

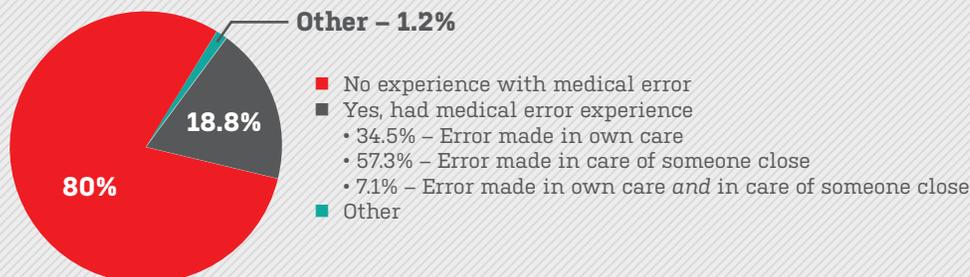
HOW MANY IOWANS EXPERIENCE MEDICAL ERRORS?

FINDINGS FROM A SUMMER 2017 SURVEY OF IOWA ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER¹

✓ **OVERALL, NEARLY TWO IN 10 IOWA ADULTS (18.8 PERCENT) HAVE EXPERIENCED MEDICAL ERRORS WITHIN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, EITHER PERSONALLY OR IN THE CARE OF SOMEONE CLOSE TO THEM.**

- Over one-third (34.5 percent) reported the medical error happened personally.
- Fifty-seven percent reported that a medical error was made in the care of someone else close to them.
- Seven percent reported medical errors happened to both the respondent and to someone else close to them.

IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, HAVE YOU PERSONALLY BEEN INVOLVED IN A SITUATION WHERE A PREVENTABLE MEDICAL ERROR WAS MADE IN YOUR OWN MEDICAL CARE OR IN THE CARE OF SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU?



✓ **IOWANS REPORTED SERIOUS HEALTH AND FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES WHEN EXPERIENCING MEDICAL ERRORS.**

- Six in 10 Iowans reported having serious health consequences due to the medical error. Another one-quarter of Iowans said they experienced minor health consequences.
- Iowans age 50+ experienced greater serious health consequences than those under age 50.
- One-third of Iowans say they suffered serious financial consequences, while 28 percent indicated minor financial consequences.
- Iowans, ages 30 to 64, reported greater serious financial consequences than other age groups.

✓ **MANY IOWANS ARE NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH LANGUAGE RELATING TO PATIENT SAFETY, SPECIFICALLY THE TERM, "MEDICAL ERROR."²**

- Four in 10 Iowans are familiar with the term "medical error" and understand its meaning. Another 27 percent have heard of the term but are unsure of its meaning. One-third of Iowans have never heard of the term.
- Almost five in 10 Iowans who earn \$50,000+ and are educated beyond high school are more likely to have heard of the term "medical error" and understand its meaning, compared to Iowans earning less and have no formal education beyond high school (30 percent).

¹ Heartland Health Research Institute. *Iowa Patient Safety Study: Iowans' Views on Medical Errors*® 2017

² The term, "medical errors" was defined to poll respondents as: "Sometimes when people receive medical care, mistakes are made. These mistakes sometimes result in no harm; sometimes, they may result in additional or prolonged treatment, disability or death. These types of mistakes are called medical errors."

FAMILIAR WITH TERM, "MEDICAL ERROR"
(BY SOCIOECONOMICS)

