

## HealthGrades Quality Study: Fifth Annual Patient Safety in American Hospitals Study.

October 25, 2013

Golden, CO: HealthGrades, Inc.; April 2008.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/healthgrades-quality-study-fifth-annual-patient-safety-american-hospitals-study>

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This analysis of patient safety in Medicare patients from 2004-2006 concludes that while modest improvements have been made, patient safety incidents still account for more than 200,000 preventable deaths and nearly \$9 billion in excess costs yearly. The report identifies "Distinguished Hospitals for Patient Safety"—the hospitals scoring in the top 15% according to a ranking methodology developed by the authors. As with [prior HealthGrades reports](#), the study uses the Agency for Healthcare and Research Quality (AHRQ) [Patient Safety Indicators](#) (PSIs) to measure the incidence of patient safety problems and compare hospitals. The limitations of using PSIs as a performance measure have been discussed in a [prior study](#) and AHRQ WebM&M [commentary](#), and it is important to note that this report did not undergo external peer review.