

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 others

<i>Total number of injections per annum in developing and transitional countries</i>	16 billion (prophylactic and curative) ¹
<i>Ratio of therapeutic to vaccination and other injections</i>	90% of all injections are therapeutic; 5% are given for immunization and 5% for contraceptive and other purposes
<i>Diseases most frequently contracted through unsafe injection practices</i>	Hepatitis B (1.67 million cases annually) Hepatitis C (157,592 -315,120 cases annually)
<i>Estimated proportion of infections due to unsafe injection practices in developing and transitional countries:</i> ²	HIV/AIDS (16,939-33,877 cases annually)
<i>Estimated burden of disease in 2000-2030 attributable to unsafe injection practices in the year 2000</i> ²	9.2 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)
<i>Main factors contributing to transmission of bloodborne pathogens through injections</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Re-use of syringes and needles ① Overuse of therapeutic injections ① Lack of awareness of risks ① Shortages of injection devices ① Poor waste disposal practices and lack of appropriate waste infrastructure
<i>Deaths in 2000 due to unsafe injection practices in the past</i>	501 000 deaths ³

¹ A billion is a thousand million

² Evolution of Global Burden of Viral Infections from Unsafe Medical Injections, 2000-2010 (Pèpin et al. PlosOne 2014 Jun 9;9(6):e99677).

³ The global burden of disease attributable to contaminated injections given in health care settings. (Hauri et al. Int J STD AIDS. 2004 Jan;15(1):7-16.

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
Number of unsafe health-care injections per person per year by WHO Region 2010 ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ European : 0.13-0.25 ⌚ Eastern Mediterranean : 0.57 ⌚ South East Asian: 0.14 ⌚ Western Pacific: 0.17 ⌚ African: 17-19%% ⌚ Americas (Central and South): 0.05
The average number of injections per person per year ⁴	2.88
Saving for every 1 international dollar invested on injection safety⁵	\$ 14

⁴ Evolution of global use of unsafe medical injections, 2000-2010 (Pepin et al. PlosOne. 2013 Dec 4;8(12):e80948

⁵ Preliminary findings from a WHO study on cost effectiveness of injection safety