

# Does Experience Impact Occurrence of Needle Stick Injury in Nurses?

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## Abstract

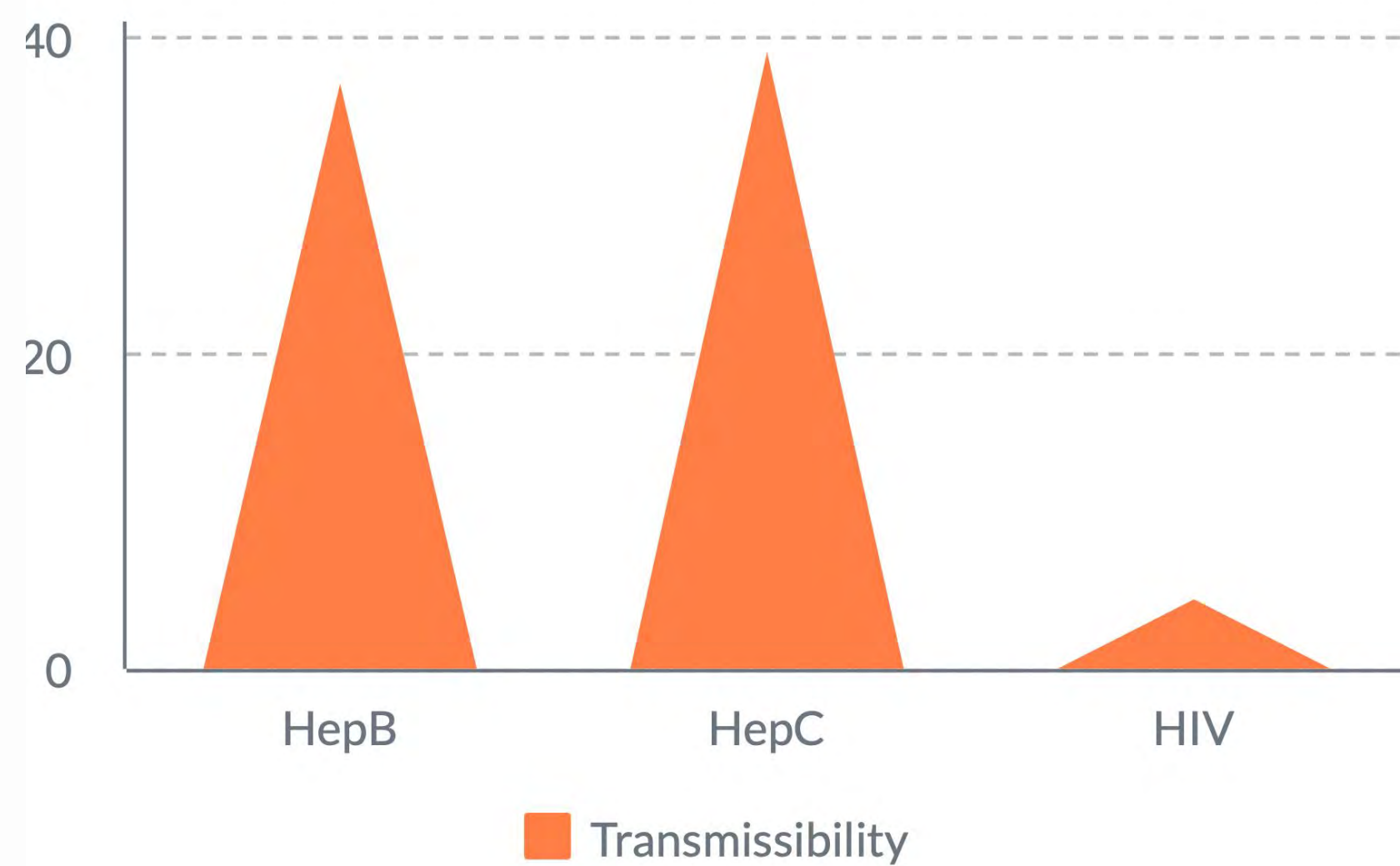
The purpose of this research is to analyze and identify the impact of needlestick injuries (NSI) on nurses in the emergency department with a highlight on the influence of years of experience. Benner's novice to expert model will be applied. Research is then presented to highlight the vulnerable nursing population susceptible to NSI from scholarly studies. The audience will also be exposed to scholarly sources proposing alternate issues contributing to increasing incidence of NSI. Lastly, this paper evaluates the importance of considering the nurse in regards to needlestick injury prevention in emergency nursing.



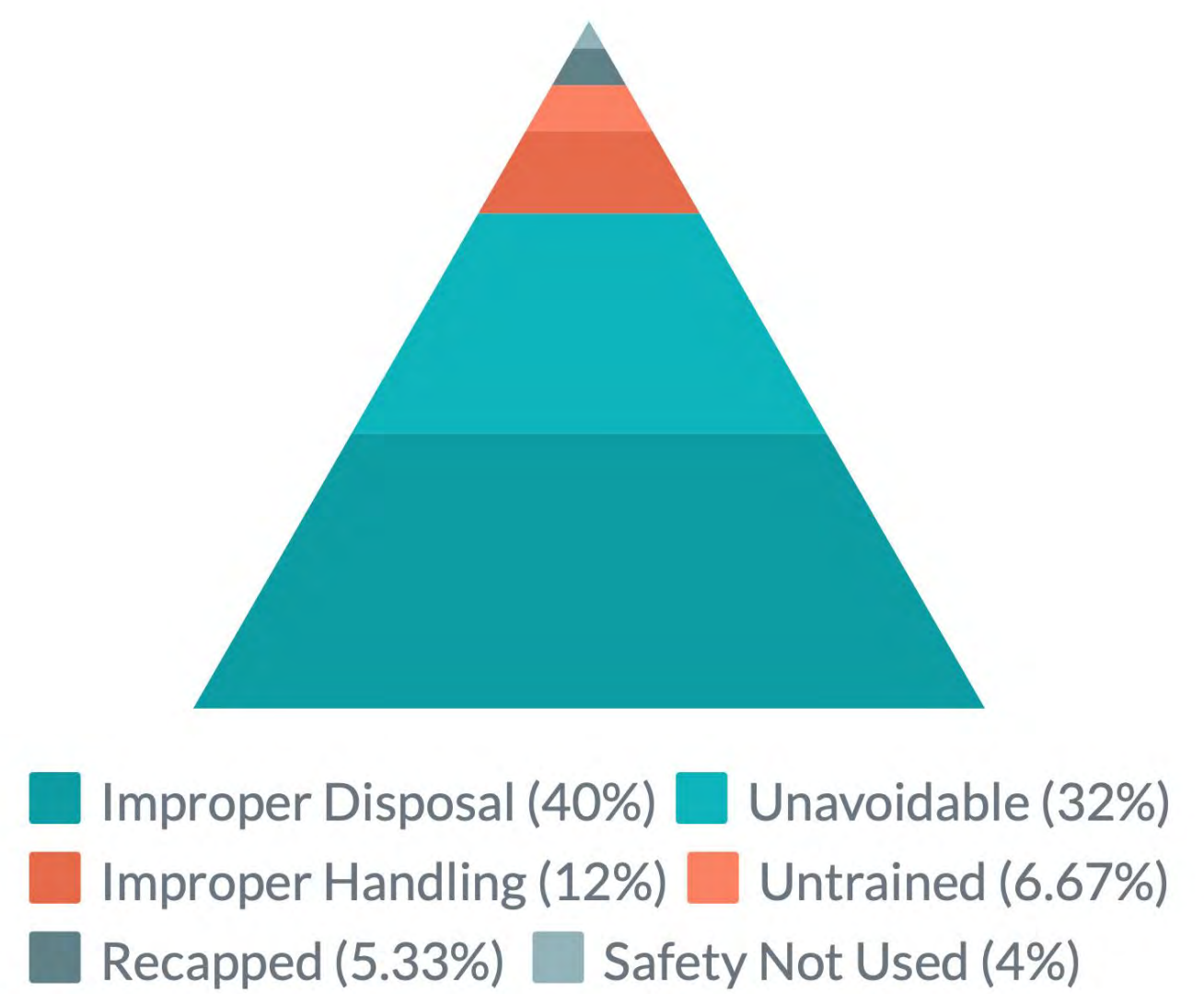
## Introduction

- Needle stick Injury (NSI) is defined as a puncture to the skin resulting in exposure to blood or other body fluids (Cournoyer, Trujillo, and Schreiber, 2017).
- NSI is the most common occupational hazard in the healthcare sector (Smriti, Pradeep, and Banerjee, 2015).
- NSI's are a global life threatening issue with the highest risk of infection in surgeons, ER personnel, Lab techs, and nurses (King & Strony, 2021).

### Infections Contracted



### Reasons NSI Occur



## Theoretical Framework

In order to evaluate the influence of experience of the nurse on NSI, it is evident to explore Benner's Novice to Expert Model. The purpose of this model is promotion of reflective thinking and evaluation of nurse performance based on experience and quality (Gentile, 2012). This theory attributes the skills a nurse attains and develops to both educational background and their experiences on five levels of proficiency: novice, advanced beginner, competent, proficient, and expert (Benner, 1984). The skills are proposed to be further confirmed, refined, or challenged through practical application, experience, and time in the profession (Colet, Cruz, Alotaibi, Colet, & Islam, 2017). As nurses progress in their career, they gradually get more practice in the nursing procedures that necessitate them to use needles, and their skill competency and safety improves (Cheung, Ching, Chang, & Ho, 2012). In addition to skill competency and safety improvements, the nurses also become more aware of hospital policy and procedure regarding needle safety contributing to their ability to implement the precautions.

