

When Mistakes Multiply: *How Inadequate Responses to Medical Mishaps Erode Trust in American Medicine*

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Appendix A.
Estimating the Number of Americans Annually Exposed to Medical Errors and Adverse Events

Setting	Annual encounters in the United States (date)		Incidence rate per encounter*		Estimated annual case count	
			ME**	AE**	ME	AE
Emergency department visits	Single visit: 33.3M	(2018)	6%	12%	2M	4M
	Two+ visits: 20.8M	(2018)			2.5M	5M
Hospital admissions [§]	Single visit: 6.5M	(2018)	5%	10%	1.63M	3.3M
	Two visits: 3.6M	(2018)			0.4M	0.8M
	Three+ visits: 2.9M	(2018)			0.5M	1.0M
Intensive care unit admissions	5M	(2018)	18%	34%	0.9M	1.8M
Hospital births	3.7M	(2018)	2%	4%	0.07M	0.14M
Outpatient MD visits ^{§§}	249M	(2016)	3%	7%	7.5M	17.4M
Ambulatory surgeries ^{§§§}	23M	(2015)		1-2%#		0.5M
Long-stay nursing home residents ^{###}	774,000	(2018)	—	8-10%###		0.06-0.07M
Total					15.4M	34M

* M. Panagioti et al., "Prevalence, Severity and Nature of Preventable Patient Harm across Medical Care Settings: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis," *BMJ Quality and Safety* 366 (2019): doi:10.1136/bmj.l4185.

** ME = medical error; AE = adverse event

ASC Quality Collaboration, *ASC Quality Collaboration Quality Report* (for the first quarter of 2022), available via <https://www.ascquality.org/home>.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, *National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report* (AHRQ publication no. 21[22]-0054-EF P. Q25) (Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2021), 113.

M. Sengupta et al., *Post-acute and Long-Term Care Providers and Services Users in the United States, 2017-2018*, Vital Health Statistics, series 3, no. 47 (Washington, DC: National Center for Health Statistics, 2022), <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:115346>.

§ These admissions were inpatient visits not involving a stay in the intensive care unit or a childbirth.

§§ These were outpatient visits to primary care, and the patients were eighteen years of age or older.

§§§ These were ambulatory surgical visits not associated with a hospital outpatient department. E. Munnich and M. Richards, "Long-Run Growth of Ambulatory Surgery Centers 1990-2015 and Medicare Payment Policy," *Health Services Research* 57 (2022): doi:10.1111/1475-6773.13707.