



SAFETY OF INJECTIONS

Global Facts & Figures

A safe injection does not harm the recipient, does not expose the health care worker to any risk and does not result in waste that is dangerous for the community

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|---|---|
| Total number of injections per annum in developing and transitional countries | 16 billion (prophylactic and curative) ¹ |
| Ratio of therapeutic to vaccination injections | 20:1 (95% of all injections are therapeutic) |
| Diseases most frequently contracted through unsafe injection practices | Hepatitis B (21 million cases annually) Hepatitis C (2 million cases annually) HIV/AIDS (260,000 cases annually) |
| Estimated proportion of infections due to unsafe injection practices in developing and transitional countries:² | |
| Hepatitis B: | 32% |
| Hepatitis C: | 40% |
| HIV AIDS: | 5% |
| Estimated total burden of infection per annum attributable to unsafe injection practices² | 21 million hepatitis B cases 2 million hepatitis C cases 260,000 HIV infection cases |
| Estimated burden of disease in 2000-2030 attributable to unsafe injection practices in the year 2000² | 9.2 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) |
| Main factors contributing to transmission of bloodborne pathogens through injections | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Re-use of syringes and needles▪ Overuse of therapeutic injections▪ Lack of awareness of risks▪ Shortages of injection devices▪ Poor waste disposal practices and lack of appropriate waste infrastructure |
| Deaths in 2000 due to unsafe injection practices in the past | 501 000 deaths ³ |

¹ A billion is a thousand million.

² WHO Global Burden of Disease study 2000 (Hauri AM et al. Int J STD and AIDS 2004;15: 7-16).

³ WHO Global Burden of Disease Study 2000 (World Health Report 2000).

Countries where unsafe injection practices have been reported

World-wide

Areas where syringe/needle re-use is most often reported

Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and former Eastern bloc countries

Estimated proportion of syringe and needle re-use by WHO Region ⁴

- European : 1-11%
- Eastern Mediterranean : 70%
- South East Asian: 30-75%
- Western Pacific: 30%
- African: 17-19%%
- Americas (Central and South): 1-11%

Estimated costs to achieve a safe and appropriate use of injections in transitional and developing countries in 2000

\$ 905 million

Cost effectiveness ratio for national policies for the safe and appropriate use of injections

\$ 102 /DALY ⁵

⁴ WHO Global Burden of Disease Study 2000 (Hutin Y et al. BMJ 2003; 327: 1075-8).

⁵ This ratio is under the threshold of one year of per capita income and meets the criteria proposed by the WHO commission on macro economics and health for being "Highly cost effective".