

Total Number of Sentinel Events	
Reviewed by The Joint Commission	5901
Since January 1995	

Type of Sentinel Event	#	%
Wrong-site surgery	784	13.3%
Suicide	715	12.1%
Op/post-op complication	659	11.2%
Medication error	503	8.5%
Delay in treatment	472	8.0%
Patient fall	367	6.2%
Unintended retention of foreign body**	252	3.8%
Assault/rape/homicide	224	3.8%
Patient death/injury in restraints	192	3.3%
Perinatal death/loss of function	181	3.1%
Transfusion error	135	2.3%
Infection-related event	118	2.0%
Medical equipment-related	109	1.8%
Patient elopement	91	1.5%
Anesthesia-related event	88	1.5%
Fire	88	1.5%
Maternal death	78	1.3%
Ventilator death/injury	56	0.9%
Abduction	31	0.5%
Utility systems-related event	25	0.4%
Infant discharge to wrong family	8	0.1%
Other less frequent types	725	12.3%

0.0%

Self-reported Sentinel Events by Year	# Non- self- reported	# Self reported	% Self reported
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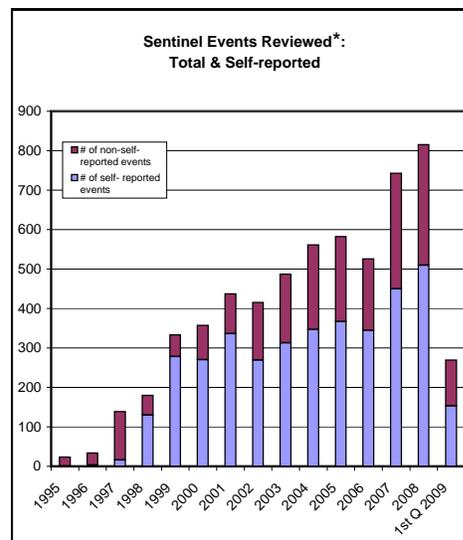
Year	# Non-self-reported	# Self-reported	% Self-reported
1995	22	1	4%
1996	31	3	9%
1997	123	16	12%
1998	50	130	72%
1999	55	278	83%
2000	87	270	76%
2001	101	336	77%
2002	146	269	65%
2003	174	313	64%
2004	214	347	62%
2005	215	367	63%
2006	182	344	65%
2007	293	450	61%
2008	305	510	63%
1st Q 2009	116	153	57%

Method for Review of HCO Response to Sentinel Event	#	%
Alternative 0 RCA submitted to Joint Commission	4544	77%
Alternative 1 RCA brought to Central office	959	16%
Alternative 2 RCA documents reviewed on-site	111	2%
Alternative 3 RCA reviewed by interviews on-site	188	3%
Alternative 4 Responses inferred from process; P&P	99	2%

Sentinel Event Setting	#	%
General hospital	3970	67.3%
Psychiatric hospital	634	10.7%
Psych unit in general hospital	302	5.1%
Behavioral health facility	270	4.6%
Emergency department	271	4.6%
Long term care facility	160	2.7%
Ambulatory care	154	2.6%
Home care	111	1.9%
Office-based surgery	17	0.3%
Clinical laboratory	10	0.2%
Health care network	2	0.0%

Source of SE	#	%
Self-report	3788	64.2%
Media	375	6.4%
Complaints	854	14.5%
Identified during survey	516	8.7%
CMS or State reports	368	6.2%

Sentinel Event Outcomes	#	%
Patient death	4132	68%
Loss of Function	549	9%
Other	1355	22%
Total patients impacted	6036	100%



*This graph represents all RCAs reviewed and accepted in a particular calendar year.

**Unintended retention of a foreign object was added to the definition of reviewable events June 2005. This data represents events reviewed since that date, not 1995-2009.