Sentinel Event Data

General Information

1995 – 2014
Data Limitations

The reporting of most sentinel events to The Joint Commission is voluntary and represents only a small proportion of actual events. Therefore, these data are not an epidemiologic data set and no conclusions should be drawn about the actual relative frequency of events or trends in events over time.
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Settings of Sentinel Events Reviewed by The Joint Commission 2004 through 2014

- Hospital: 5,749
- Psychiatric hospital: 880
- Ambulatory care: 324
- Psych unit in general hospital: 443
- Emergency department: 478
- Behavioral health facility: 320
- Home care: 165
- Long term care facility: 97
- Other***: 111
- Office-based surgery: 73

***Other includes: Disease specific care, Diagnostic imaging, Hospice care

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Total Reported Reviewable Sentinel Events by Year
1995 through 2014

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## Most Frequently Reviewed Sentinel Event Categories by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unintended Retention of a Foreign Body</td>
<td>Delay In Treatment</td>
<td>Unintended Retention of a Foreign Body</td>
<td>Unintended Retention of a Foreign Body</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrong-patient, wrong-site, wrong-procedure</td>
<td>Wrong-patient, wrong-site, wrong-procedure</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delay In Treatment</td>
<td>Unintended Retention of a Foreign Body</td>
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<td>Suicide</td>
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<td>Suicide</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
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<td>Other Unanticipated Event*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Op/Post-op Complication</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Event</td>
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<td>Criminal Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medication Error</td>
<td>Medication Error</td>
<td></td>
<td>Perinatal Death/Injury</td>
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<td>Medication Error</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Other includes: Unexpected Additional Care/Extended Care, and Psychological Impact

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RCA Review Methods Selected by Accredited Health Care Organizations 2014

- RCA submitted to Joint Commission electronically: 77%
- RCA shared with Joint Commission via web conference: 20%
- RCA brought to the Joint Commission for review: 3%

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