

Study Population and Sampling

The study referred the healthcare workers in Hawassa. According to Hawassa City Administration Health Department report (2008), the city contained 52 healthcare institutions; five hospitals, two health centers, three higher clinics, 23 intermediate and small clinics, five eye and dental clinics and 14 diagnostic medical laboratories. In this study, only public owned Health Institutions, Hawassa University Referral Hospital and three Health Centers which are found in Hawassa City were considered. These health institutions were purposefully selected to avoid bias reports from Private Health Institutions. Since the Survey assess the safety conditions health institutions, participants from private health institutions will deliberately tell false responses fearing the following measures to come from concerning government controlling agencies. The source population of the study was all health care workers in public healthcare institutions and who were involved in patient diagnosis, treatment and care. Study subjects were health care workers such as nurses, physicians, laboratory technicians and others working in Hawassa referral hospitals and the selected three health centers. Selection of the health institutions were purposive considering the high number of workers. The survey was carried out from October 2009 to January, 2010. Structured questionnaire aimed at assessing the factors associated with occurrence of different contacts and injuries for various kinds of expos^{ure}.

workers (35.2%) rated high risk, 22.8% of the healthcare workers rated medium. The perception of low and no risk rate was reported by 22.8% and 6.8% of the healthcare workers, respectively.

Question	No of respondents (%)	
Have you ever been in contact with unsafe body fluid?		140 (81 don't know
Yes	114 (70.4)	
No	48 (29.6)	
Was the exposure occupational?		
Yes	122 (75.3)	
No	34 (21.0)	
Don't know	6 (3.7)	
Did the equipment you use were safe?		
Yes	89 (54.9)	
No	41(25.3)	
Don't know	32 (19.8)	
Is there any safety practice in your institutions?		
Yes	112 (69.1)	
No	32 (19.8)	
Is the safety practice satisfactory?		
Yes	52 (32.1)	
No	51(31.4)	
Don't know	16 (9.9)	
Did you face any psychological hazard?		
Yes	75 (46.3)	
No	49 (30.2)	
I don't know	16 (9.9)	
Do you use any personal protection equipment (PPE)?		
Yes	140 (81 don't know	16 (9.9)

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