

Sentinel Event Statistics: As of March 31, 2007

Total Number of Sentinel Events	
Reviewed by the Joint Commission	4234
Since January 1995	

Type of Sentinel Event	#	%
Wrong-site surgery	552	13.0%
Suicide	533	12.6%
Op/post-op complication	504	11.9%
Medication error	392	9.3%
Delay in treatment	317	7.5%
Patient fall	235	5.6%
Patient death/injury in restraints	156	3.7%
Assault/rape/homicide	156	3.7%
Perinatal death/loss of function	129	3.0%
Transfusion error	102	2.4%
Infection-related event	90	2.1%
Unintended retention of foreign body	88	2.1%
Anesthesia-related event	77	1.8%
Patient elopement	73	1.7%
Medical equipment-related	66	1.6%
Fire	66	1.6%
Maternal death	65	1.5%
Ventilator death/injury	49	1.2%
Abduction	22	0.5%
Utility systems-related event	20	0.5%
Infant discharge to wrong family	7	0.2%
Other less frequent types	535	12.6%

**Self-reported
Sentinel
Events by Year**

Year	# Non-self-reported	# Self-reported	% Self-reported
1995	22	1	4%
1996	31	3	9%
1997	123	16	12%
1998	50	130	72%
1999	55	278	83%
2000	87	270	76%
2001	101	336	77%
2002	146	269	65%
2003	174	313	64%
2004	214	347	62%
2005	215	367	63%
2006	182	344	65%
2007	49	111	69%

**Method for Review of HCO
Response to Sentinel Event**

Method	#	%
Per SE Policy RCA submitted to JCAHO	3245	77%
Alternative 1 RCA brought to JCAHO offices	689	16%
Alternative 2 RCA documents reviewed on-site	65	2%
Alternative 3 RCA reviewed by interviews on-site	146	3%
Alternative 4 Responses inferred from process; P&P	89	2%

Settings of Sentinel Event	#	%
General hospital	2883	68.1%
Psychiatric hospital	454	10.7%
Psych unit in general hospital	203	4.8%
Behavioral health facility	194	4.6%
Emergency department	168	4.0%
Long term care facility	125	3.0%
Ambulatory care	113	2.7%
Home care	79	1.9%
Clinical laboratory	9	0.2%
Office-based surgery	4	0.1%
Health care network	2	0.0%

Sources for SE Identification	#	%
Self-report	2786	65.8%
Media	298	7.0%
Complaints	559	13.2%
Identified during survey	349	8.2%
CMS or State reports	242	5.7%

Sentinel Event Outcomes	#	%
Patient death	3115	71%
Loss of Function	416	10%
Other	831	19%
Total patients impacted	4362	100%

