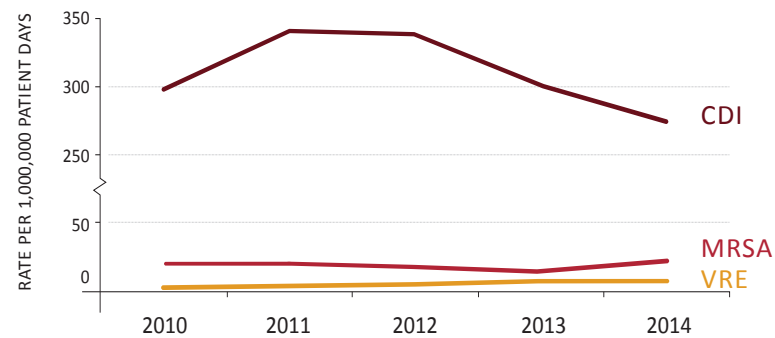


# STOP HEALTH CARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

## BREAKING DOWN THE NUMBERS

Ontario hospitals report cases of CDI and bloodstream infections caused by MRSA and VRE. These rates provide a strong indicator of overall trends, even if they are a small per cent of the total number of health care-associated infections. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, cases of MRSA in hospitals increased sharply, CDI became a greater concern and VRE emerged as a new threat to patient safety.<sup>4</sup> Thanks in part to infection prevention and control efforts, reported rates of these infections have been relatively stable over the last five years.<sup>5</sup>

Annual rates of HAIs in hospitals<sup>5</sup>



In the past five years, CDI outbreak control in Ontario hospitals has improved patient safety, leading to better patient outcomes. There has been a decrease in the total number of outbreaks each year, the number of patients involved in each outbreak and the mortality during outbreaks.

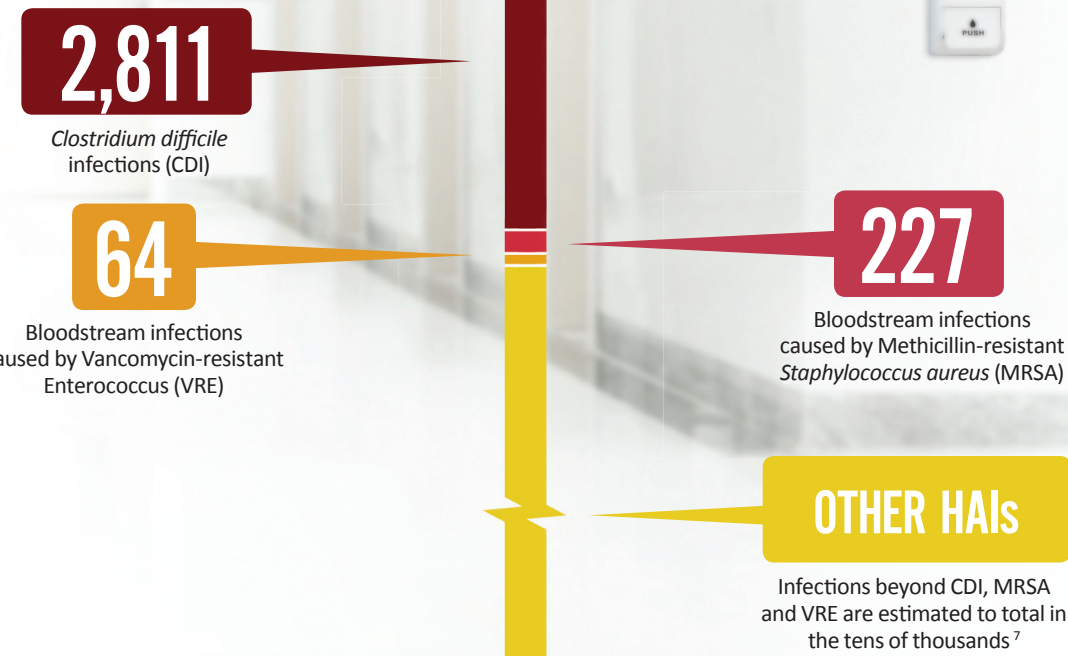
CDI outbreaks in hospitals<sup>6</sup>

	2010	2014
# OF OUTBREAKS	26	19
AVG. # OF CASES PER OUTBREAK	22	7
% ALL-CAUSE MORTALITY	26%	17%

Ontarians trust that health care facilities are clean and safe places that will help them get better when they are sick. Yet some people acquire health care-associated infections (HAIs) that can cause illness, complications or even death.<sup>1,2,3</sup> Prevention and control of these infections in hospitals, long-term care homes and clinics is key to keeping patients safe.



NUMBER OF HAIs IN ONTARIO  
(AS REPORTED BY HOSPITALS IN 2014):<sup>5</sup>



## SERIOUS HEALTH OUTCOMES<sup>1,2,3</sup>

- Prolonged hospital stay
- Bloodstream infections
- Inflammation of the colon due to CDI
- Death

## POPULATIONS AT RISK<sup>8</sup>

- Elderly
- Immunocompromised
- People with underlying chronic conditions

## PREVENTING HAIs

Comprehensive infection prevention and control measures reduce the incidence and impact of HAIs.<sup>9</sup> These practices include:

- Cleaning hands
- Disinfection and sterilization
- Personal protective equipment, such as gowns and gloves
- Public reporting by Ontario hospitals on key measures<sup>10</sup>
- Environmental cleaning
- Careful use of antibiotics
- Surveillance to monitor and detect cases and outbreaks

Of all of these practices, cleaning your hands is the single most important measure to prevent HAIs.

Clean and safe health care environments are a shared responsibility of health care institutions, health care providers and the public. Continued infection prevention and control efforts along with more comprehensive and robust surveillance are required to continue to reduce the incidence and impact of HAIs.

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