

Background

What is the NHSN?



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) is the largest and most widely used healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) tracking system to date.



The NHSN provides facilities, states, regions, and the nation with data needed to identify problem areas, including information on antibiotic use and resistance, measure progress of prevention efforts, and ultimately eliminate HAIs.



For states and the nation at large, HAI trends are used to identify emerging problems and areas of concern that need intervention, and to measure progress in HAI reduction against national, state, and local prevention goals.

NHSN and the CDC

The NHSN is the vehicle the CDC uses to track central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), surgical site infections (SSI), methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), and *Clostridioides Difficile* infections.

The funding for the NHSN allows for the CDC to provide technical support to more than 22,000 healthcare facilities, which represents 65,000 users across the continuum of care.



For medical centers, NHSN gives healthcare facilities the ability to see their data in real-time and share that information with clinicians and facility leadership, as well as with other facilities (i.e. a multi-hospital system) and partners such as health departments or quality improvement organizations. CDC provides the standard national measures for HAIs as well as analytic tools that enable each facility to assess its progress and identify where additional efforts are needed.

How is SHEA advocating for the NHSN?



SHEA actively advocates for federal investments in maintaining NHSN and improving healthcare facility participation.



Robust funding will allow CDC to continue to collect and share aggregated data on national HAI rates, support assessment of antibiotic prescribing, and enhance prevention efforts by identifying healthcare facilities for improvement.



This activity will support investments in modernizing NHSN's infrastructure, critical user support, and provide innovative HAI prevention approaches.

Where does SHEA stand?

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) is requesting an increase in annual funding for NHSN to \$22.75 million for FY 2020 and beyond.



SHEA has and will continue to advocate for robust funding for NHSN and work with other stakeholders such as:

- CDC Coalition
- Stakeholders Forum on Antimicrobial Resistance
- Coalition for Health Funding

These organizations advocate to ensure NHSN continues to receive funding to aid epidemiologists, healthcare facilities and the patients they serve across the United States in tracking, preventing, and ultimately, eliminating healthcare-associated infections, along with receiving other needed data.