

Contact: Annie Wiest  
Executive Director  
Association of Occupational Health Professionals  
in Healthcare (AOHP)  
125 Warrendale Bayne Road, Suite 375  
Warrendale, PA 15086  
a.wiest@kamo-ms.com  
800-362-4347  
www.aohp.org

## AOHP grants free access to “Proven Strategies to Reduce Blood Exposures Among U.S. HCW”

Following recent publication of the paper entitled “*Proven Strategies to Reduce Blood Exposures among U.S. Healthcare Workers*,” the *Journal* of the Association of Occupational Health Professionals is, for the first time, offering free access to the paper.

“*There has been much interest in the paper which outlines the strategies that enabled the top ten hospitals to reduce sharps injuries to a level 70% below the national average,*” says AOHP *Journal* Editor Kim Stanchfield, “*and we need to make such an important paper freely available to all.*”

The paper’s authors, Dr. Linda Good and Terry Grimmond, have for several years, conducted the EXPO-STOP national survey (**EXPO**sure **SUR**vey of **TRENDS** in **OCCUPATIONAL PRACTICE**) amongst AOHP members and of the 160 hospitals participating in the 2015 survey, they determined the top 10 hospitals with the lowest incidence rates.

Dr Good, Manager, Occupational Health Services, Scripps Health, San Diego, contacted the hospitals (5 teaching and 5 non-teaching) and in a narrative interview ascertained what their strategies were that brought about such marked reductions. She said, “*When all strategies were gathered they could be sorted into 4 categories: **Education and Training, Communication, Investigation, and Engagement.** Underpinning the strategies was leadership support, and together these created a palpable “Sharps Aware” culture that permeated each hospital.*”

“*Sharps injuries as an issue appears to have fallen off the radar somewhat and what few realize is that over 300,000 U.S. healthcare workers are still sustaining sharps injuries annually – the reduction with safety devices has not been as profound as we predicted.*” says co-author Terry Grimmond, Director, Grimmond and Associates, New Zealand. “*However, our analysis documents that, by using these proven successful strategies, sharps injuries **are** able to be markedly reduced.*”

“*The over-arching theme in each of these Exposure Aware facilities,*” explains Grimmond, “*is a culture of safety that is practiced at all levels of the organization, with zero incidence being the goal.*”

Copy of article is available for download from [our website](#).

AOHP is a national association representing thousands of healthcare workers whose vision is to be the defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health and safety in healthcare. AOHP promotes health, safety and well-being for healthcare workers through: advocating for employee health and safety; occupational health education and networking opportunities; health and safety advancement through best practice and research; and partnering with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations.

For more information, contact Annie Wiest, AOHP Executive Director, at 800-362-4347, or e-mail [info@aohp.org](mailto:info@aohp.org). Copies of the article are available to non-AOHP members by contacting [info@aohp.org](mailto:info@aohp.org).

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