

Diagnostic Errors: Why Do They Matter, and What Can You Do?

Why They Need Attention Now

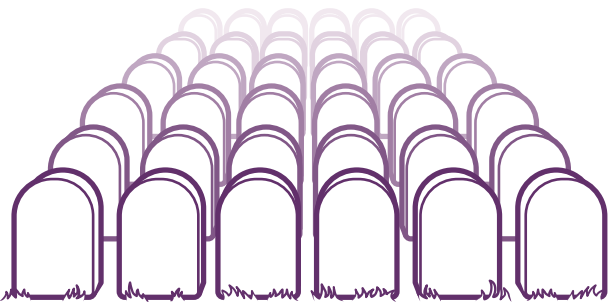
Diagnostic error is difficult to measure. But what is known points to a significant problem.

DEATHS



Diagnostic errors that may have contributed to death have been found in **10%** of autopsies

Source: Shojania et al.

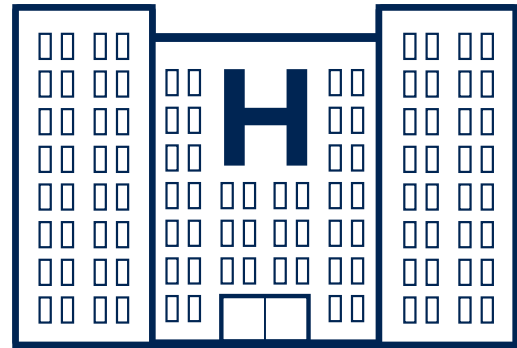


This extrapolates to

40,000 to 80,000 deaths annually

Source: Leape et al. "Counting Deaths."

ADVERSE EVENTS

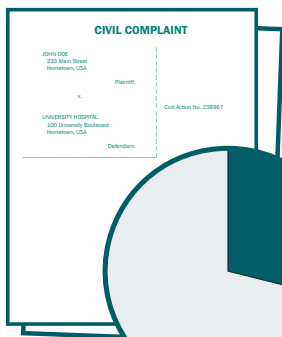


7% to 17% of adverse events in hospitals result from diagnostic errors, per record reviews

Sources: Leape et al. "The Nature of Adverse Events"; Thomas et al.

LIABILITY

MOST COMMON ALLEGATION



29% of claims

MOST COSTLY ALLEGATION



35% of payments

\$390,000 mean payout **\$\$\$\$**

MOST DEADLY ALLEGATION



35% of diagnostic error claims

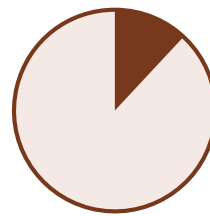


24% of other claims

Source: Saber Tehrani et al.

FREQUENCY

At least **1 in 20** adults experiences a diagnostic error annually, based on outpatient studies



12% of adults said they or someone close to them had experienced a misdiagnosis in the past 5 years, according to a phone survey

Source: Singh et al. "The Frequency of Diagnostic Errors."

Source: Betsy Lehman Center.

“Most people will experience at least one diagnostic error in their lifetime, sometimes with devastating consequences.”

—Institute of Medicine (IOM) report on improving diagnosis

Source: NAS.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The IOM report offers recommendations across 8 broad goals for a variety of stakeholders (NAS).

<p>Teamwork among healthcare professionals, patients, and families</p>	<p>Education and training regarding the diagnostic process</p>	<p>Identification of errors and near misses and efforts to learn from and reduce them</p>	<p>Supportive health information technology systems</p>
<p>Learning-focused reporting and medical liability systems</p>	<p>A supportive culture and work system</p>	<p>Supportive payment and care delivery environments</p>	<p>Research funding</p>

Sources

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