WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS (HAIs)

The Impact of HAIs in North Carolina

HAIs are preventable, yet in 2019 3,547 HAIs were reported in North Carolina. These infections caused over $19 million in excess medical costs.\(^1,2\) This represents a decrease in over 600 HAIs reported in 2018 with costs remaining over 19 million.

Types of HAIs reportable in North Carolina

- Catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI)
- Central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI)
- *Clostridioides difficile* (Lab ID CDI)
- Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
- Surgical site infection (SSI)

HAIs can occur in any healthcare setting.

Nationally, HAIs affect one in 31 hospitalized patients.\(^3\)

Every day 197 hospitalized Americans die from HAIs.\(^4\)

HAIs can be prevented through partnership between healthcare and public health to improve medical care and infection control.

**NC SHARPPS Program: Your Partners in HAI Prevention**

The mission of the NC Surveillance for Healthcare Associated and Antimicrobial-Resistant Pathogens Patient Safety (SHARPPS) Program is to work in partnership to prevent, detect and respond to events and outbreaks of healthcare-associated and antimicrobial-resistant infections in North Carolina.

- Detects, investigates and responds to HAIs and antibiotic-resistant threats and provides technical expertise for outbreak response.
- Collaborates with local, state and national partners in public health, healthcare and academia to develop and implement infection prevention and antibiotic stewardship strategies.
- Provides education and training to healthcare professionals to increase awareness and prevent HAIs and antimicrobial resistance.
- Validates data and evaluates trends in North Carolina HAIs and antimicrobial-resistance data.
- Communicates with regulatory, surveillance and public health agencies.
- Serves as a central resource hub for credible, up-to-date, evidence-based information for infection prevention, outbreak response and antimicrobial resistance.

For more information regarding HAIs and the NC SHARPPS Program, visit [https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/hai/program.html](https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/hai/program.html) and email nchai@dhhs.nc.gov

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