



Needlestick Injuries – the Irish Story

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Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation



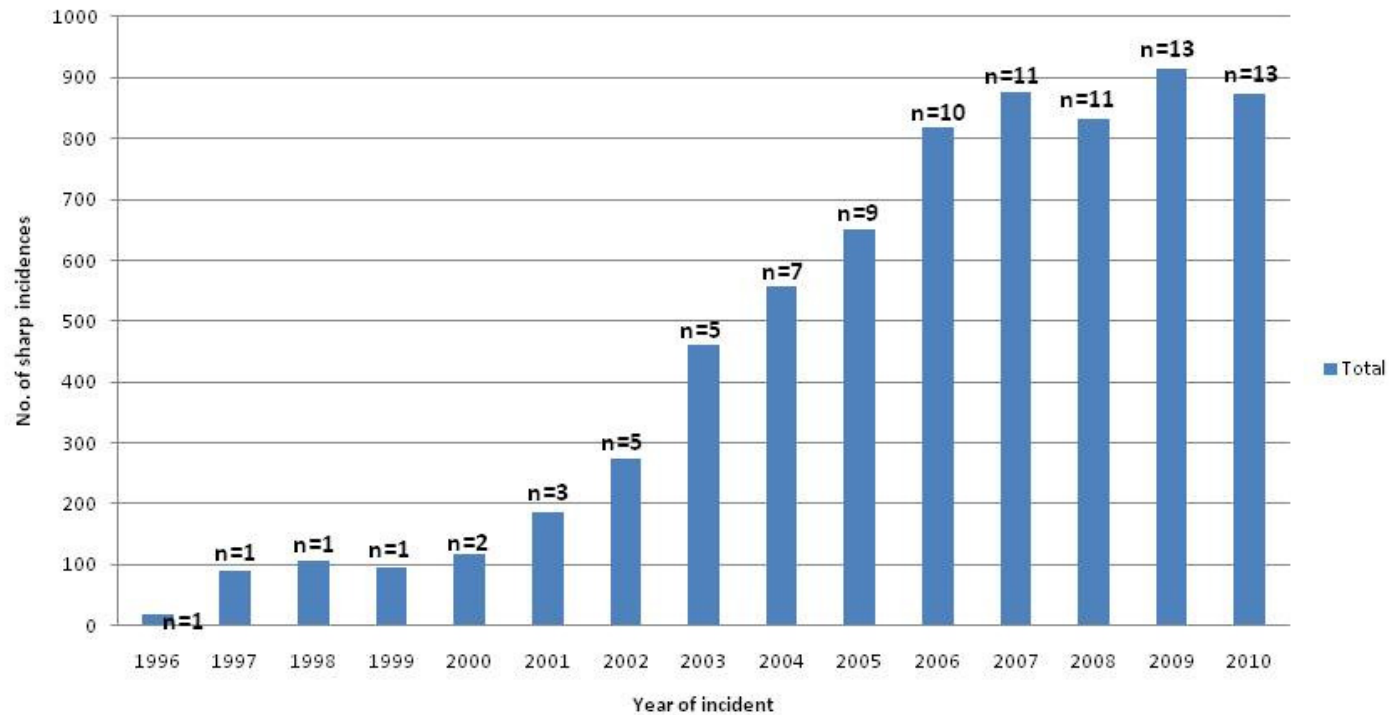
Preliminary Findings from (EPINet*) data 13 Occupational Health Hospital Physicians

*Courtesy of Dr Aidan O'Hora, Consultant Team Leader
and Tara Kelly, Surveillance Scientist HSE – Health Protection Surveillance Centre*

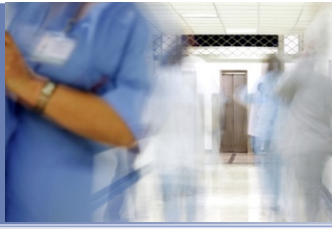


Needlestick/Sharp Injuries by Year

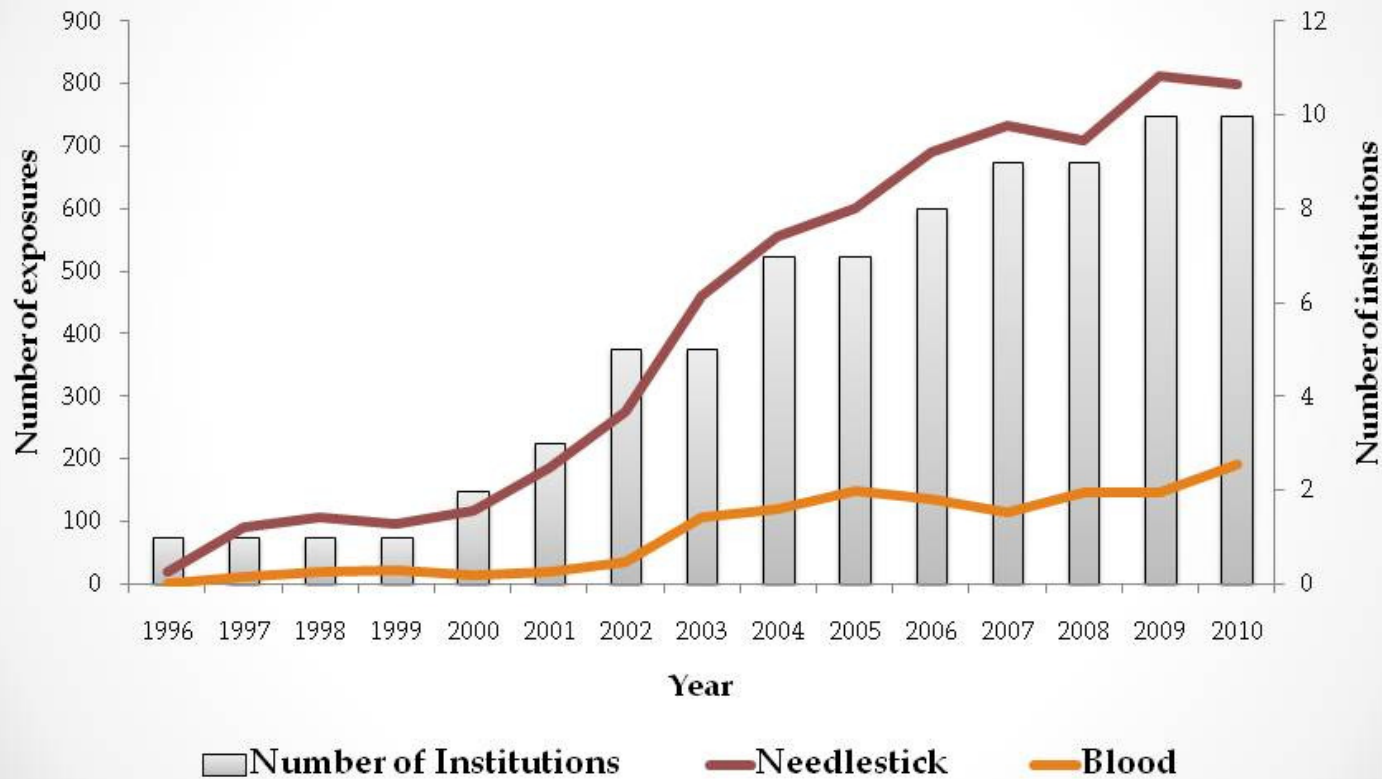
Needlestick/Sharp Incidences by Year



'n' = the number of centres with data in a given year



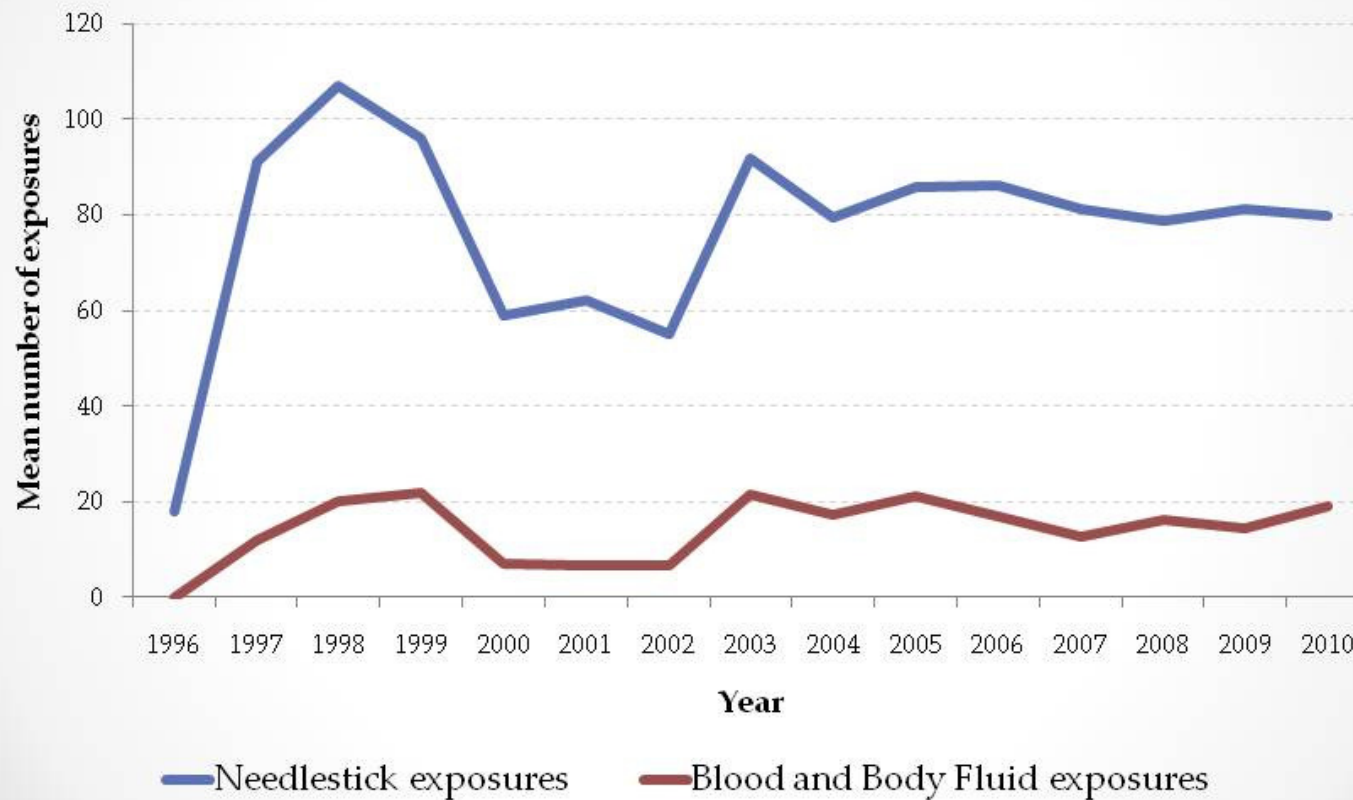
Exposure Prevention Information Network (EPINet*) data in Ireland 1996-2010



*EPINet: Health Care Worker Safety Center at the University of Virginia Charlottesville)



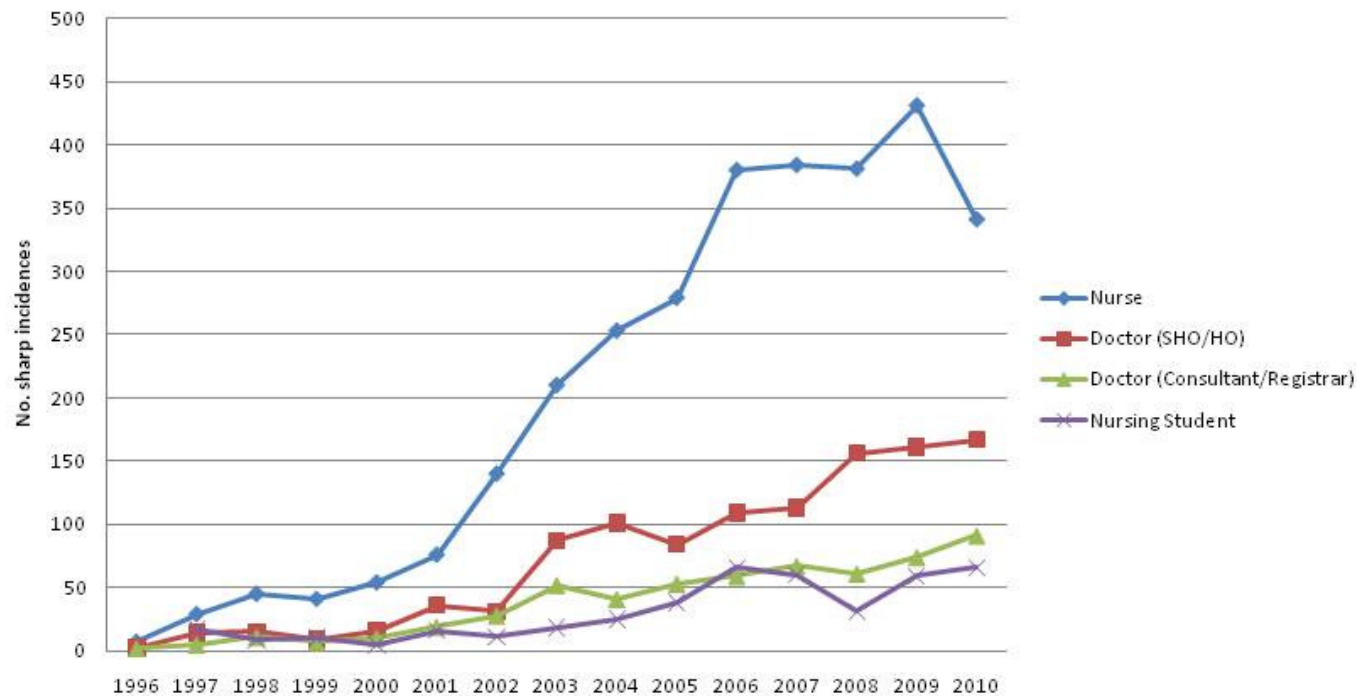
Mean number of occupational related exposures; 1996-2010





Needlestick/sharp injury by Job Category for all records

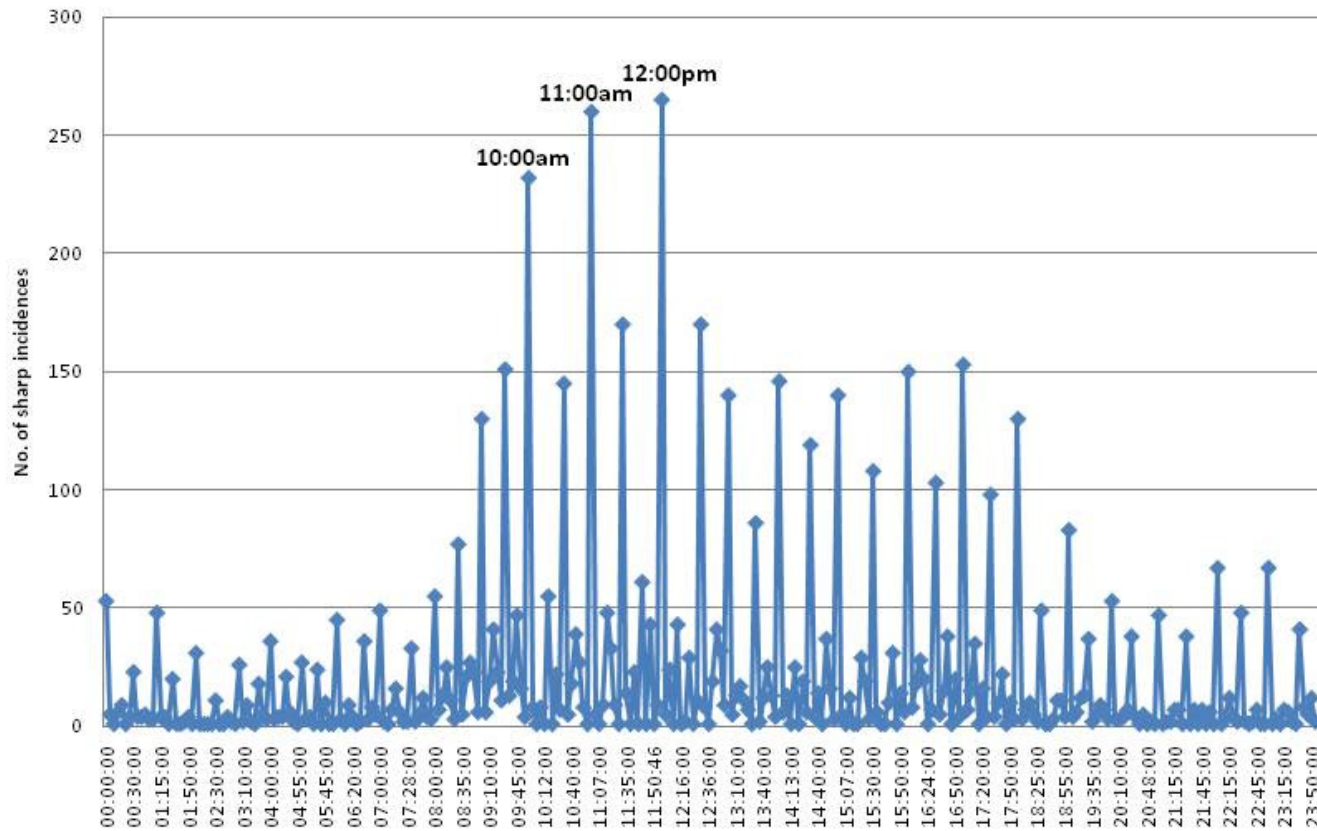
Needlestick/Sharp Injuries by Job Category





Time of Needlestick/sharp injury

Time of Needlestick/Sharp Injury



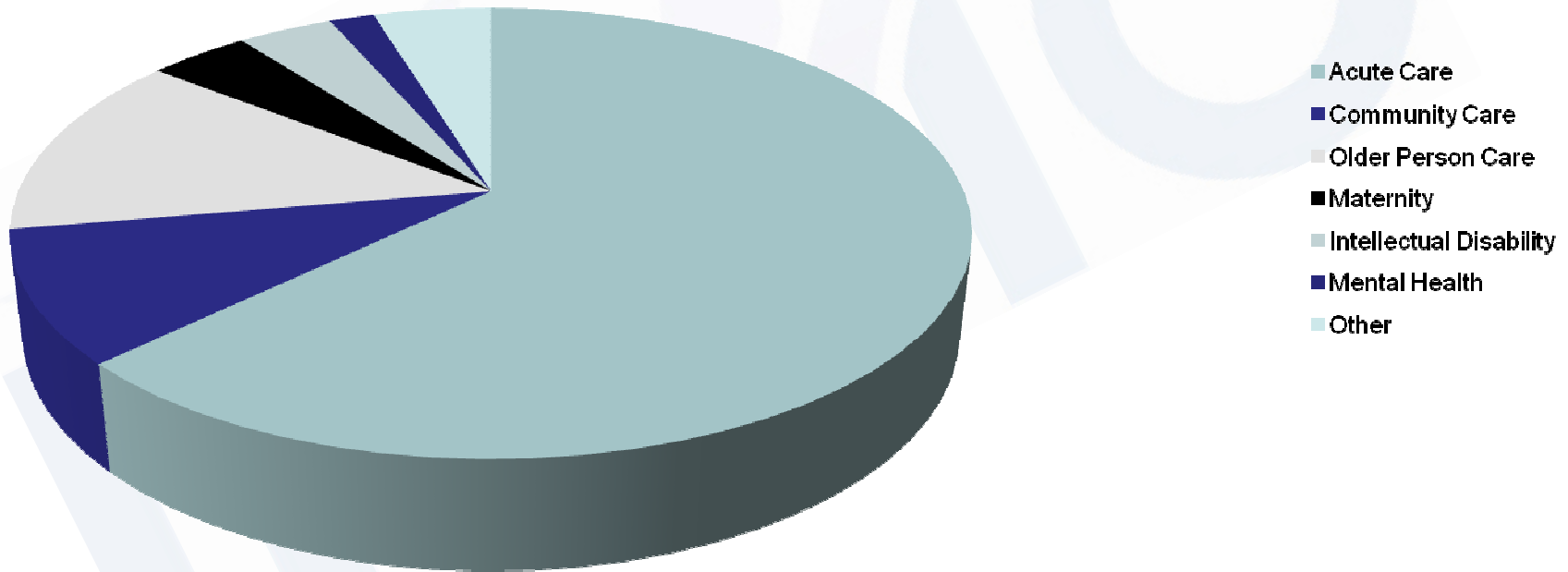


INMO Needlestick Injury Survey

- Provides a snap shot of views and attitudes of Irish nurses and midwives
- Distributed across wide cross section of INMO members
- Obtained 445 completed questionnaires



Area of Work





Employer Policy

- Employers have policies and procedures for the prevention and management of sharps injuries
- 99% according to survey



Training

- 73.2% received training from employer on safe needle usage
- 26.8% said they did not receive any training



Organisational Risk Assessment

- Q. Has your employer undertaken an organisation wide risk assessment for potential Needlestick injury?

• Yes	27.4%
• No	9.2%
• Don't Know	63.4%



Aware of the EU Directive

- Q: Are you aware of the European Directive 2010/32/EU regarding sharps injuries?
- Yes 40.4%
- No 57.8%



Health & Safety Rep

- Q. Is there a Health & Safety Representative in the organisation where you work?

- Yes 87.4%
- No 12.6%



Sharps Bins

- Almost all have sharps bins available
- 50/50 wall mounted
- Sealed when 2/3 full – 86% only



Sharps Injuries Recorded

- Q. Are needlestick injuries recorded on an approved register in your organisation?
- Yes 64.5%
- No 5.2%
- Don't know 30.3%



Nurse/Midwife attitudes

- Q. Do you fear needlestick injury and possible infection?
- Yes 67.6%
- No 32.4%



Needlestick Injury – Personal experience

- 36.4% state they have had a needlestick injury with a needle that had been used on a patient



Advice given about risk of BBV

- Q. At what point were you given advice about the risk of blood borne viruses?
- Never 15.5%
- Immediately 60.9%
- Within 48 hours 19.1%
- More than 48 hours 4.5%



Receive Blood Testing

- Yes 83%
- No 17%



Source Patient Tested

- Yes 72.5%
- No 27.5%



Colleague suffered Needlestick Injury

- Yes 70.8%
- No 11.7%
- Don't know 17.5%



Colleagues Fear Injury

- Yes 61.3%
- No 11.5%
- Don't know 27.2%



Irish Incidents

January 2011: Surgeon settled legal case against the HSE and hospital after he contracted HIV from a patient in 1997

- 2010: more than 450 patients in hospitals in West and North West of Ireland feared they had contracted Hepatitis C after surgeon tested positive



Incidents

- 2009: 102 incidents involving consultants and junior doctors
- the highest number of injuries since at least 2004.
- Almost double since 2006 (n=57)



Needlestick Injuries and Safety Cannulae

- Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown
- July 2001-July 2003
 - 101 accidental blood exposures reported
 - 28 from cannulae
- Introduction safety cannulae and training
- Sept 2003 introduced – 2.5 years later
 - Only 1 needlestick injury



Directive (2010 / 32 / EU)

“Where there is a risk it must be eliminated”



- Cost is not an excuse to avoid implementing measures to protect healthcare workers from avoidable occupational injury