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Abstract #61262

Rates of exposure to patient blood among certified paramedics: Results from The National Study to Prevent Blood Exposure in Paramedics

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The purpose of this study was to determine the frequency of blood exposure events and the factors associated with these events among currently licensed paramedics. Paramedics were selected using a two-stage design. The first stage involved selecting states from three strata defined by the size of the paramedic population, i.e., >10,000, 10,000-3,001, and ≤3,000. The second stage involved a simple random sampling of paramedics from a list of licensed paramedics from each selected state. 6,500 questionnaires were mailed to paramedics in California, Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas. One state, Illinois, was unable to provide information on licensed paramedics because of privacy restrictions. The questionnaire contained two sections. In the first section, paramedics were asked about current job status, use and availability of equipment and devices, safety procedures, and limited personal demographic information. In the second section, paramedics were asked about blood exposure incidents that occurred within the last 12 months, including the number and location of exposures, whether safety devices or equipment were used, circumstances that contributed to the exposure, and whether the incident was reported. We will present estimates of exposure rates by route of exposure (needlestick and other percutaneous injury, mucous membrane, non-intact skin, and bite) and by selected demographic factors. Exposure rates will be presented using two denominators, i.e., exposure events per patient and exposure events per call.

Learning Objectives: Describe the rates of exposure to patient blood among certified paramedics. Compare rates by route of exposure, selected demographic factors, and choice of denominator.

Keywords: Occupational Exposure, Occupational Safety

Related Web page:

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I do not have any significant financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with any organization/institution whose products or services are being discussed in this session.

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