

Multistate point-prevalence survey of health care-associated infections.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/multistate-point-prevalence-survey-health-care-associated-infections>

[Health care–associated infections](#) (HAIs) are a serious and common cause of patient harm. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created the [National Healthcare Safety Network](#) to provide information on incidence rates of infections, but most hospitals limit reporting to only certain complications. This multistate prevalence study found that approximately 4% of sampled patients had HAIs. Using a model to extrapolate these findings, nearly 650,000 patients in United States hospitals are estimated to have had an HAI in 2011. Infections associated with devices—including [central lines](#), [urinary catheters](#), and [ventilators](#)—have been a major focus of strategies to decrease HAIs, but together they accounted for only about a quarter of all HAIs. *Clostridium difficile* was responsible for more than 12% of infections, highlighting the importance of efforts to mitigate this [life-threatening disease](#). A recent CDC [report](#) suggested the potential promise of antibiotic stewardship programs to decrease *C. difficile* rates.