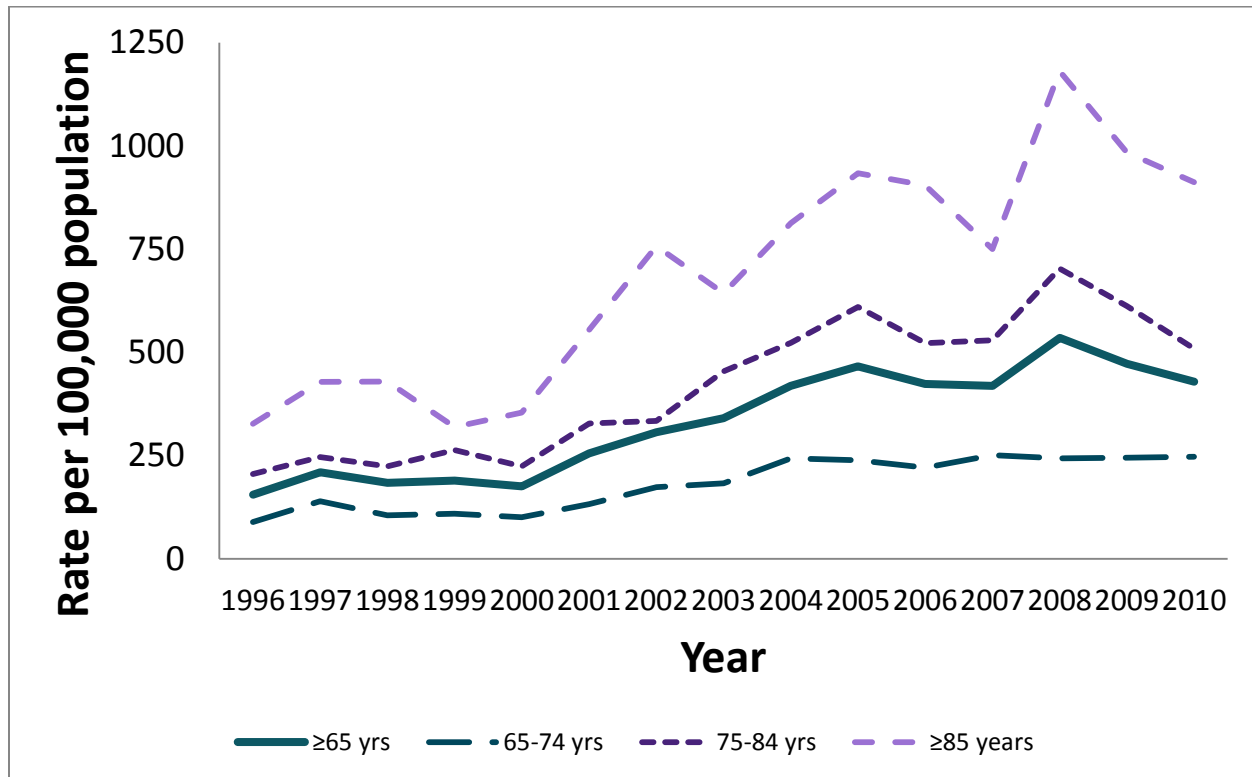




# Data Uses

**Rate per 100,000 population of inpatients age  $\geq 65$  with *Clostridium difficile*, by age group: United States, 1996-2010**



NOTE: Rates for 1996-1999 were based on U.S. Census Bureau civilian population estimates adjusted for the net underenumeration in the 1990 census. Rates for 2000-2010 were calculated using U.S. Census Bureau 2000-based postcensal civilian population estimates.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Hospital Discharge Survey.

- Infection control is a top priority in all healthcare settings, especially in hospitals. *Clostridium difficile* is a bacterial infection that primarily affects hospitalized patients and can lead to diarrhea, blood poisoning, and even death. The majority of cases occur in patients 65 and older. *Clostridium difficile* hospitalization rates for these older patients increased as much as 200% between 1996 and 2010.