



Exposure Prevention Information Network

Official Summary Report for Needlestick & Sharp Object Injuries, 2006

Total Cases: 950

Average Daily Census: 3400

9 Teaching facilities (average daily census = 2274; total injuries = 760)

24 Non-teaching facilities (average daily census = 1125; total injuries = 190)

Job category		
1 Doctor (attending.staff) List specialty	126	13.30%
2 Doctor (intern/resident/fellow) List specialty	149	15.70%
3 Medical Student	11	1.20%
4 Nurse	344	36.30%
5 Nursing Student	6	0.60%
6 Respiratory Therapist	16	1.70%
7 Surgery Attendant	74	7.80%
8 Other Attendant	16	1.70%
9 Phlebotomist/ Venipuncture/ IV Team	38	4.00%
10 Clinical Laboratory Worker	14	1.50%
11 Technologist (non lab)	40	4.20%
12 Dentist	2	0.20%
13 Dental Hygienist	1	0.10%
14 Housekeeper	21	2.20%
15 Other, describe	63	6.70%
16 Paramedic	5	0.50%
17 Other Student	12	1.30%
18 CNA/HHA	6	0.60%
20 Security	3	0.30%
Total Records: 947		

Where did the injury occur?		
1 Patient Room/Ward	233	24.60%
2 Outside Patient Room	6	0.60%
3 Emergency Department	91	9.60%
4 Intensive/Critical Care Unit	70	7.40%
5 Operating Room/Recovery	333	35.20%
6 Outpatient Clinic/Office	66	7.00%
8 Venipuncture Center	5	0.50%
10 Procedure Room	33	3.50%
11 Clinical Laboratories	11	1.20%
12 Autopsy/Pathology	9	1.00%

13 Service/Utility Area	6	0.60%
14 Other, describe	43	4.50%
16 Labor and Delivery Room	36	3.80%
17 Home-care	5	0.50%
Total Records: 947		

Was the source patient identifiable?		
1 Yes	890	94.20%
2 No	32	3.40%
3 Unknown	20	2.10%
4 N/A	3	0.30%
Total Records: 945		

Was the injured worker the original user of the sharp item?		
1 Yes	601	64.30%
2 No	312	33.40%
3 Unknown	6	0.60%
4 N/A	16	1.70%
Total Records: 935		

Was the sharp item contaminated?		
1 Contaminated	874	93.10%
2 Uncontaminated	9	1.00%
3 Unknown	56	6.00%
Total Records: 939		

What was the original purpose of the sharp item?		
1 Unknown/not applicable	29	3.10%
2 Injection, intramuscular/subcutaneous	214	22.80%
3 Heparin or saline flush	2	0.20%
4 Other injection into IV injection site or port	21	2.20%
5 To connect IV line	3	0.30%
6 To start IV or setup heparin lock	42	4.50%
7 To draw a venous blood sample	109	11.60%
8 To draw an arterial blood sample	20	2.10%
9 To obtain a body fluid or tissue sample	17	1.80%
10 Fingerstick/heel stick	13	1.40%
11 Suturing	210	22.40%
12 Cutting	82	8.70%
13 Electrocautery	14	1.50%
14 To contain a specimen or pharmaceutical	5	0.50%
15 Other, describe	130	13.90%

16 To place an arterial/central line	20	2.10%
17 Drilling	7	0.70%
Total Records: 938		

When did the injury occur?		
2 During use of item	406	43.20%
3 Between steps of a multi-step procedure	144	15.30%
4 Disassembling device or equipment	22	2.30%
5 In preparation for reuse of reusable instruments	20	2.10%
6 While recapping a used needle	24	2.60%
7 Withdrawing a needle from rubber or other resistance	18	1.90%
8 Other after use, before disposal	102	10.90%
9 From item left on or near disposal container	2	0.20%
10 While putting the item into the disposal container	49	5.20%
11 After disposal, stuck by item protruding from disposal	5	0.50%
12 Item pierced side of disposal container	2	0.20%
13 After disposal, item protruding from trash bag or inapp	8	0.90%
14 Other, describe	75	8.00%
15 Restraining patient	6	0.60%
16 Device left on floor, table, bed or other inappropriate	56	6.00%
Total Records: 939		

Type of device causing injury:		
1 Syringe, disposable	266	29.30%
2 Syringe, prefilled cartridge	21	2.30%
3 Syringe, blood gas	14	1.50%
4 Syringe, other type	2	0.20%
5 Needle on IV tubing	6	0.70%
6 Needle, Winged steel	51	5.60%
7 IV catheter	26	2.90%
8 Needle/holder vacuum tube blood collection	26	2.90%
9 Needle, spinal or epidural	1	0.10%
10 Needle, unattached hypodermic	6	0.70%
11 Needle, arterial catheter introducer	4	0.40%
12 Needle, central line catheter introducer	6	0.70%
13 Needle, drum catheter	1	0.10%
14 Needle, other vascular catheter	3	0.30%
15 Needle, other non vascular catheter	1	0.10%
28 Needle, unknown type	7	0.80%
29 Needle, describe	44	4.90%
30 Lancet	11	1.20%
31 Suture Needle	199	21.90%
32 Scalpel, reusable	35	3.90%
33 Razor	7	0.80%
35 Scissors	7	0.80%

36 Electrocautery Device	14	1.50%
37 Bone cutter	1	0.10%
39 Towel clip	4	0.40%
41 Trocar	1	0.10%
44 Fingernails/teeth	3	0.30%
45 Scalpel, disposable	42	4.60%
46 Retractors, skin/bone hooks	8	0.90%
47 Staples, steel sutures	7	0.80%
48 Wire	18	2.00%
49 Pin	4	0.40%
50 Drill bit	7	0.80%
51 Pickup/forceps/hemostats	4	0.40%
58 Sharp item, not sure what kind	3	0.30%
59 Other sharp item (please describe)	36	4.00%
60 Medication ampule	2	0.20%
61 Medication vial	1	0.10%
63 Pipette, glass	1	0.10%
64 Vacuum tube, glass	1	0.10%
67 Glass slide	2	0.20%
78 Glass item, unknown type	2	0.20%
79 Glass item, other	2	0.20%
Total Records: 907		

If injury was caused by a needle, was it a "safety design"?		
1 Yes	318	35.80%
2 No	532	59.90%
3 Unknown	38	4.30%
Total Records: 888		
A. If yes, was safety mechanism activated?		
1 Yes, fully	24	8.50%
2 Yes, partially	63	22.30%
3 No	196	69.30%
Total Records: 283		
B. If yes, did the injury happen?		
1 Before activation	173	65.50%
2 During activation	54	20.50%
3 After activation	37	14.00%
Total Records: 264		

Location of injury as selected from list		
Arm	20	2.20%
Face/Head	2	0.20%

Foot	4	0.40%
Front	4	0.40%
Hand, left	543	59.00%
Hand, right	338	36.70%
Leg	10	1.10%
Total Records: 921		

Depth of the injury		
Superficial-little or no bleeding	615	65.60%
Moderate-skin punctured, some bleeding	293	31.20%
Severe-deep stick/cut, profuse bleeding	30	3.20%
Total Records: 938		

Did the sharp item penetrate?		
1 Single pair of gloves	588	65.00%
2 Double pair of gloves	208	23.00%
3 No gloves	108	11.90%
Total Records: 904		

Handedness of injured worker		
1 Right-handed	871	94.30%
2 Left-handed	53	5.70%
Total Records: 924		