



# Spotlight On Justice



## **AVOIDABLE MEDICAL ERRORS ARE THE THIRD LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN AMERICA**

Center for Justice & Democracy at New York Law School  
[www.centerjd.org](http://www.centerjd.org)

“According to the report, published in the Journal of Patient Safety, ‘between 210,000 and 440,000 patients each year who go to the hospital for care suffer some type of preventable harm that contributes to their death,’ the study says. That would make medical errors the third-leading cause of death in America, behind heart disease, which is the first, and cancer, which is second.”

Source:  
Marshall Allen, “How Many Die From Medical Mistakes in U.S. Hospitals?” ProPublica, September 19, 2013, cited in CJ&D’s Briefing Book: Medical Malpractice - By The Numbers <https://centerjd.org/content/briefing-book-medical-malpractice-numbers> (p. 77)

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