

Lessons from the Pioneers

Reporting Healthcare-Associated Infections



**A REPORT BY NCSL
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EXTENDING THE CURE
PROJECT**

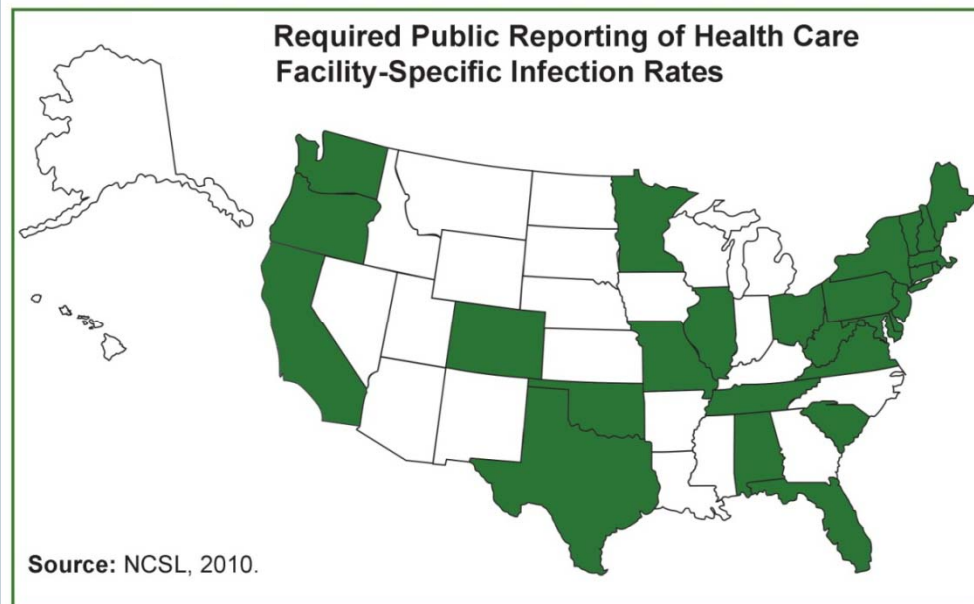
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Report Methodology



- NCSL interviewed stakeholders (e.g., agencies, hospital associations) in 9 of 27 states with reporting laws (AL, CO, DE, IL, MA, NH, OR, PA, WA)
- Identified challenges and "lessons learned"



Findings: Challenges to Reporting



- **Developing meaningful, effective programs**
 - Can the infection be reported accurately?
 - Importance of risk adjustment and independent validation
- **Using the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)**
 - Provides standardized, sound scientific reporting methodology
 - But involves a learning curve and requires resources on the part of hospitals



Findings: What's Important to States?



- **Theme 1: Phase in reporting**
 - Beginning with a manageable set of requirements for which standard, scientific methodologies have been developed
 - Central line-related bloodstream infections = low-hanging fruit
- **Theme 2: Importance of flexibility**
 - Multi-stakeholder advisory committee
 - Degree of flexibility varies by state



Findings: What's Important to States?



- **Theme 3: Leverage existing resources**
 - Building on existing quality improvement initiatives
 - Establishing relationships and seeking partnerships early in the planning process
- **Theme 4: Importance of funding**
 - Insufficient funding cited as primary barrier to implementation
 - Funding is needed for administrative support, hospital training, site visits, databases and software, public reports, and data analysis and validation.



Findings: What's Important to States?



- **Theme 5: Federal guidance and support**
 - \$50 million to states in support of the HHS Action Plan to Prevent HAIs
 - Grants have provided infrastructure (e.g. staffing and technical assistance) to help states implement or expand their reporting programs
 - States are piloting new approaches to HAI reporting and prevention



Over the Horizon



- **New information (e.g. effectiveness of reporting, trends in HAI prevention)**
- **New tools (e.g. electronic transfer of data into NHSN, new data validation methods)**
- **Challenge of sustainability once Recovery Act funding expires**



Thank You



Report available online

www.ncsl.org/?tabid=20875

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