

Healthcare associated infections: A point prevalence snapshot

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INTRODUCTION

- Healthcare associated infections (HAIs) are the most frequent complication in hospitalised patients¹
- In Australia, approximately 170,000 infections occur annually at public healthcare facilities, compared to 49,800 at private facilities²
- Effective surveillance of HAI is fundamental to infection prevention and control (IPC) allowing facilities to identify outbreaks, trends and determine interventions³

This study aims to quantify the prevalence of HAIs at Cabrini Health and contribute to Victoria-wide surveillance of HAI burden through the VICNISS point prevalence survey.

This study received ethical approval from the Cabrini Research Governance Office (01-02-04-26)



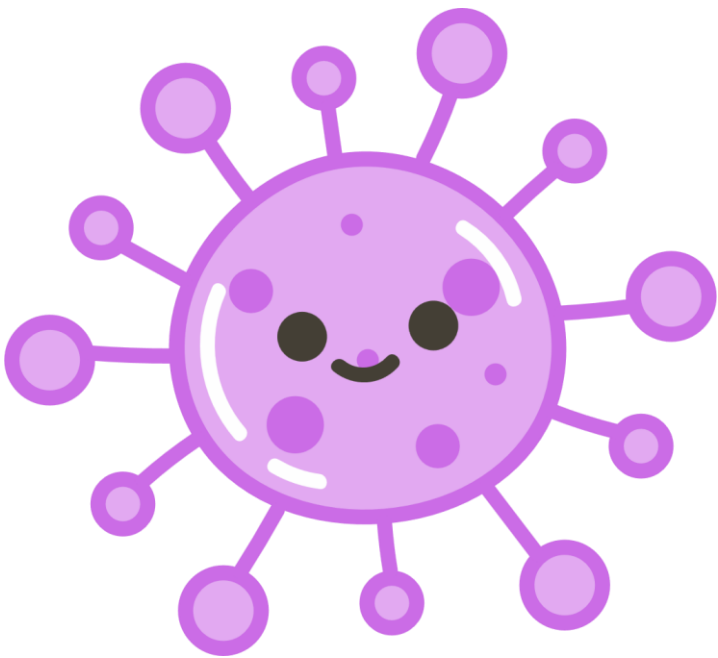
METHODOLOGY

Site:	Acute care ward – Brighton 17 inpatients wards – Malvern
Population:	All patients admitted by 8am and present at the time of survey were eligible
Data collection:	REDCap captured patient admission details, including invasive devices, antimicrobial prescriptions and temperature



21 – 29th May 2026

304 eligible patients screened



HAI prevalence = 3.6%



RESULTS

- In total **11 patients** had at least 1 HAI at time of survey (59.9% female)
- No HAIs detected at Brighton
- Median age of patients with an HAI was **76 years**
- Median **length of stay** of **15 days** for patients with HAI, compared to 3.5 days of patients without
- Surgical site infections (SSIs) represented the most common HAI detected (n = 9), including **5 deep incisional infections** (Figure 1)
- **All antimicrobials** prescribed for treatment of HAIs were deemed **appropriate** by the antimicrobial stewardship team

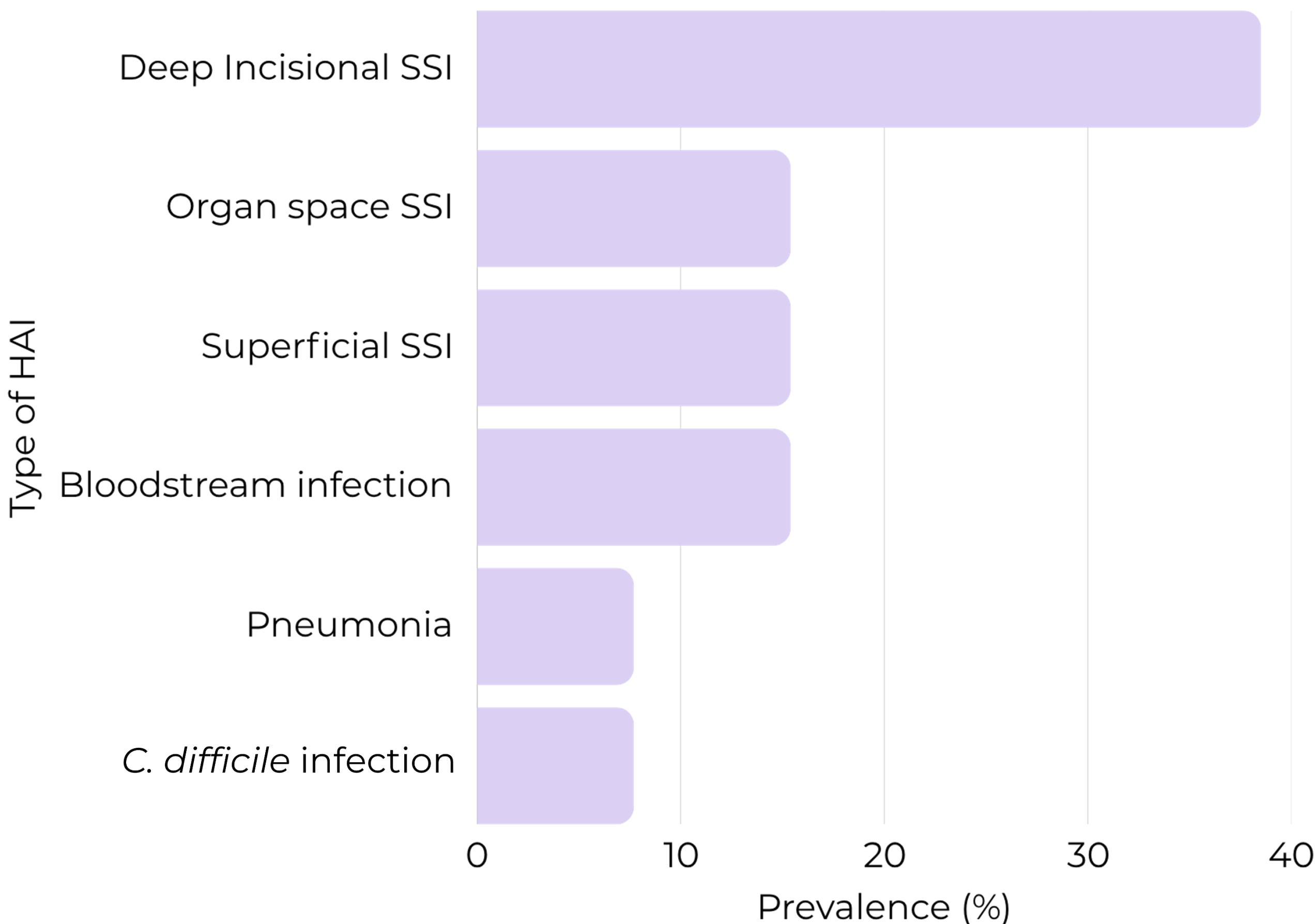


Figure 1. Prevalence of most identified HAIs at Cabrini Malvern.



CONCLUSIONS

Although uncommon, HAIs remain clinically important. Longer hospital stays observed among patients with an HAI suggest increased healthcare utilisation and associated impacts on patient care. While these findings represent a single point-in-time snapshot, ongoing surveillance is essential to monitor trends and guide targeted infection prevention efforts, particularly for surgical site infections.

¹Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. *Hospital-acquired complications [online]*, 2026.

²Lydeamore, M.J. et al. *Burden of five healthcare associated infections in Australia*. Antimicrob Resist Infect Control, 2021.

³Store, J. et al. *Core components for effective infection prevention and control programmes: new WHO evidence-based recommendations*. Antimicrob Resist Infect Control, 2017.