

Do Pathology Trainees Report Fewer Incidents Than their Peers? A review of 13,722 incidents.

Yigu Chen, MPH, PMP; Benjamin Yarsky; Richard Haspel, MD, PhD; Yael K. Heher, MD, MPH, FRCP(C)

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Department of Pathology

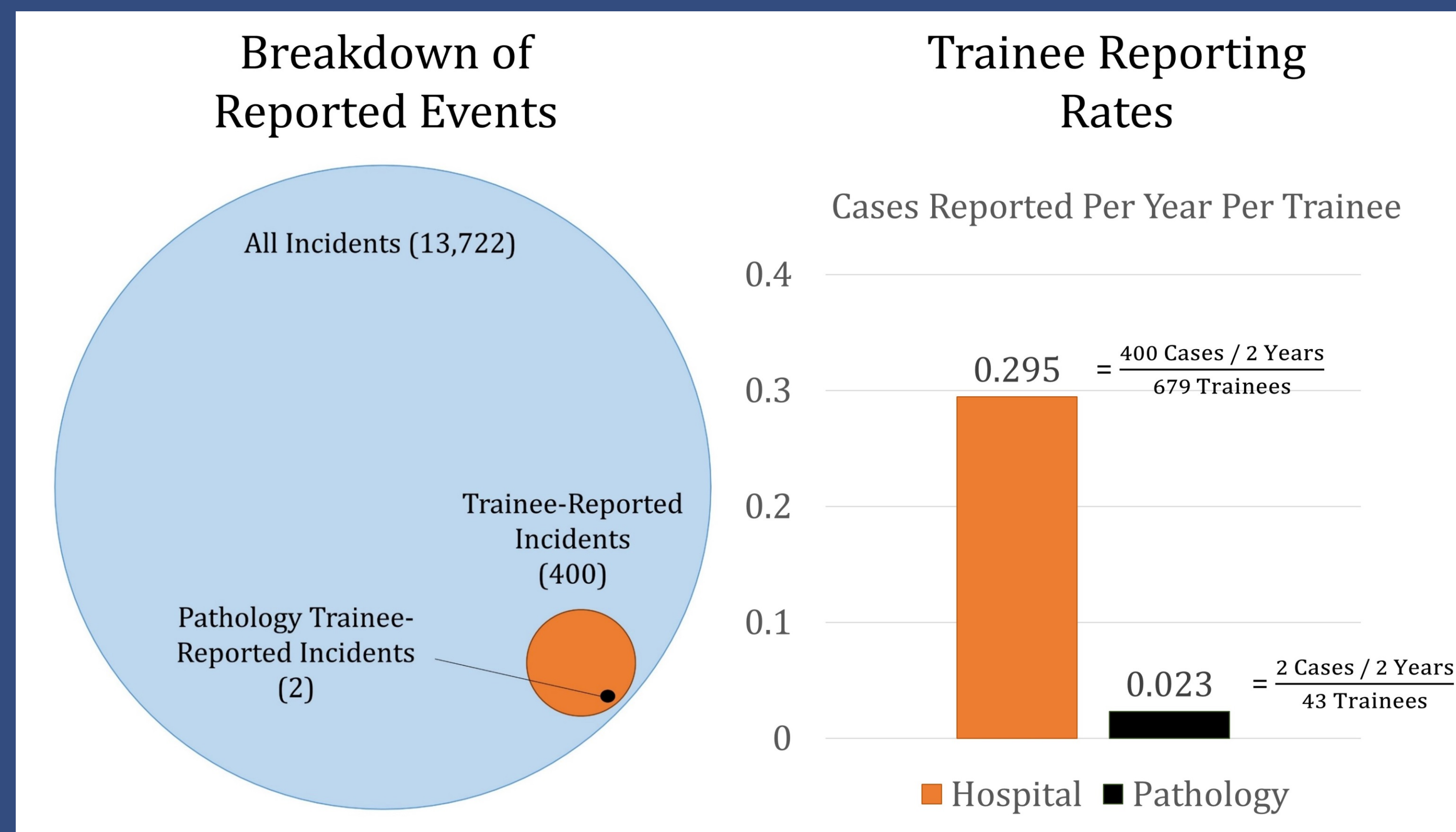
Introduction/Problem

Patient safety incident reporting is one of the cornerstones of improving hospital healthcare quality. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) recently increased its educational requirements for quality improvement and patient safety. The ACGME has specifically mandated, via its Milestones framework, trainee education and active participation in incident recognition, reporting, and root cause analysis. Despite this, published data do not exist on the frequency of pathology trainees reporting patient care issues as compared with their peers. We undertook a study to assess our trainees' performance on error reporting and to understand the potential gap between trainees in Pathology and other medical specialties.

Design

We performed a retrospective analysis of 13,722 adverse events submitted to the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center hospital incident reporting system between January 2015 and December 2016. We reviewed and identified cases reported by trainees including residents and fellows using data contained within the incident reporting system and information provided by the Office of Graduate Medical Education. To adjust for the effect of residency program size, we then compared the average number of incidents reported per trainee per year in Pathology to the hospital average.

Results



Of the 13,722 incidents analyzed, 400 cases were submitted by trainees hospital-wide. 2 reports (0.5%) were entered by Pathology residents or fellows during the study period. Trainees from other departments submitted 398 reports (99.5%) during the study period. Our institution had an average of 679 trainees at any given time during this 2-year study

period, and 43 of them were Pathology trainees. The average number of incidents reported by Pathology trainees is 0.023 cases per trainee per year. This represents a greater than ten-fold difference from the hospital average, which is 0.295 cases per trainee per year.

Conclusion

Despite regulatory requirements and the potential for learning and quality improvement, our pathology trainees lag far behind their colleagues with regards to incident reporting rates. Our trainees report incidents one tenth as often as other types of residents and fellows. The root cause of this is unclear, and needs to be investigated further. Further studies are needed to determine if there is a link between program-specific quality and patient safety curricula and training programs with higher reporting rates.

For more information, contact:

Yigu Chen, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center