

Medical Malpractice Facts and Statistics

- **Medical errors kill 195,000 Americans every year.** This is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S., higher than AIDS, automobile accidents and breast cancer.¹
- **An additional 100,000 Americans die every year from infections they received in a hospital.** *Chicago Tribune*
 - Patients are 36% more likely to contract an infection in a hospital now than in the 1970's.
 - An additional 2,000,000 Americans are injured by infections they receive in a hospital every year. *Chicago Tribune, U.S. Centers For Disease Control.*
- **Only one out of every eight patients who are seriously injured or killed by medical negligence ever files a lawsuit².** *Harvard Medical Practice Study*

¹ *HealthGrades*, Patient Safety In American Hospitals, July 2004

² Figures taken from the seminal Harvard study on medical malpractice, *Patents, Doctors, and Lawyers: Medical Injury and Patient Compensation in New York*, Harvard Medical Practice Study. 1990.