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).

This report is based on 2014 data, published in 2016.

**LONG-TERM ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS (LTACHs)**

Acute care hospitals that provide treatment for patients who are generally very sick and stay, on average, more than 25 days. Services include comprehensive rehabilitation, respiratory therapy, head trauma treatment, and pain management. Most patients are transferred from an intensive or critical care unit.

**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.

13% Among the 478 U.S. LTACHs with enough data to calculate an SIR, 13% had an SIR significantly higher (worse) than 0.91, 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.

8% Among the 567 U.S. IRFs with enough data to calculate an SIR, 8% had an SIR significantly higher (worse) than 0.86, the value of the national SIR.

**INPATIENT REHABILITATION FACILITIES (IRFs)**

Hospitals, or part of a hospital, that provide intensive rehabilitation services using an interdisciplinary team approach. Admission to an IRF is appropriate for patients with complex nursing, medical management, and rehabilitative needs. Data are reported from free-standing IRFs and rehabilitation locations within other hospitals.

**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.

17% Among the 482 U.S. LTACHs with enough data to calculate an SIR, 17% had an SIR significantly higher (worse) than 0.89, the value of the national SIR.

* Statistically significant
Healthcare-associated infection (HAI) data give healthcare facilities and public health agencies knowledge to design, implement, and evaluate HAI prevention efforts.

### Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAI Type</th>
<th># of U.S. LTACHs That Reported Data to CDC’s NHSN, 2014*</th>
<th>2014 Nat’l SIR vs. Nat’l Baseline</th>
<th>2014 Nat’l SIR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLABSI</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAUTI</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The number of facilities that reported to NHSN and are included in the SIR calculation.

### Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAI Type</th>
<th># of U.S. IRFs That Reported Data to CDC’s NHSN, 2014*</th>
<th>2014 Nat’l SIR vs. Nat’l Baseline</th>
<th>2014 Nat’l SIR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAUTI</td>
<td>1,135</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The number of facilities that reported to NHSN and are included in the SIR calculation.

### What Does the Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) Mean?

**If the National SIR Is:**

- More Than 1
  - There was an increase in the number of infections reported in the nation in 2014 compared to the national baseline.

- 1
  - There were about the same number of infections reported in the nation in 2014 compared to the national baseline.

- Less Than 1
  - There was a decrease in the number of infections reported in the nation in 2014 compared to the national baseline.