



Weill Cornell Medical College

Student Safety In Healthcare Settings

Environmental Health and Safety

<http://www.weill.cornell.edu/ehs>

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Weill Cornell Medical College

- The medical college has MD, PA and MD/PhD students
- Clinical rotations occur at many NYC area Hospitals
- All reported needle stick & body fluid exposures are investigated
- Sharps and bloodborne pathogen exposure prevention program (2009)



MD Student Exposures

Student/Year	Location	Department	Procedure/Action	Mode of transmission
MD/PhD/third	NYP-Greenberg		suturing	needlestick
MD/third	NYH- Queens	Surgery Rotation	suturing	needlestick
MD/third	Lincoln Hospital	Medicine	blood draw	needlestick
MD/third	NYP-Greenberg	OB/Gyn	blood draw	needlestick (butterfly)
MD/first	NYP	Ob/Gyn	observing L&D	body fluid splash
MD/third	NYP	Clerkship/ Phlebotomy	blood draw	needlestick (butterfly)
MD/third	Lincoln Hospital	SICU-Surgery Rotation	suturing	needlestick
MD/third	NYP-Greenberg	Surgery	blood draw	needlestick (butterfly)
MD/third	NYP-Greenberg	Urology- Surgery Rotation	suturing	needlestick
MD/third	NYH- Queens	Emergency Room	post procedure	body fluid splash
MD/third	NYP-Greenberg	Surgery	suturing	needlestick
MD/third	NYP-Greenberg	Surgery	suturing	toothed forceps
MD/third	NYH- Queens		blood draw	hollow-bore needle
MD/third	Lincoln Hospital	Medicine	blood draw	needlestick (butterfly)
MD/third	NYP-Greenberg		blood draw	needlestick (butterfly)





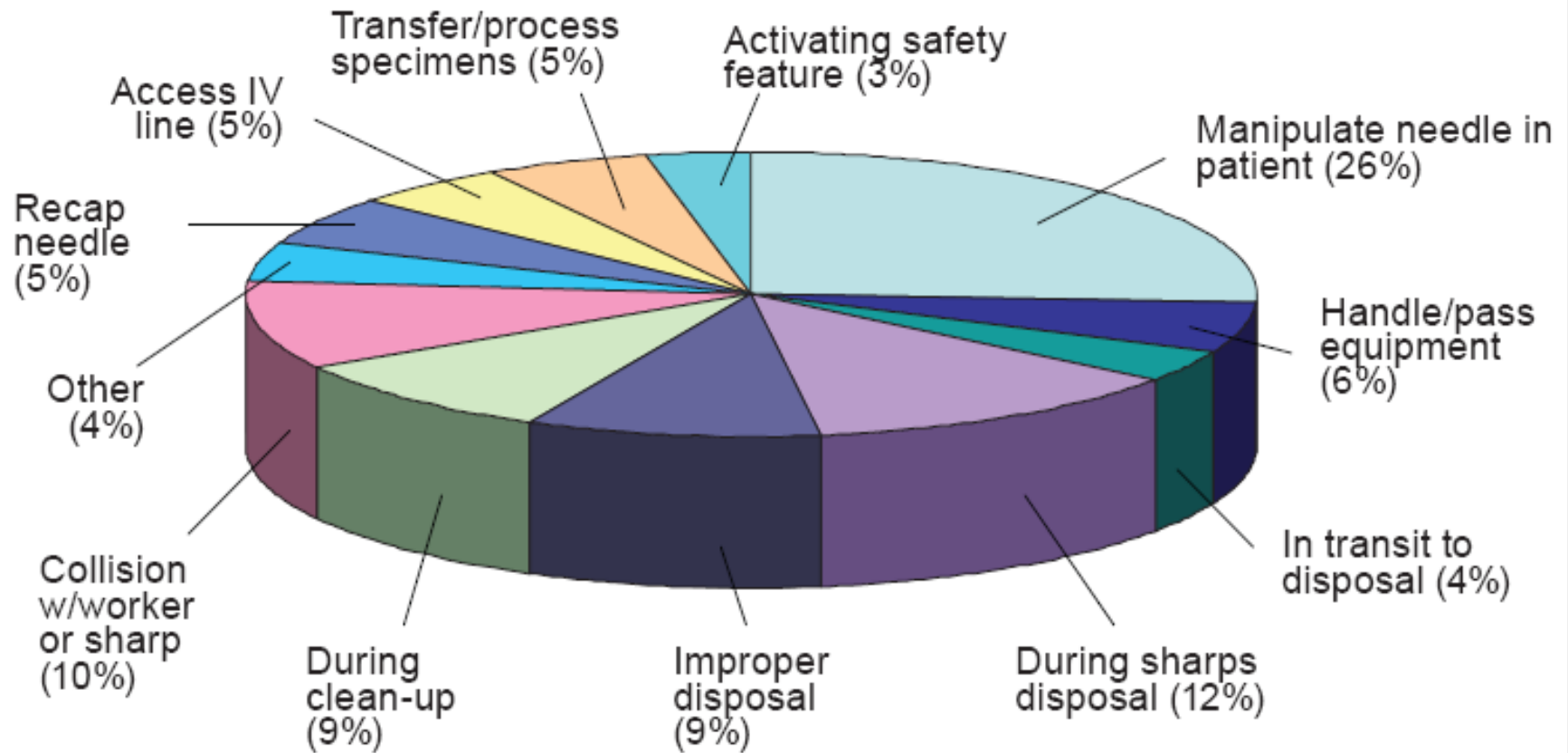
Characteristics of Needlestick Injury during Medical School*

- Task being performed at the time of injury
 - Suturing
 - Passing needle
 - Loading needle
 - Recapping needle
- Perceived cause of injury
 - A sense of being rushed
 - Lack of skills
 - No assistance
 - Fatigue

*Academic Medicine, Vol. 84, No. 12 / December 2009



Needlestick Risk



Meetings

- Recognized prevalence of exposures occurring in 3rd year MD/ 2nd year PA students
- EHS met with the Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Health to discuss findings:
 - Opportunities for additional education
 - Clerkship Directors
 - Reporting structure

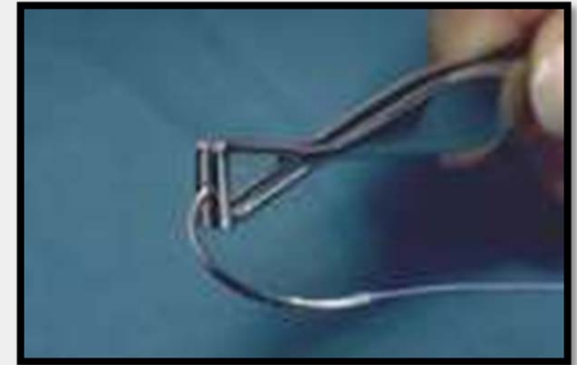


Investigation Process

- Investigations
 - Personally meet to discuss exposure, recount specific circumstances, re-education
 - Standardized reporting format to identify risk factors
 - e.g., procedures, devices, self-inflicted, training, location
- Recommendations provided to
 - Clerkship Directors, Students, Student Health



Safety Sharps





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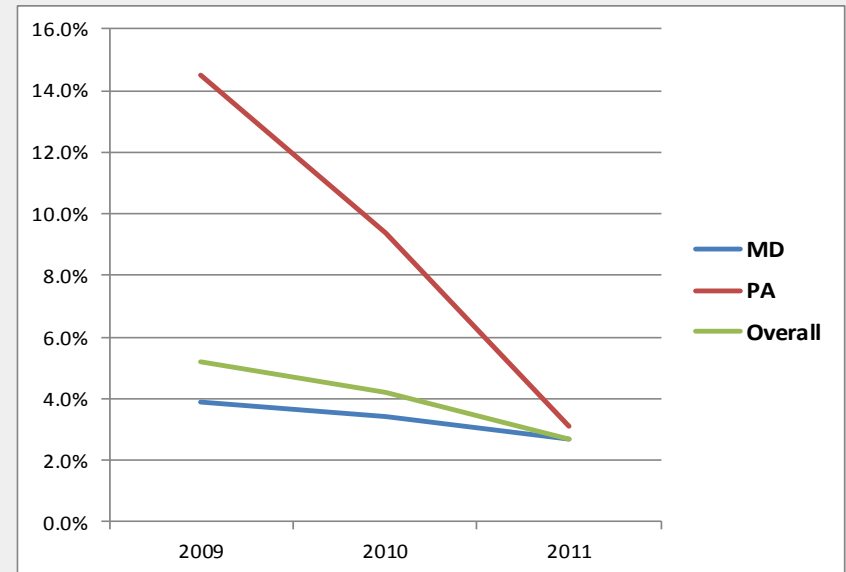
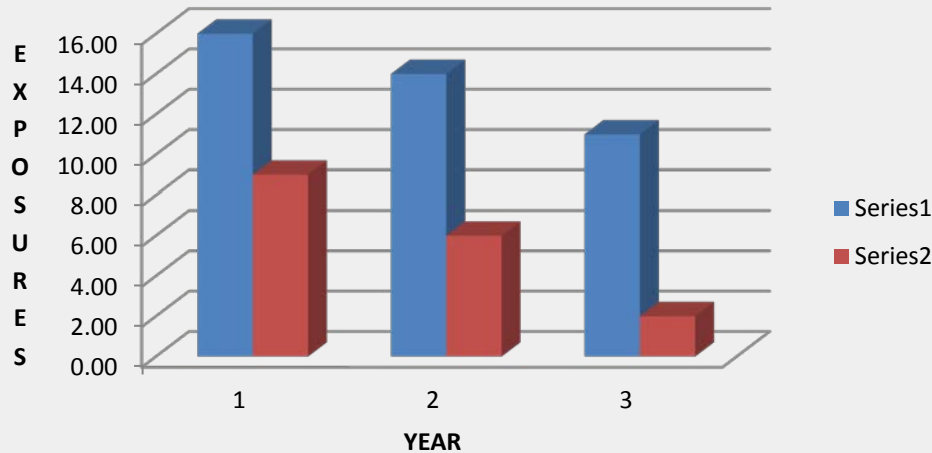
Program Highlights

- In 2010, prior to clerkships, students are provided classroom clinical safety training
- EHS incident reports are sent to Clerkship Directors, Clinical Coordinators & SHS
- Development of an online Clinical Safety refresher training
- Suturing lab and Phlebotomy lab are completed prior to rotations



MD & PA Exposures & Incident Rate

STUDENT EXPOSURES



Student Perspective

- *“Now, I look for and wear face protection”*
- *“It was probably poor technique and lack of experience”*
- *“I didn’t report the stick immediately, I was embarrassed to admit it...”*
- *“The resident failed to protect the needle while suturing...”*

