The Institute for Patient Safety at UNT Health Science Center was established to confront the medical error crisis in America's health care system. It is estimated that as many as 250,000 Americans die each year because of medical error, making it the third-leading cause of death in the U.S., behind heart disease and cancer. The number of Americans experiencing significant harm may be 30 times that number. That means that this year 21,600 Texans will die, and more than 600,000 will be harmed, as a result of medical error. This equates to 59 Texas dying unnecessarily each day because of medical error. In 2015, the Texas Legislature provided UNTHSC initial funding to establish the Institute for Patient Safety. Founded by member institutions UNTHSC, Texas Christian University, JPS Health Network and Cook Children's Hospital, the Institute is creating a statewide approach to decrease harm to patients from medical care. It is doing so by developing collaborative partnerships of patients and families, academic institutions, health care systems and community organizations.