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Abstract #52435

A follow-back telephone interview study of work-related needle stick injuries that were treated in emergency departments (EDs)

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Objective: To compare work-related needle stick injuries treated in hospital EDs among healthcare workers between hospitals and non-hospital settings.

Methods: Telephone interviews were conducted with healthcare workers who had work-related needle stick injuries treated in hospital EDs from March 2000 to January 2002. The workers were identified through the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, a stratified probability sample of hospital EDs in the U.S. and its territories. Healthcare workers in non-hospital settings were over sampled in this study population.

Results: There are 383 completed interviews of healthcare workers. Of these, 78% were from hospitals and 22% from non-hospital settings which include emergency medical services, doctors' offices, nursing homes, etc. In non-hospital settings, the injuries were more likely to occur after use of the needle (84%) compared to hospitals (61%, $p=0.0001$). In hospitals, the needle was more likely to be held by the injured worker (66%; $p=0.02$) at the time of injury compared to non-hospital settings (52%). There were significant differences in worker reported use of personal protective equipment at the time of injury with 67% from non-hospital settings compared to 82% ($p=0.01$) from hospitals. Significantly more workers in hospitals reported that treatment procedures (94%) and bloodborne pathogen safety training (94%) were available in their workplaces compared to non-hospital settings (79%, $p<0.0001$ and 86%, $p=0.01$ respectively).

Conclusions: This study suggests that there are significant differences in how needle stick injuries occurred and were treated, and safety training available between hospitals and non-hospital settings.

Learning Objectives: To compare work-related needle stick injuries treated in hospital EDs among healthcare workers between hospitals and non-hospital settings.

Presenting author's disclosure statement:

Organization/institution whose products or services will be discussed: None

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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