The Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety developed *Patient Safety Focus: Top 10 Issues for 2022*, a white paper that offers extensive resources for members. The top issues emerged from over 71,000 submitted events, expert input, literature review and shared learnings.

### Health Equity

1. **Black, Latinx, Asian and other historically marginalized communities experienced COVID-19 case and death rates 24%-110% higher than white communities.**

### Staffing Shortages

2. **The pandemic exponentially magnified the impact of already-existing staffing shortages on healthcare professionals, especially frontline staff.**

### Opioid Use Disorder

3. **The sharp rise in opioid overdose deaths during COVID-19 resulted from isolation, economic instability and limited access to substance use treatment clinics.**

### Patient/Family Engagement

4. **Restricting families from healthcare facilities during COVID-19 led to unintended risks to patient safety and distress for caregivers and family members.**
# Join MAPS PSO in addressing these key patient safety issues

Founded in 2010, the Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) is a federally certified Patient Safety Organization (PSO) and a wholly owned, non-profit subsidiary of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association. MAPS members benefit from federal protections, confidential data submission and our supportive PSO community.

**The annual white paper and all MAPS services are part of membership.**

**Together, we can enhance patient safety. Become a member.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postpartum Transitions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace Violence</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Falls</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QI Capacity</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sepsis-Related Mortality</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital-Acquired Infections</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Postpartum Transitions**
The fourth trimester of pregnancy poses risk, especially for women with cardiovascular disease, severe preeclampsia, diabetes and postpartum hemorrhage.

**Workplace Violence**
Incidents of serious workplace violence are four times more likely in healthcare, with hospital emergency department staff most at risk.

**Patient Falls**
One million people fall in hospitals every year, a significant patient safety concern exacerbated by the pandemic that can result in patient injury.

**QI Capacity**
The pandemic caused a major reshuffling of priorities among healthcare providers, even those with strong quality improvement (QI) efforts.

**Sepsis-Related Mortality**
Sepsis remains the top cause of inpatient deaths across the U.S., despite recommended improvements, claiming 270,000 adult lives every year.

**Hospital-Acquired Infections**
Pandemic challenges of increased patient caseload and staffing shortages hindered the implementation and effectiveness of infection prevention practices.