

# Join Us!

## California Alignment for Hospital Quality (Cal HQ)

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A statewide hospital improvement collaborative

January 29, 2026

# AGENDA



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Welcome

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Building the Future Together

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Reducing HAIs Together

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# Welcome

Getting to Know the Team

# Building the Future Together



## Steering Committee

### Hospitals

Adventist Health  
CommonSpirit Health  
Community Memorial Healthcare  
Kaiser Permanente

### Health Plans

BlueShield  
HealthNet  
Inland Empire Health Plan  
LA Care  
Sharp

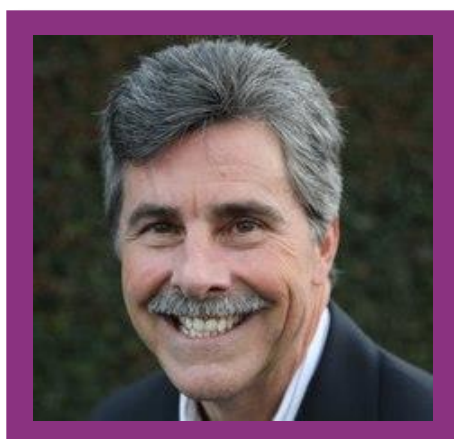
### Other Partners

California Hospital Association  
California Department of Health Care Services (DCHS)  
California Quality Collaborative  
Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI)  
Health Services Advisory Group  
Helen Macfie (SME)  
Hospital Quality Institute  
PFCC Partners

# Cal HQ Team – Today's Speakers



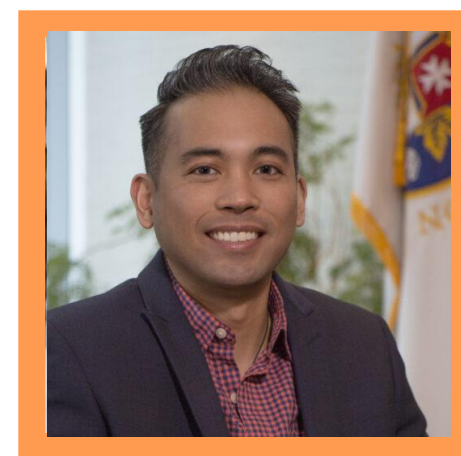
**David Campa, MD,  
MPH**  
Senior Medical  
Director  
Covered California



**Bruce Spurlock, MD**  
Executive Director  
Cal Healthcare  
Compare



**Natalie Graves**  
Improvement Advisor  
Cal Healthcare  
Compare



**AJ Rolle**  
Senior Program Manager  
Cal Healthcare Compare

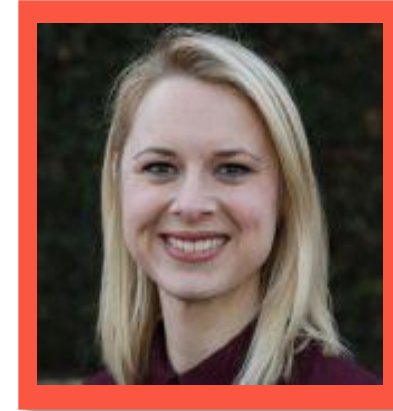
# Cal HQ Team



**Monica Soni, MD**  
Chief Medical Officer  
Covered California



**Tony Linares, MD**  
Medical Consultant  
CalPERS



**Alex Stack**  
Director  
Cal Healthcare  
Compare



**Kelly Saephan**  
Health Equity & Quality  
Transformation  
Covered California



**Claire De Castro**  
Clinical Policy and Programs  
CalPERS



**Tracy Fisk**  
Program Manager  
Cal Healthcare  
Compare



# ...and YOU!

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Name

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Title

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Organization

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What drives your commitment  
to improving quality?

# Our Vision

Where are we headed?



# Our Unified Path to Excellence



## Cal HQ

- Engage all hospitals across California to achieve state-wide improvement goals
- Organizational alignment across the state
  - Purchasers, state agencies and other stakeholders
  - Regional health plan efforts

## Regional collaboration/State-wide Goals

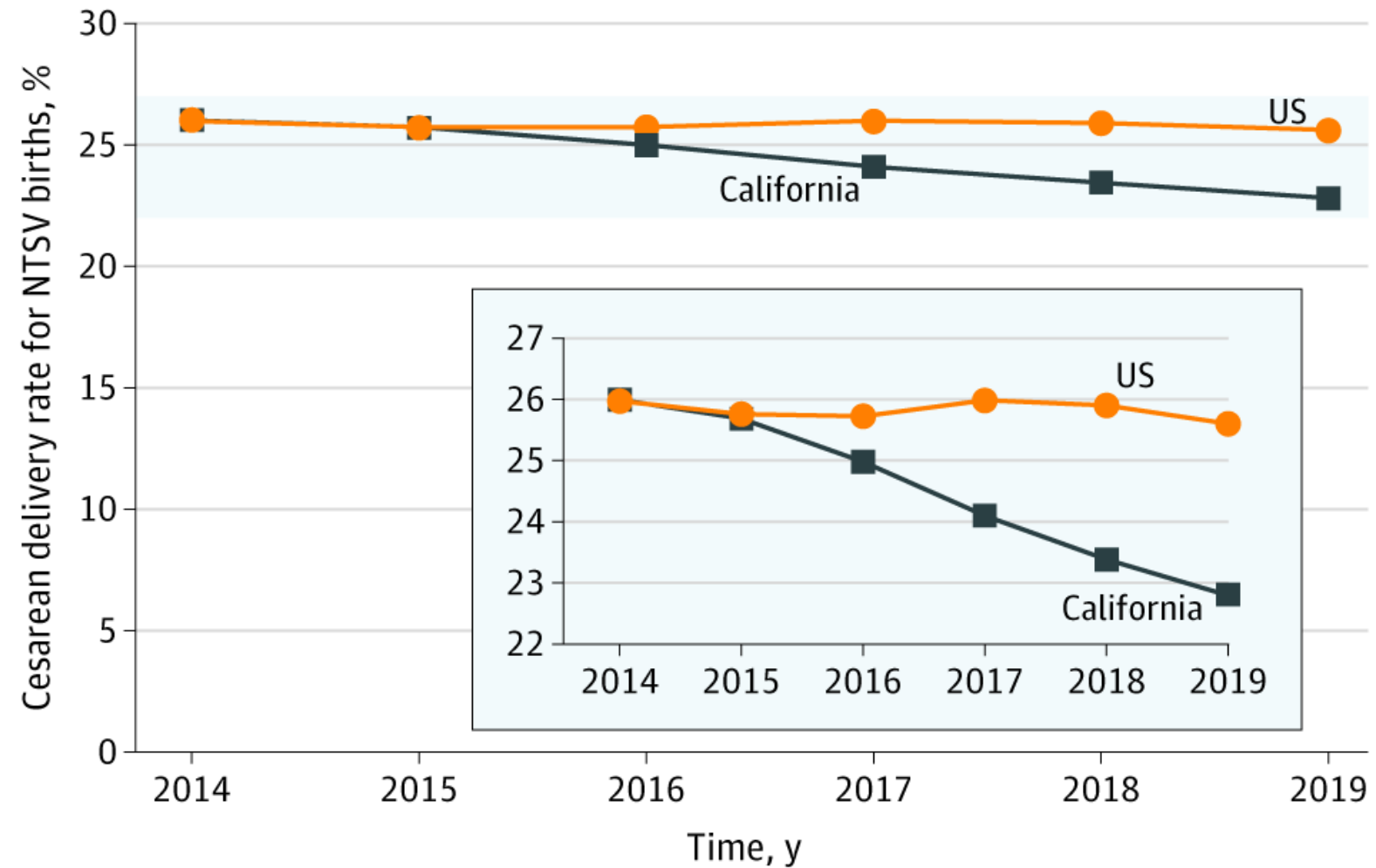
- LA Health Plans led collaboration to engage hospitals around a core set of quality measures
- State-wide goal to reduce NTSV C-section rate below 23.6%

## Organization-led quality improvement

- Hospital-focused Improvement Initiatives (Federal, State, Internal, etc..)
- Health Plan Value-Based Payment & Quality Improvement Programs
- Cal Healthcare Compare Honor Rolls

# Alignment Strategies Work!

## Impact of California Initiatives on NTSV C-Section



# Cal HQ's Vision



Elevate Patient Care for ALL Californians



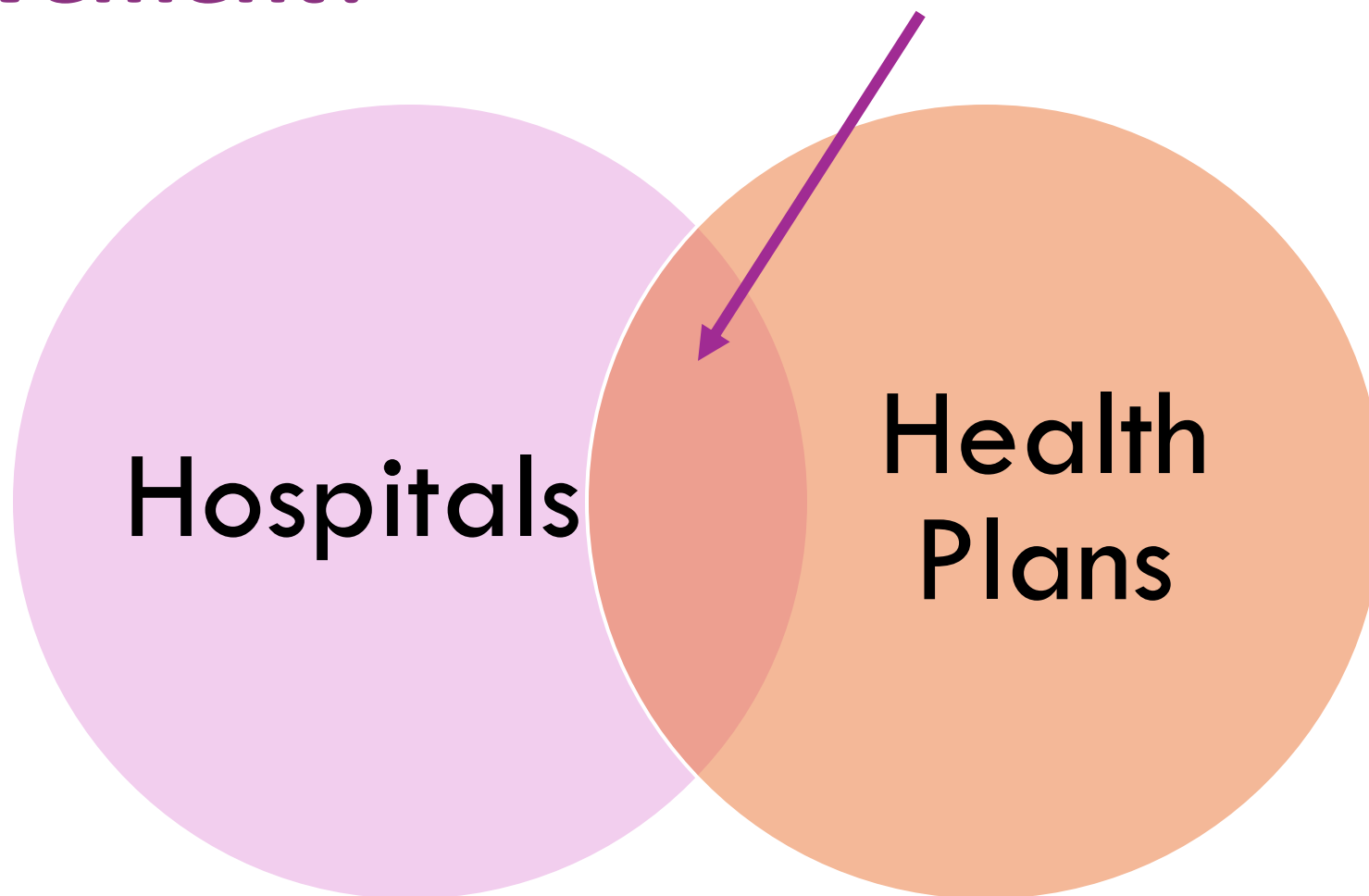
Unlock the Power of Data: Accelerating Digital Quality Measures



Build a Network of Excellence

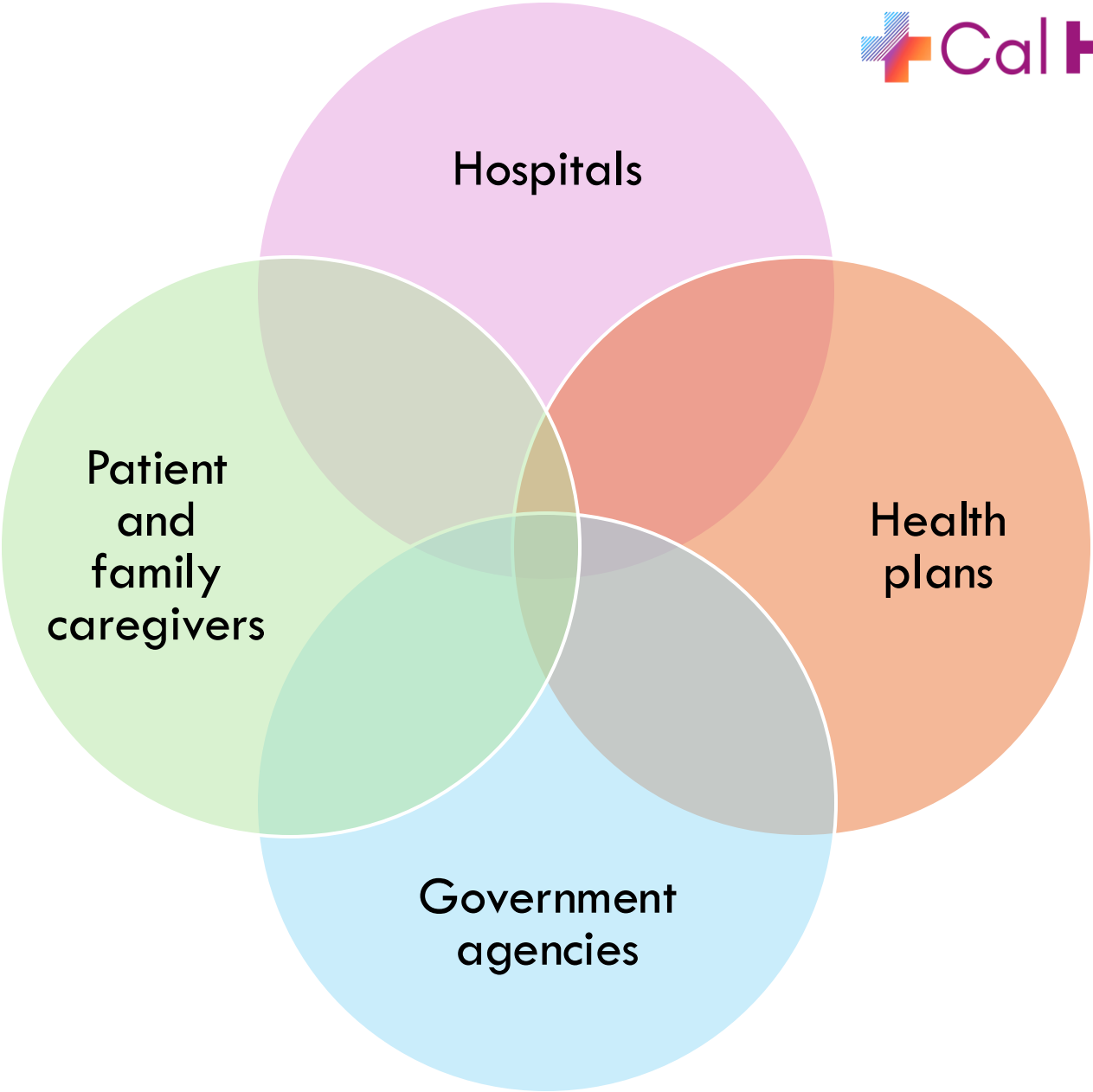


# What Actions Can We Take to Drive Improvement?





**What roles,  
responsibilities,  
and resources do  
we each bring to  
improvement  
efforts?**



# Cal HQ's Bold Goal

**By December 31, 2027**

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Prevent over 2,000  
infections

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Save ~100 lives

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Save \$64,000,000\*

\*AHRQ's Estimating the Additional Hospital Inpatient Cost and Mortality Associated With Selected Hospital-Acquired Conditions (2017)



“What will it take for  
California to be the  
healthiest state in the  
nation?”

# Cal HQ's Measure Selection Framework



## Alignment

Addresses largest patient population (all payers)

Federal Programs (VBP, HAC, 13<sup>th</sup> SOW)

Health Plan VBP and QI programs

Reflects feedback from stakeholders



## QI Actionable

Least amount of data lag

Upcoming NHSN dQMs: CDI, HOB

Studies have shown improvement over time



## Meaningful

High impact: Lives saved/Cost reduction

National and State Targets

Alignment with federal program goals

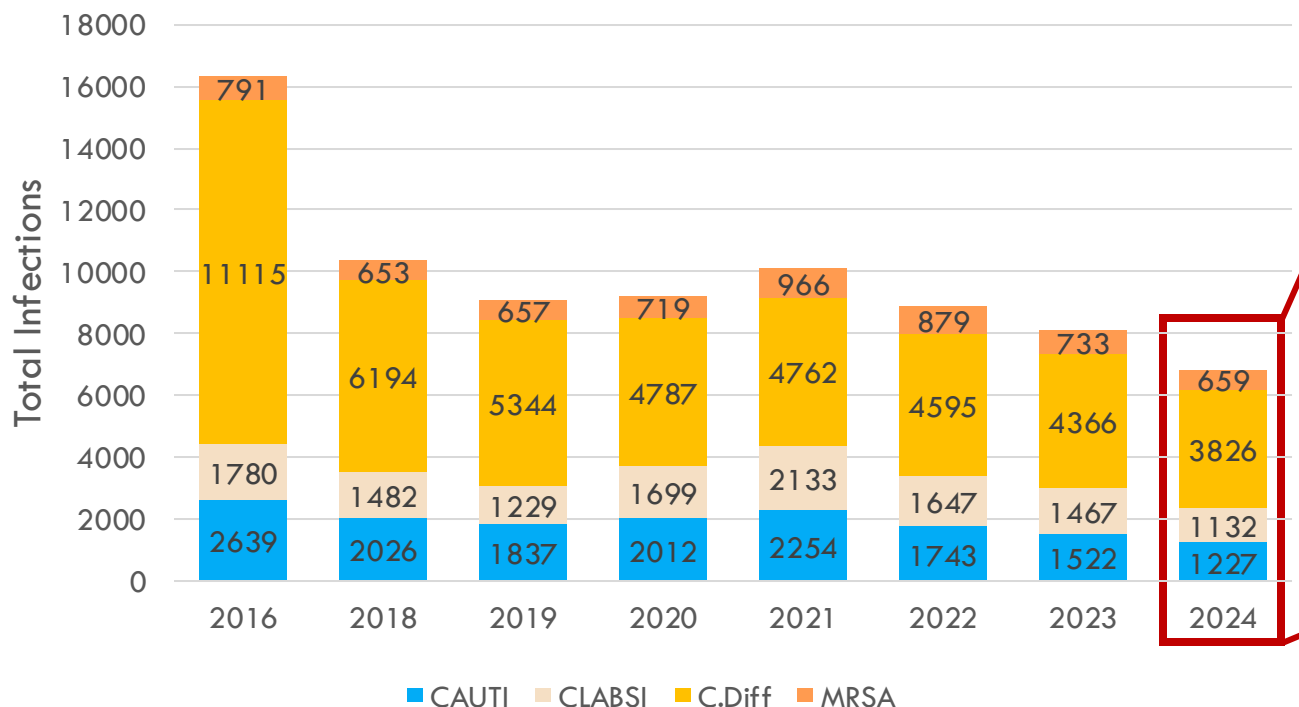
Included in various recognition programs



# Continued Need to Reduce HAIs

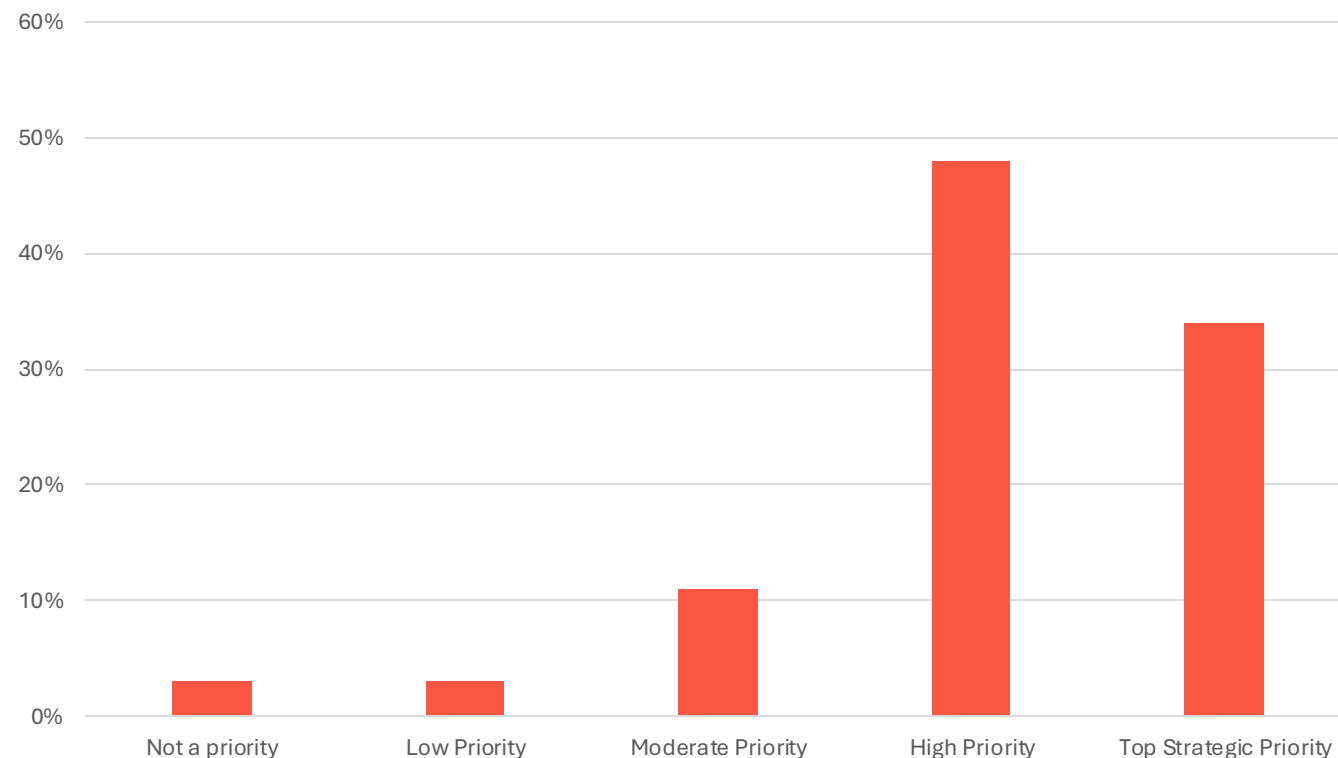
More than 70% of CA hospitals have at least one HAI greater than US average SIR

Total Hospital Infections Across California: 2016-2024



HAI	2024 CA SIR	2024 National SIR
C diff	0.41	0.37
CAUTI	0.58	0.52
CLABSI	0.58	0.64
MRSA	0.63	0.70

# To what extent are HAIs a strategic priority for your organization in 2026?



Source: Poll from Cal HQ Informational Webinar poll, 12/16/2026

# Our Game Plan

How will Cal HQ accelerate HAI reduction across the state

# Learning Collaborative 101



Evidence-based  
practices



Translating  
analytics to action



Focus on  
implementation



Facilitating peer-  
to-peer learning



## Interactive Learning

Improvement sprints  
Affinity groups



## Customized Support

Improvement advisor coaching  
Data sensemaking



## Responsive Curriculum & Network

Community of sharing  
Listening sessions



## Practical Tools

Change packages  
Discovery Tools  
Improvement Calculators  
QI Basics & Templates

# Getting Started

## Focus on the Fundamentals

- Evidence-based practice review
- QI fundamentals

## Specialized Support

- Reduce catheter utilization
- CDI testing protocols
- Establishing digital measure infrastructure

## Adapt to Emerging Priorities

- Enrollment questionnaire
- Feedback in webinars
- Data analysis

# Focus on the Fundamentals

## Foundational Infection Prevention Practices

*Cal HQ Change Package 2026*



About Cal HQ  
About this Change Package

Definition & Scope  
Measurement  
How to Improve  
Fundamental Practices

1. Leadership Support
2. Healthcare Personnel Education & Training
3. Patient, Family and Caregiver Engagement
4. Surveillance
5. Hand Hygiene
6. Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection

Conclusion & Action  
Planning  
Appendices  
References

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## Preventing Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)

*Cal HQ Change Package 2026*



About Cal HQ  
About this Change Package

Definition & Scope  
Measurement  
How to Improve  
Primary Drivers & Change Ideas

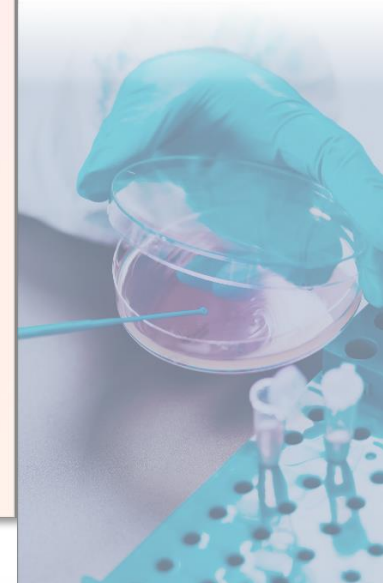
1. Prevent Unnecessary Urinary Catheter Use
2. Ensure Proper Technique
3. Optimize Prompt Catheter Removal
4. Practice urine Culture Stewardship

Conclusion & Action  
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## Preventing MRSA Transmission & Infection

*Cal HQ Change Package 2026*



About Cal HQ  
About this Change Package

Definition & Scope  
Measurement  
How to Improve  
Primary Drivers & Change Ideas

1. Identify Infections
2. Promote Antibiotic Stewardship
3. Prevent Transmissions

Conclusion & Action  
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# Specialized Support

## Cal HQ Listserv

- Peer-to-peer conversation
- Resources and learning opportunities
- Connection to subject matter experts

## Affinity Groups

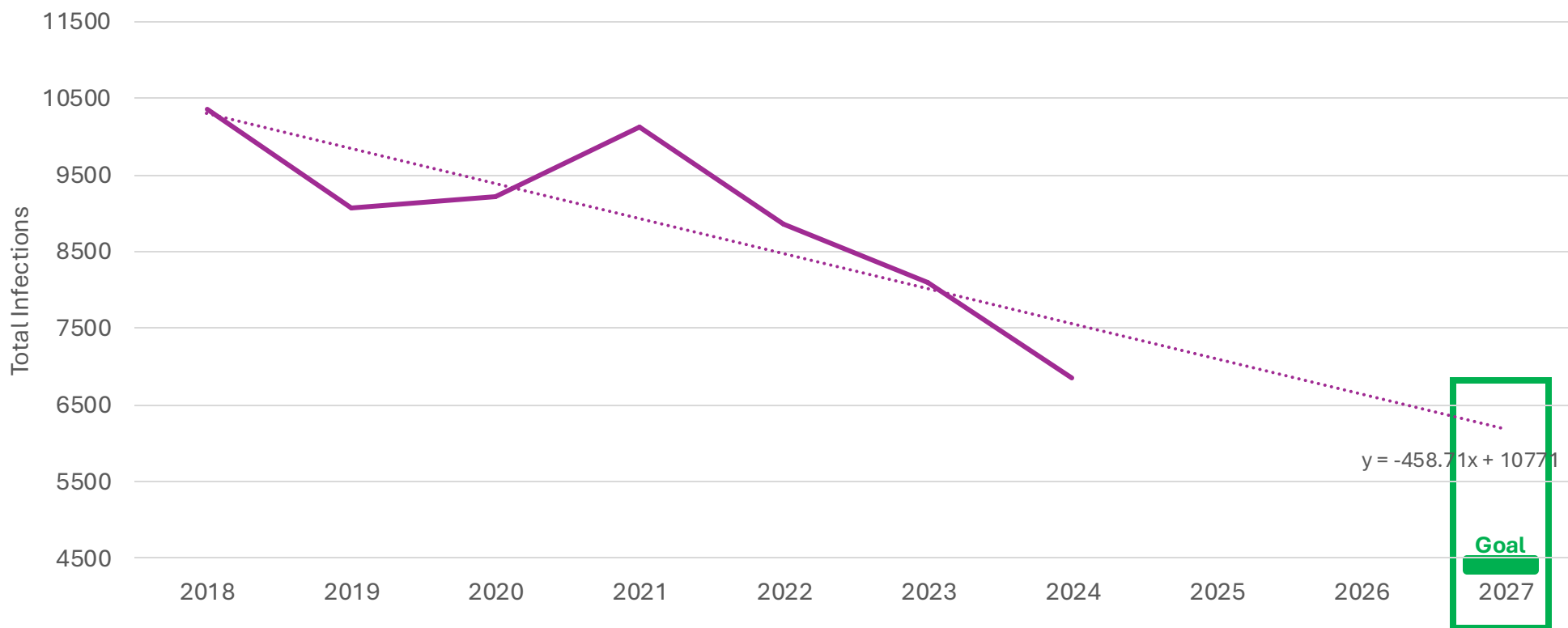
- Grouped by organization type or by focus area



# What about health equity?

# How Will We Know if We Are Improving?

Total HAIs projected through 2027



**No intervention:** Total HAIs projected to decrease to ~6,200 by the end of 2027

**Cal HQ Goal:** Reduce to 4,500 total HAIs by the end of 2027

# Using Data to Drive Improvement

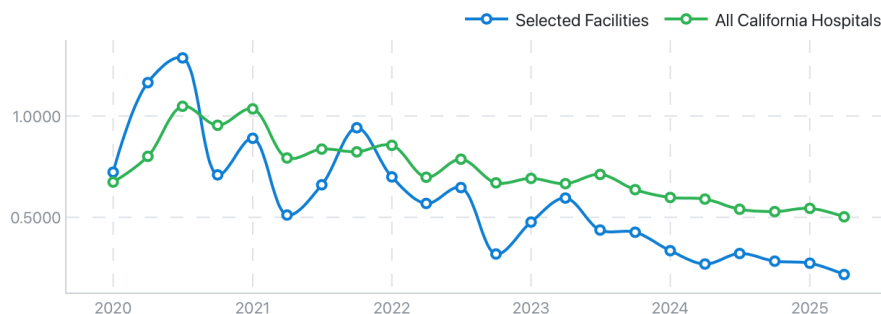


National Healthcare Safety Network

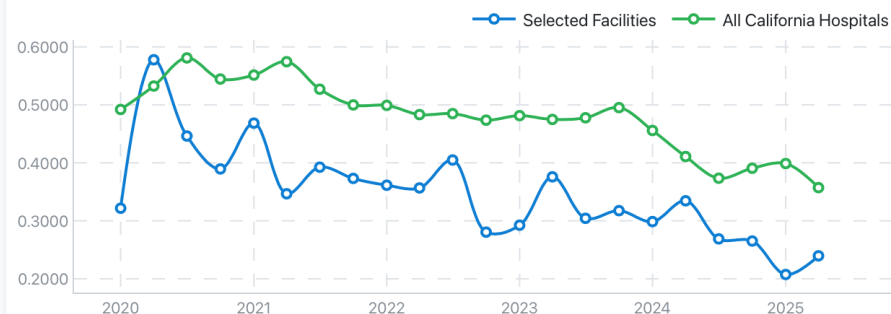
## NHSN HAI Rates, Trends, & Benchmarks



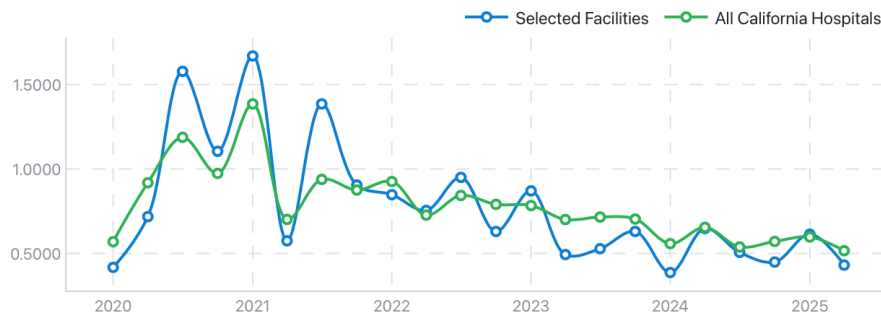
### CAUTI: Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections Observed/Expected



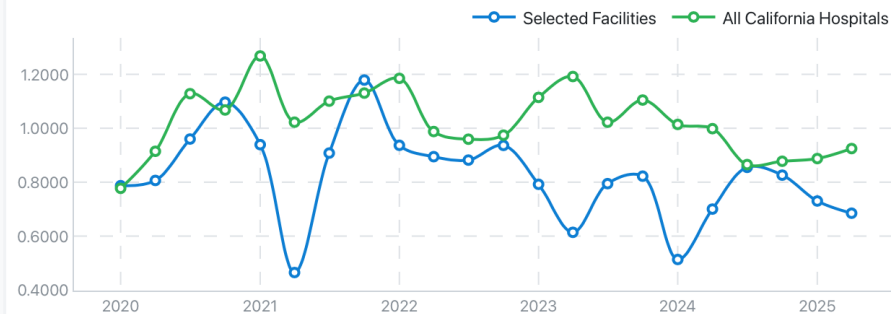
### CDI: Clostridium Difficile Infections Observed/Expected



### CLABSI: Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections Observed/Expected



### IVAC Plus: Infection-related Ventilator Associated Complications and Possible Ven



# Let's get started.

Today

Complete the Cal HQ Enrollment Form to be added to the Cal HQ hospital listserv and receive information about upcoming events and new tools.

March  
2026

Watch for events and new resources.

Enroll today!

April  
2026

Join us for an in-person kick-off meeting in Long Beach or Sacramento.

A series of parallel diagonal stripes in blue, purple, and orange colors, located in the top-left corner of the slide.

# Join us in April!



Northern California

April 30, 2026 | 8:30 – 3:00

CalPERS Offices, Sacramento

Southern California

April 14, 2026 | 8:30 – 3:00

The Grand, Long Beach

Register [HERE](#)

# Cal HQ Kickoff:

## *Partnering for Progress*

A convening for quality, patient safety, and infection prevention leaders from hospitals and health plans across California.

Session Title	Objectives
<i>Breakfast</i>	
Welcome	Networking and Introductions
Keynote	<b>Libby Hoy</b> , Founder & CEO <a href="#">PFCCpartners</a>
Connecting to Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Understand the goals and strategies of Cal HQ, define our collective north star and align with your organization's strategic priorities</li></ul>
<i>Lunch</i>	
Collaborating to Tackle HAIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Explore and test Cal HQ resources and engage in peer to peer conversation about technical, cultural and cross-industry strategies to reduce HAIs</li></ul>
Co-designing Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Facilitated creation of a project plan to guide efforts to reduce HAIs and to build the infrastructure to address additional measures in the future (e.g. care transitions)</li></ul>

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2026

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# Questions & Suggestions?



We'd love to hear  
from you.



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[calcompare@convergencehealth.org](mailto:calcompare@convergencehealth.org)

Thank  
you!