Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are infections patients can get while receiving medical treatment in a healthcare facility. Working toward the elimination of HAIs is a CDC priority. The standardized infection ratio (SIR) is a summary statistic that can be used to track HAI prevention progress over time; lower SIRs are better. The infection data are reported to CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). HAI data for nearly all U.S. hospitals are published on the Hospital Compare website. This report is based on 2014 data, published in 2016.

### CLABSIs

**CENTRAL LINE-ASSOCIATED BLOODSTREAM INFECTIONS**

When a tube is placed in a large vein and not put in correctly or kept clean, it can become a way for germs to enter the body and cause deadly infections in the blood.

- Arkansas hospitals reported no significant change in CLABSIs between 2013 and 2014.
- Among the 24 hospitals in Arkansas with enough data to calculate an SIR, 9% had an SIR significantly higher (worse) than 0.50, the value of the national SIR.

### CAUTIs

**CATHETER-ASSOCIATED URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS**

When a urinary catheter is not put in correctly, not kept clean, or left in a patient for too long, germs can travel through the catheter and infect the bladder and kidneys.

- Arkansas hospitals reported a significant decrease in CAUTIs between 2013 and 2014.
- Among the 39 hospitals in Arkansas with enough data to calculate an SIR, 5% had an SIR significantly higher (worse) than 1.00, the value of the national SIR.

### MRSA Bacteremia

**LABORATORY IDENTIFIED HOSPITAL-ONSET BLOODSTREAM INFECTIONS**

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is bacteria usually spread by contaminated hands. In a healthcare setting, such as a hospital, MRSA can cause serious bloodstream infections.

- Arkansas hospitals reported no significant change in MRSA bacteremia between 2013 and 2014.
- Among the 24 hospitals in Arkansas with enough data to calculate an SIR, 8% had an SIR significantly higher (worse) than 0.87, the value of the national SIR.

### C. difficile Infections

**LABORATORY IDENTIFIED HOSPITAL-ONSET *C. DIFFICILE* INFECTIONS**

When a person takes antibiotics, good bacteria that protect against infection are destroyed for several months. During this time, patients can get sick from *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*), bacteria that cause potentially deadly diarrhea, which can be spread in healthcare settings.

- Arkansas hospitals reported no significant change in *C. difficile* infections between 2013 and 2014.
- Among the 47 hospitals in Arkansas with enough data to calculate an SIR, 0% had an SIR significantly higher (worse) than 0.92, the value of the national SIR.

### SSIs

**SURGICAL SITE INFECTIONS**

When germs get into an area where surgery is or was performed, patients can get a **surgical site infection**. Sometimes these infections involve only the skin. Other SSIs can involve tissues under the skin, organs, or implanted material.

- **SSI: Abdominal Hysterectomy**
  - Arkansas hospitals reported no significant change in SSIs related to abdominal hysterectomy surgery between 2013 and 2014.
  - Not enough data to report how many hospitals had an SIR significantly higher (worse) than 0.83, the value of the national SIR.

- **SSI: Colon Surgery**
  - Arkansas hospitals reported no significant change in SSIs related to colon surgery between 2013 and 2014.
  - Among the 23 hospitals in Arkansas with enough data to calculate an SIR, 0% had an SIR significantly higher (worse) than 0.98, the value of the national SIR.
Arkansas has a state mandate to publicly report at least one HAI to NHSN.

Prevention efforts to reduce specific HAIs:
- Central line-associated bloodstream infections
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infections
- Surgical site infections
- Multidrug-resistant infections (C. difficile)
- Ventilator-associated events
- Long-term care facilities
- Hand hygiene
- Antibiotic stewardship
- Healthcare personnel influenza vaccination

For prevention effort details, see glossary.