

2023 SAAR Rebaseline Fact Sheet:

Which National Baseline Should I Use for SAAR Analyses?

Purpose

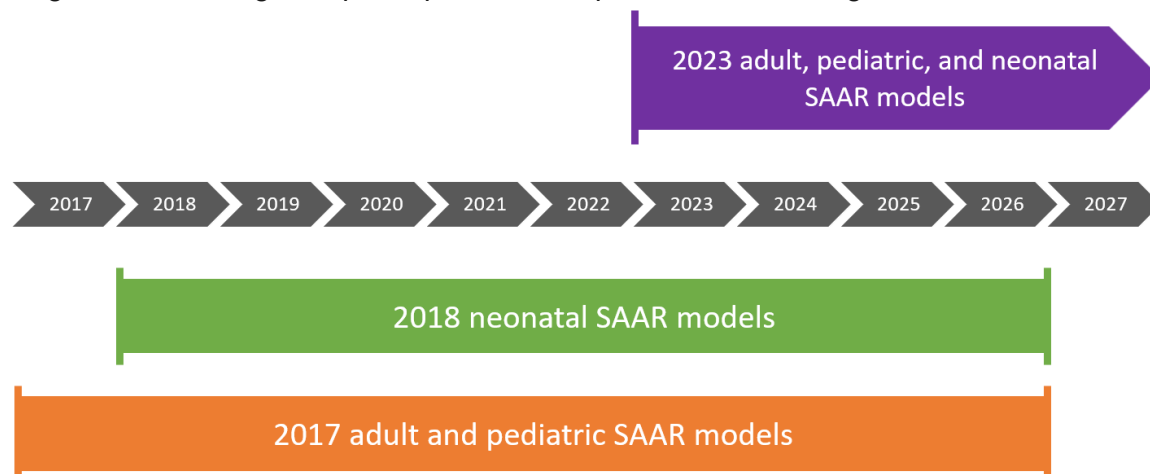
This document provides consideration for analyzing Standardized Antimicrobial Administration Ratios (SAARs) under either the 2017/2018 or 2023 national baseline.

Background

- NHSN is updating the national baseline for calculating the SAAR from 2017/2018 to 2023 to better reflect recent data. More information is available on NHSN's [SAAR Rebaseline homepage](#).
- New analytic reports are being built in NHSN that provide SAARs under the 2023 baseline.
 - Analytic reports using the 2017/2018 baselines will remain available in NHSN.
- Users can choose which baseline to use (i.e., which analytic report to run in NHSN) when analyzing their antimicrobial use (AU) data.
- NHSN users and/or data analysts should select the baseline year that aligns with the goals of their analyses and their needs for a national comparison.

Time Period for SAAR Data Analysis Using Different Baselines

- The following diagram depicts the available years of data that can be analyzed under each national baseline in NHSN. The grey shapes represent AU data entered into NHSN by participating facilities, and the purple, green, and orange shapes represent the options for calculating SAARs.



- As indicated by the diagram, NHSN users may continue to run SAAR reports that use the 2017/2018 baselines, but the reports will not include AU data reported for January 2027 and forward.
 - The 2017/2018 baselines were created using national AU data from 2017 and 2018. Since then, there has been increase in AU data submission due to the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program requirement. Additionally, antimicrobial prescribing practices may have changed in response to updated national guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of infections, and improvement in stewardship practices.
 - The 2023 baseline is a way to incorporate these changes when analyzing AU and allows facilities to compare their AU to more recent national data.



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Which Baseline Should I Use for my SAAR Analyses? Key Details and Recommendations

Considerations	2023 SAAR Baseline	2017 or 2018 SAAR Baselines
National comparison used in the SAAR	Compares a facility's AU data to 2023 national AU rates ¹	Compares a facility's AU data to 2017/2018 national AU rates ¹
Available time periods	Can be used to measure AU from 2023 and forward	Can be used to measure AU from 2017/2018 through 2026
Alignment with national antimicrobial use surveillance and stewardship efforts	Aligns with current and future (2024 and forward) national surveillance efforts for antimicrobial use, such as NHSN surveillance reports and publications (e.g., CDC's Antimicrobial Use Option Data Report)	Aligns with previous national surveillance efforts for antimicrobial use, such as CDC's Antimicrobial Use Option Data Report and the Antimicrobial Resistance and Patient Safety Portal
Alignment with other efforts and goals	May align with future antimicrobial stewardship efforts from other healthcare or public health organizations at the federal, state, tribal, local, or territorial level. More information about rebaseline implications for groups and organizations can be found here .	May align with current targets and goals set by corporations, medical centers, state health departments, quality improvement organizations, etc.
Use in CMS programs	Not currently used by CMS programs	Not currently used by CMS programs

Careful Interpretation is Essential

- SAARs must be interpreted correctly, in the context of the applicable baseline that was used for the calculation.
- More information about the SAAR interpretation can be found in [NHSN's Guide to the SAAR \(2023 Baseline\)](#) and the Rebaseline Talking Points for [Hospital Leadership](#) and [Organizations](#).
- SAARs calculated under the 2023 baseline are not comparable to those calculated under the 2017/2018 baselines because they include different baseline populations, risk adjustments, and SAAR agent categories.
 - SAARs calculated under either baseline should always be analyzed and assessed independently of one another.
 - SAARs under two different baselines should not be displayed together, visually, in a single graph or plot.
 - More information about analyzing SAARs under different baselines can be found on the [Rebaseline education webpage](#), in the training webinar titled: "[How will my SAARs change? Understanding the impact of the 2023 SAAR rebaseline](#)."

¹ The denominator of the SAAR, number of predicted antimicrobial days, is the number of antimicrobial days predicted to occur in a facility/location, based on the national 2023 data. The SAAR denominator reflects the relevant risk factors in the facility.