

2024 Healthcare-Associated Infection Annual Report Executive Summary

The Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH) Healthcare-Associated Infection and Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) Program works closely with local health jurisdictions (LHJs) and Washington state hospitals to track healthcare-associated infection (HAIs). HAI tracking is standardized using the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) NHSN surveillance system and standardized surveillance definitions. This allows the data to be used for epidemiology.

WA DOH publishes the annual HAI dashboard to summarize the performance of Washington [acute care hospitals](#) (ACHs) on HAIs during that year. This dashboard contains information on specific HAIs reported to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by ACHs throughout Washington in 2024. The reported data are mandated by CMS and the [Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\) 246-440-100](#). This dashboard aims to provide data about the quality of hospital care in Washington, monitor prevention progress, and compare HAI incidences to national averages and targets. The Executive Summary works with the dashboard, highlighting important information and providing a summary of major findings.

The Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) is the primary measure used for tracking HAIs and allows us to compare HAIs over time and to other populations. NHSN calculates the SIR based on various facility-level and patient-level factors. You can read more detailed information about the 2015 baseline [here](#). This is the final year in which the 2015 baseline will be used to calculate the SIRs. Starting with reporting year 2025, all data will be calculated using the [2022 rebaseline](#).

Main Takeaways

Comparison to 2025 Baseline SIR of 1

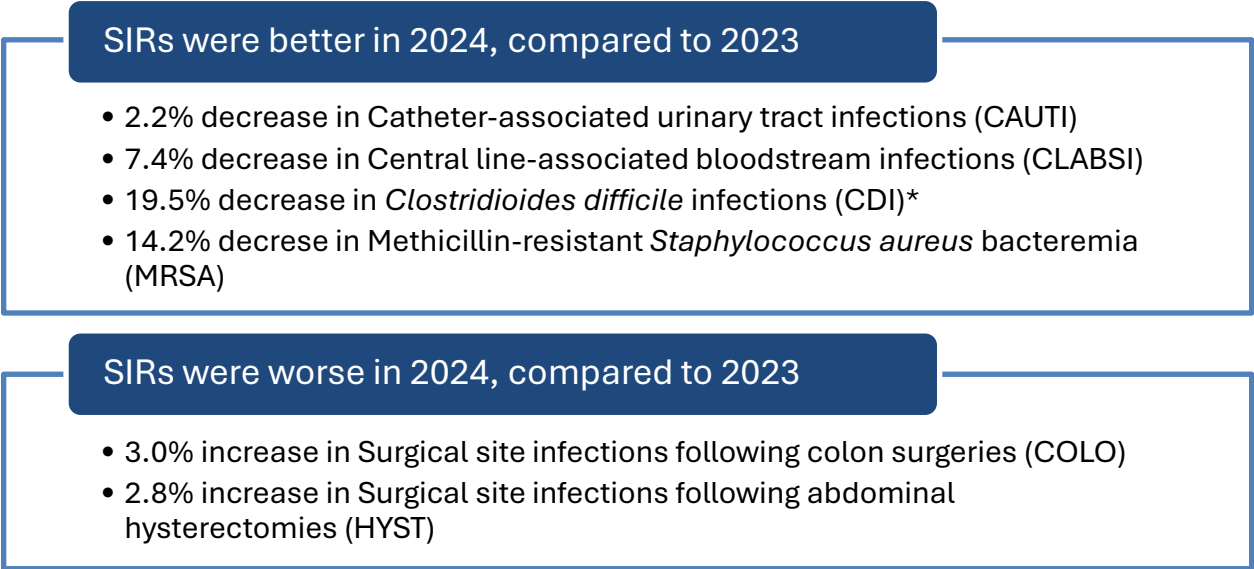
The CDC compares each state's performance to the 2015 baseline for all infections. Every state compares its SIR to the 2015 baseline for 6 different types of infections. Thirty states, including Washington, had SIRs statistically better than the 2015 baseline for 4 or more infection types. Washington was not worse than the 2015 baseline for any type.

Comparison to Previous Years

In addition to the 2015 baseline, SIRs are compared to the previous year. This report compares 2024 and 2023 data.

In 2024, ACHs continued working to reduce the burden of HAIs in Washington. Figure 1 compares the SIRs in 2023 and 2024 for the 6 HAIs in this report.

Figure 1 Comparison of Washington SIR between 2023 and 2024



*Difference was statistically significant

In 2024, hospitals in Washington significantly reduced the CDI incidence. Improvements were also made for CAUTI, CLABSI, and MRSA; only the decrease in CDI incidence was statistically significant. The SIRs were worse in 2024 for both surgical site infections (COLO and HYST).

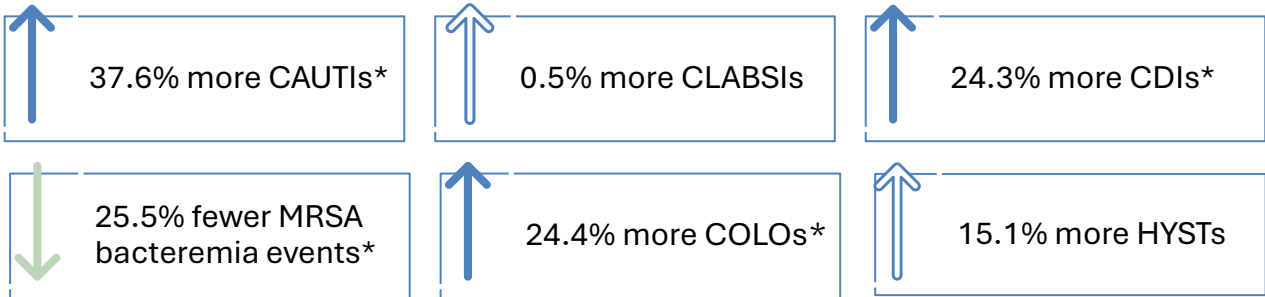
This marks the second consecutive year with decreases in the SIR for CAUTI, CLABSI, and MRSA. This shows the continued efforts of Washington hospitals to improve patient safety.

It is also the second consecutive year with an increase in HYST SIR, although the increase was not statistically significant in either year. Nationally, HYST SIRs also increased in acute care hospitals in 2024.

Comparison to National

Finally, the CDC compares each state’s SIR to the national average for each infection type. Washington hospitals’ performances are included in Figure 2, compared to the 2024 national averages.

Figure 2 Comparison of Washington SIRs to National Average



*Difference was statistically significant

Washington was one of 11 states that performed statistically worse than the national average on at least 3 infection types – CAUTI, CDI, and COLO.

Conclusion

While Washington hospitals have made a lot of progress in reducing infections in hospitals, much more needs to be done to prevent HAIs in all health care settings. The WA DOH HAI/AR program will continue our prevention efforts, where we track HAIs, validate reported data, and educate health care personnel on HAI prevention.

DOH 420-701 February 2026

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh.information@doh.wa.gov.