The National and State Healthcare-Associated Infection Progress Report should be used by health departments, hospital associations, professional societies, healthcare systems and facilities, and quality improvement groups to identify infections that need additional prevention efforts.

As described in this report, most infections are decreasing when compared to their respective baselines. In 2014, CLABSI in acute care hospitals reached the 2013 goal established by the HAI Action Plan, decreasing 50 percent between 2008 and 2014. Additionally, in contrast to previous years, CAUTI in acute care hospitals decreased 5 percent between 2013 and 2014. Despite this progress, more work is needed to ensure patients are safe when receiving medical care, and to reach the new HHS proposed targets for December 2020.

Together with health care and public health partners, CDC is working to bring increased attention to HAI prevention, and continue to decrease CAUTI and other infection types. CDC-recommended infection prevention strategies for several infection types, including CAUTI, have proven effective in a variety of patient care locations. CDC also summarizes core elements of successful stewardship programs, which can help reduce rates of C. difficile infections and antibiotic resistant infections; improve individual patient outcomes; and save healthcare dollars. CDC continues to assist public health and clinical partners with implementation of these recommendations. CDC also works with health departments and quality improvement groups to specifically identify and assist hospitals in need of infection prevention assistance.

State health department efforts to assess the quality and completeness of data reported to NHSN are critical to improving confidence in data validity. State health departments are uniquely positioned to maximize HAI prevention efforts by working across the healthcare system to facilitate statewide HAI prevention activities. CDC encourages state health departments to build and maintain partnerships, plan for and respond to HAI outbreaks, and conduct trainings focused on HAI surveillance and prevention. Ongoing interactions between state and federal public health agencies and their partners in the healthcare sector will be vital to sustaining and extending HAI tracking and prevention.

CDC will continue to measure progress at the state and national levels and report movement toward the HHS HAI Action Plan targets. These goals are most likely to be met with targeted efforts to cut infection types shown to be lagging behind and continued effort to make further progress on the infection types headed in the right direction.
Preventing HAIs is possible, but it will take a conscious effort of everyone—clinicians, healthcare facilities and systems, public health, quality improvement groups, and the federal government—working together toward improving care, protecting patients, and saving lives.