

Rates of serious surgical errors in California and plans to prevent recurrence.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/rates-serious-surgical-errors-california-and-plans-prevent-recurrence>

While rare, surgical [never events](#) can have tragic consequences for patients including permanent harm and death. This study analyzed 142 surgical never events reported to the California Department of Public Health. [Retained](#) foreign objects were the most commonly reported never event (66.2%), followed by [wrong site](#) or wrong patient (15.5%), and surgical burns (7.7%). Recommended strategies to reduce and prevent never events include proper use of intraoperative checklists.