front	6	24.0%
Hand, left	4	16.0%
Hand, right	1	4.0%
Leg	1	4.0%
Total Records: 25		

