



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

# NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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## **Colorado hospital-acquired infections annual report available online**

DENVER – The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment today released its fifth annual report for the Legislature concerning the status of the Health Facility-Acquired Infections Disclosure Initiative. The report contains data for surgical site infections in cardiac, orthopedic and abdominal operative procedures; adult and neonatal critical care units and long-term acute care hospitals for central line-associated bloodstream infections; and dialysis treatment centers for dialysis-related infections.

Dr. Chris Urbina, the department's executive director and chief medical officer, said, "In all years of reporting this data but one, Colorado hospitals are significantly better than the national mean."

The report includes a table of aggregate central line-associated bloodstream infection data for Colorado hospitals divided by year. Since 2008, infection rates have declined by 44 percent overall. The greatest decline was observed in neonatal intensive care units with a rate of 2.7 in 2007 dropping to a rate of 1.2 by 2011, a 56 percent decrease.

A new table in this year's report contains hospital-specific comparisons to national data based on all the different infections reported by each facility. This comparison is accomplished through the use of a standardized infection ratio, which compares a hospital's total number of infections to the expected number of infections based on national infection data and each facility's patient population. For each reporting year from 2007, every hospital listed has a total number of infections per year, a standardized infection ratio and a comparison to national infection data. The table also contains an aggregate number of infections for all Colorado hospitals and compares Colorado hospitals, as a group, to the national data.

This report is available online at

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hf/PatientSafety/HFAI/2012HAIAnnualReport.pdf>. For more information about this report or patient safety initiatives under way at the Colorado Department of Public Health

and Environment, please contact the Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division at 303-692-2800 or visit <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hf/patientsafety/index.html>.