



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
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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		