

## ORIGINAL PAPER

### Medical Errors in Cyprus: The 2005 Eurobarometer Survey

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#### Abstract

**Background:** Medical errors have been highlighted in recent years by different agencies, scientific bodies and research teams alike. We sought to explore the issue of medical errors in Cyprus using data from the Eurobarometer survey.

**Methods:** Data from the special Eurobarometer survey conducted in 2005 across all European Union countries (EU-25) and the acceding countries were obtained from the corresponding EU office. Statistical analyses including logistic regression models were performed using SPSS.

**Results:** A total of 502 individuals participated in the Cyprus survey. About 90% reported that they had often or sometimes heard about medical errors, while 22% reported that a family member or they had suffered a serious medical error in a local hospital. In addition, 9.4% reported a serious problem from a prescribed medicine. We also found statistically significant differences across different ages and gender and in rural versus urban residents. Finally, using multivariable-adjusted logistic regression models, we found that residents in rural areas were more likely to have suffered a serious medical error in a local hospital or from a prescribed medicine.

**Conclusion:** Our study shows that the vast majority of residents in Cyprus in parallel with the other Europeans worry about medical errors and a significant percentage report having suffered a serious medical error at a local hospital or from a prescribed medicine. The results of our study could help the medical community in Cyprus and the society at large to enhance its vigilance with respect to medical errors in order to improve medical care.

**Keywords:** Medical errors, Population survey, Eurobarometer, Cyprus,