



Public Health
England

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Eye of the Needle 2014, Key Messages

UK surveillance of significant occupational exposure to bloodborne viruses in healthcare workers

December 2014

Healthcare workers across all occupational groups continue to be at risk of infections from BBVs as a result of occupational injuries. NHS Trusts and all employers in the healthcare setting ought to provide healthcare workers with safety-engineered devices in line with the EU Sharps Directive (2010) and the Health and Safety Executive (Sharps Injuries in Healthcare) Regulations (2013) regarding safer working conditions.

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Key Messages

Between 2004 and 2013, 4830 blood and bodily fluid exposures were reported among healthcare workers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. These exposures are significant because the patient involved was known or thought to be infected with a bloodborne virus (BBV) (hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) or HIV). The 2014 Eye of the Needle report discusses key findings relating to significant occupational exposures, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Occupational exposures by virus, type of injury/exposure, procedure phase and occupational group, 2004-2013

