

# Needlestick Injury

## Risky Business

<sup>1</sup>  
**Needlestick injuries** are holes or cuts in the skin cause by needles on accident

Health care workers, police officers and EMS staff can come in contact with blood through needlestick injuries <sup>2</sup>

The main blood-borne viruses of concern linked with needlestick injury are <sup>2</sup>



**HBV**

Hepatitis B  
Virus



**HIV**

Human  
Immunodeficiency  
Virus



**HCV**

Hepatitis C  
Virus

**HBV** and **HCV** cause swelling of the liver and can lead to liver cancer <sup>3,4</sup>

**HIV** attacks the body's immune system and makes it harder for the body to fight off infections and diseases <sup>5</sup>

**Hepatitis C** can survive in dried blood outside of the human body for up to **3 weeks** <sup>6</sup>

After HIV-infected blood has been drawn up into the syringe and flushed out, **HIV may survive for up to 4 weeks in syringes** <sup>7</sup>

### Sources:

1 [https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/needlestick\\_injuries.html](https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/needlestick_injuries.html)

2 <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/>

3 <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/bfaq.htm#overview>

4 <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/cfaq.htm#overview>

5 <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/whatishiv.html>

6 <https://academic.oup.com/jid/article/209/8/1205/830800>

7 <http://www.aidsmap.com/survival-outside-the-body/page/1321278/#ref1321285>