

# LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT STRATEGY FOR HAI/AR

## Vision

To strengthen local capacity to respond to, control, and prevent HAIs and AR across all healthcare settings and in the community.

## Strategy Overview

Healthcare associated infections (HAI) and antibiotic resistance (AR) pose a major threat to communities. Each day, approximately 1 in 31 U.S. hospital patients and 1 in 43 nursing home residents has a HAI, and about half of hospital patients and 1 in 12 nursing home residents receive an antimicrobial medication. More than 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections occur in the U.S. each year, and more than 35,000 people die as a result, also costing billions annually in healthcare costs.

Local health departments (LHDs) play a critical role in implementing HAI/AR prevention and response efforts. CDC is working closely with partners to develop and pilot a strategy for LHDs to increase their capacity for HAI/AR prevention and response. The strategy includes a series of recommended goals, objectives, and activities based on an assessment of the key roles that LHDs could play in the response, control, and prevention of HAI/AR. This strategy aims to strengthen LHDs by focusing on three main goal areas: growing strong partner networks; building internal operational capacity; and expanding the scope of programmatic activities to effectively address HAI/AR in their jurisdictions.

The strategy is designed to support public health professionals who are planning, leading, or coordinating HAI/AR activities at the local level. It is meant to be a helpful aid in planning and use of the strategy is optional. The specific users may vary depending on structures within your state. For example, this strategy could be used by LHDs, by regions defined by state health departments, or by local jurisdictions, districts, or units who have responsibility for HAI/AR prevention, control, and response.

## Strategic Goals



## How to Use the Strategy

Use this strategy when your LHD is ready to examine and strengthen your HAI/AR capabilities. We recommend revisiting this strategy annually in close collaboration with your partners, such as the state HAI/AR program.

Specific HAI/AR activities vary across LHDs and depend on factors such as size of the LHD, governance structures, emerging threats, types of healthcare facilities in the jurisdiction, demographics, local relationships, and collaborations with the state HAI/AR program. The strategy is flexible to accommodate levels that are appropriate for LHDs of varying capacity and expertise. Visit the [LHD HAI/AR Interim Strategy](#) and [Framework for Implementing the Strategy](#) webpages on the CDC website for further instructions. The webpage has recommended steps and tools when your health department is ready to assess and strengthen your HAI/AR capabilities.

Step 1

Read the Strategy

Step 2

Assess your Capacity

Step 3

Develop an Action Plan