

# Reporting of hospital infection rates and burden of *C. difficile*

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A new study published today in *PLoS Medicine* re-evaluates the role of public reporting of hospital-acquired infection data.

The study, conducted by Nick Daneman and colleagues, used data from all 180 acute care hospitals in Ontario, Canada. The investigators compared the rates of infection of *Clostridium difficile colitis* prior to, and after, the introduction of public reporting of [hospital performance](#); public reporting was associated with a 26% reduction in *C. difficile* cases.

The authors comment "This longitudinal population-based cohort study has confirmed an immense burden of [Clostridium difficile infection](#) in Ontario, while heralding mandatory hospital reporting as one potential means to reduce this burden".

**More information:** Daneman N, Stukel TA, Ma X, Vermeulen M, Guttmann A (2012) Reduction in Clostridium difficile Infection Rates after Mandatory Hospital Public Reporting: Findings from a Longitudinal Cohort Study in Canada. *PLoS Med* 9(7): e1001268. [doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001268](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001268)

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