SAFETY OF INJECTIONS

Global Facts & Figures

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

Total number of injections per annum in developing and transitional countries

16 billion (prophylactic and curative)\(^1\)

Ratio of therapeutic to vaccination and other injections

90% of all injections are therapeutic; 5% are given for immunization and 5% for contraceptive and other purposes

Diseases most frequently contracted through unsafe injection practices

- Hepatitis B (1.67 million cases annually)
- Hepatitis C (157,592 - 315,120 cases annually)
- HIV/AIDS (16,939 - 33,877 cases annually)

Estimated burden of disease in 2000-2030 attributable to unsafe injection practices in the year 2000\(^2\)

9.2 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)

Main factors contributing to transmission of bloodborne pathogens through injections

- 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


Countries where unsafe injection practices have been reported

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

Number of unsafe health-care injections per person per year by WHO Region 2010

The average number of injections per person per year

Saving for every 1 international dollar invested on injection safety

---

2 Preliminary findings from a WHO study on cost effectiveness of injection safety