

What you are about to read is a stunning compilation of facts that documents that those who seek to abolish consumer access to natural therapies are misleading the public. Nearly 800,000 Americans die each year at the hands of government-sanctioned medicine, while the FDA and other government agencies pretend to protect the public by harassing those who offer safe alternatives.

A definitive review of medical peer-reviewed journals and government health statistics shows that American medicine frequently causes more harm than good.

Each year approximately 2.2 million US hospital patients experience adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to prescribed medications.<sup>6</sup> In 1995, Dr. Richard Besser of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated the number of unnecessary antibiotics prescribed annually for viral infections to be 20 million; in 2003, Dr. Besser spoke in terms of tens of millions of unnecessary antibiotics prescribed annually.<sup>7,8</sup> Approximately 7.5 million unnecessary medical and surgical procedures are performed annually in the US,<sup>9,10</sup> while approximately 8.9 million Americans are hospitalized unnecessarily.<sup>14</sup>

**Table 1: Estimated Annual Mortality and Economic Cost of Medical Intervention**

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Author</b>
Adverse Drug Reactions	106,000	\$12 billion	Lazarous, Suh <sup>11</sup>
Medical error	98,000	\$2 billion	IOM <sup>12,13</sup>
Bedsore	115,000	\$55 billion	Xakellis <sup>14</sup> , Barczak <sup>15</sup>
Infection	88,000	\$5 billion	Weinstein <sup>16</sup> , MMWR <sup>17</sup>
Malnutrition	108,800	-----	Nurses Coalition <sup>18</sup>
Outpatients	199,000	\$77 billion	Starfield <sup>19,20</sup> , Weingart <sup>21</sup>
Unnecessary Procedures	37,136	\$122 billion	HCUP <sup>22</sup>
Surgery-Related	32,000	\$9 billion	AHRQ <sup>23</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>783,936</b>	<b>\$282 billion</b>	

As shown in Table 1, the estimated total number of iatrogenic deaths—that is, deaths induced inadvertently by a

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<b>Surgery-Related</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>\$9 billion</b>	<b>AHRQ<sup>23</sup></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>783,936</b>	<b>\$282 billion</b>	

As shown in Table 1, the estimated total number of iatrogenic deaths—that is, deaths induced inadvertently by a physician or surgeon or by medical treatment or diagnostic procedures—in the US annually is 783,936. It is evident that the American medical system is itself the leading cause of death and injury in the US. By comparison, approximately 699,697 Americans died of heart disease in 2001, while 553,251 died of cancer.<sup>5</sup>

Using Dr. Lucian L. Leape's 1997 medical and drug error rate of 3 million<sup>24</sup> multiplied by the 14% fatality rate he used in 1994<sup>25</sup> produces an annual death rate of 420,000 for drug errors and medical errors combined. Using this number instead of Lazarou's 106,000 drug errors and the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) estimated 98,000 annual medical errors would add another 216,000 deaths, for a total of 999,936 deaths annually, as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Estimated Annual Mortality and Economic Cost of Medical Intervention**

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Author</b>
ADR/med error	420,000	\$200 billion	Leape <sup>24</sup>
Bedsore	115,000	\$55 billion	Xakellis <sup>14</sup> , Barczak <sup>15</sup>
Infection	88,000	\$5 billion	Weinstein <sup>16</sup> , MMWR <sup>17</sup>
Malnutrition	108,800	-----	Nurses Coalition <sup>18</sup>
Outpatients	199,000	\$77 billion	Starfield <sup>19,20</sup> , Weingart <sup>21</sup>
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