

INFECTION RATES AND OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

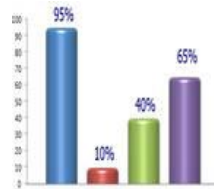
Health care-associated Infection (HAIs) are infectious diseases typically acquired during or just after receiving health care (in or outside of hospitals). Many HAIs are antimicrobial resistant and can result in severe complications or even death.

An outbreak is a sudden rise in the number of cases of a disease, beyond what might be expected. It may last for a few days or weeks, or even for several years. An outbreak is the spread of the same illness among a group of people in the same place at the same time.

Infection Rates

Teams that are well informed about HAI rates are better equipped to prevent and manage them.

IP&C is responsible for collecting, analyzing and reporting on specific HAIs. Reports and associated information are sent to staff, volunteers, senior leadership and the general public.



Currently, IP&C is tracking *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile*) and methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) which they also publicly report. Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales (CPE), Vancomycin Resistant Enterobacter blood stream infections (VRE BSIs) and Antimicrobial resistant gram-negative bacilli (AMR-GNB) are also being tracked.



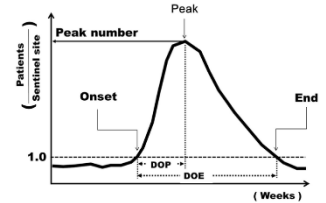
Depending on your unit and facility, IP&C tracks and reports HAIs related to specific Surgical Site Infections (SSIs), Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSIs), Hip and Knee Replacements, Cerebral Spinal Fluid Shunts (CFS) and Hemodialysis (HD) line infections.

Tracking Outbreaks

The WRHA tracks and responds to outbreaks within its facilities. Outbreak data is followed by IP&C to identify trends and outbreaks. Information is gathered about the affected unit/area. IP&C shares that information with the IP&C epidemiologist, leadership, public health, region and the general public.



The data is analyzed to determine the source of the outbreak and the best way to control the further spread of the microorganism(s) causing the outbreak. IP&C directs unit/area staff to use interventions such as increasing cleaning and disinfection, additional precautions, personal protective equipment (PPE), signage, limited visitation and other infection control measures designed to prevent the spread. Outbreak data is then reviewed in order to see where improvements are required.



Your Role is to be Aware of....

- The notification and procedure for suspected outbreaks
- How do you find out about the recommendations to control outbreaks?
 - Can you name some of the usual recommendations?
- WRHA has Operational Directive about outbreaks and reporting
 - What are common microorganisms you see in outbreaks?
- Where can you find your *C. difficile* and MRSA infection rates for your site and region?
- Is IP&C tracking infection rates in your unit/area for:
 - SSIs
 - CLABSIs
 - CFS shunts
 - Hip and knee replacement
 - HD lines
- If IP&C is tracking infection rates (surveillance) in your area/unit what are they tracking?



Have more questions or concerns? Contact your facility/program ICP.