



PATIENT PROTECTION FACTS

Medical Errors and Mistakes

44,000 - 98,000

Number of deaths attributed to medical errors and malpractice

43,458

Deaths attributed to motor vehicle accidents

7,000

Number of deaths attributed to medication errors

40

Average of potentially harmful drug errors per day

6,038

Number of medical malpractice claims reported to Texas State Board of Medical Examiners between January 2001 and May 2002.

150

Number of times surgeons operated on the wrong body part between 1996 and 2001.

1 in 5

Number of Americans reporting that they or a family member had experienced a medical or prescription drug error.

Costs of Medical Malpractice

"Medical malpractice insurance is amazing value, considering that it covers all medical injuries for about one-half of one percent of health system costs!"

.55%

Medical malpractice insurance costs as a percentage of all health care costs.

\$17 billion to \$29 billion

Yearly total national costs (lost income, lost household production, disability and health care costs) of negligence in hospitals each year, of which healthcare costs represent over one-half.

\$1.2 billion

Estimated Texas cost of medical errors.

Physician Accountability

"Too little discipline is still being done. 2,696 total serious disciplinary actions a year . . . is a pittance compared to the volume of injury and death of patients cause by negligence of doctors . . . [T]he nation's system for protecting the public from medical incompetence and malfeasance is still far from adequate."

"Most states have a long way to go before they even begin to offer serious protection for citizens from doctors who are incompetent, who sexually abuse patients or who otherwise have serious problems that interfere with delivery of high-quality medical care in a compassionate way."

"It is likely, if not certain, that patients are being injured or killed more often in states with poor doctor disciplinary records than in states with consistent top 10 performances."

"A Houston doctor sentenced in a murder-for-hire plot earlier this year is continuing to practice medicine while state regulators fight to revoke his license."

2.6%

Percentage of all doctors cited by a state medical disciplinary board nationally.

<.5%

Percentage of all doctors who face serious state sanctions each year nationally.

0

Number of the 6,038 malpractice claims filed between January 2001 and May 2002 investigated by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners.

0

Number of doctor licenses revoked because of medical errors since 1997 by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners.

6

Number of doctor licenses revoked by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners in 2002. Offenses include sexual misconduct, mis-prescribing of drugs and drug abuse.

0

Number of doctor licenses revoked by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners in 2002 due to medical malpractice.

121 out of 4,500

Number of filed malpractice claims investigated by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners in 1998.

3 out of 4,500

Number of filed malpractice claims for which the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners began actual disciplinary proceedings.

4

Number of suits settled by Dr. Jasbir Ahluwlia for injuries inflicted on patients, including brain damage to a baby during delivery, perforating two uteruses and stitching closed a woman's uterus.

50 hours

Number of hours of continuing medical education the State Board of Medical Examiners required Dr. Ahluwlia to take and the full extent of the state sanction against him.

30th

Texas's ranking of serious doctor disciplinary actions by state medical licensing boards.

2.54

Serious actions per 1000 doctors taken by Texas State Board of Medical Examiners.

Medical Malpractice Facts

"[T]here is more malpractice committed than is recognized, litigated or compensated; plaintiffs in most cases are not 'gold-digging;' and the vast majority [of plaintiffs] have (medical) outcomes none of us would want for ourselves or our loved ones."

1 in 50

Number of hospitalized patients injured due to negligence

1 in 10

Number of injured hospitalized patients who file a lawsuit

1 in 20

Number of injured hospitalized patients who file a lawsuit who actually receive money

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