

Join Us!

California Alignment for Hospital Quality (Cal HQ)

A statewide hospital improvement collaborative

February 18, 2026

AGENDA



01 Welcome

02 Building the Future Together

03 Our Vision

04 Reducing HAls Together

05 Next steps

06 Q&A

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 (DHCS)
- California Quality Collaborative
- Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI)
- Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)
- Helen Macfie (SME)
- Hospital Quality Institute (HQI)
- 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

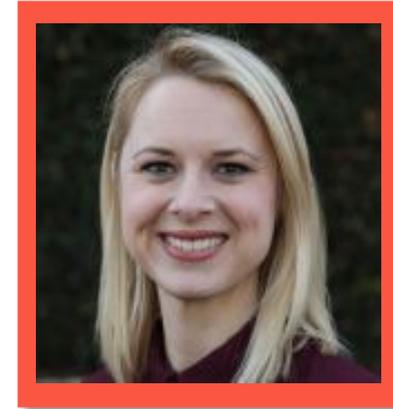
Cal HQ Team



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!

Name

Title

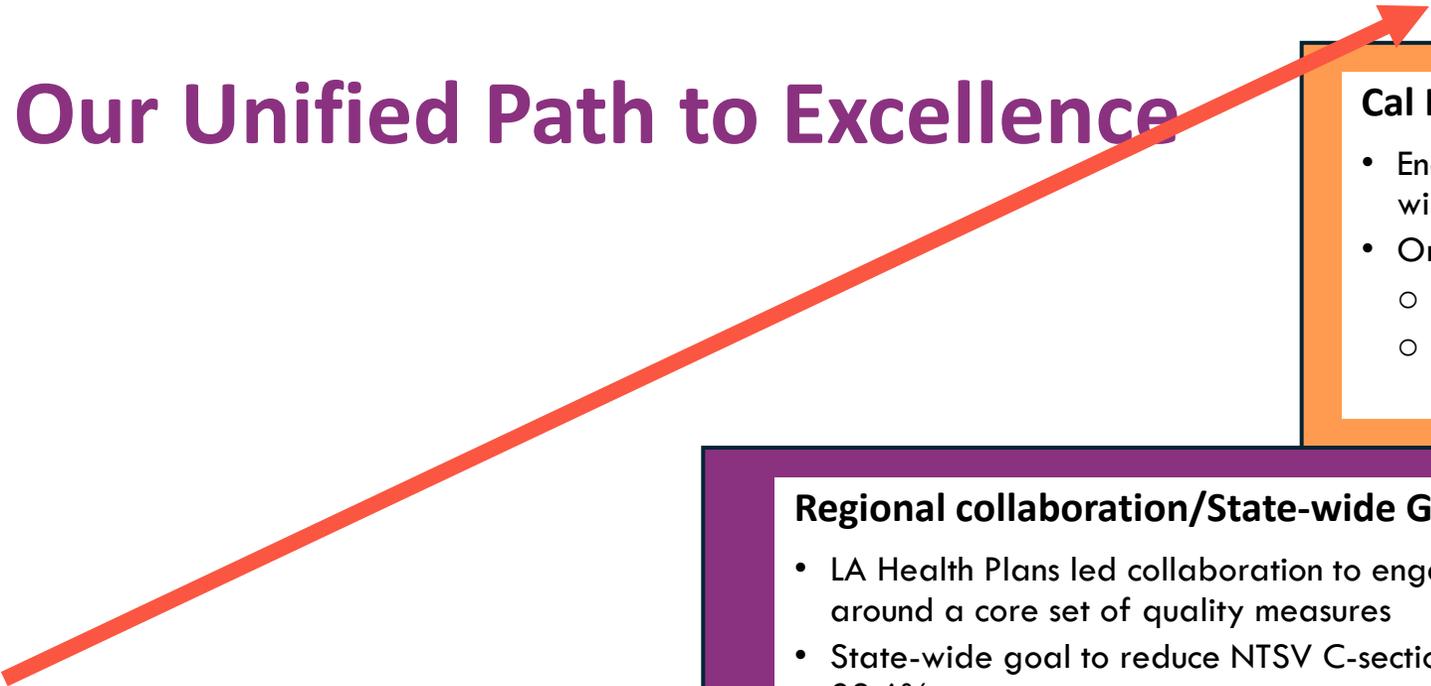
Organization

What drives your commitment to improving quality?

Our Vision

Where are we headed?

Our Unified Path to Excellence

A thick orange arrow pointing from the bottom-left towards the top-right, passing through the three boxes of the 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%

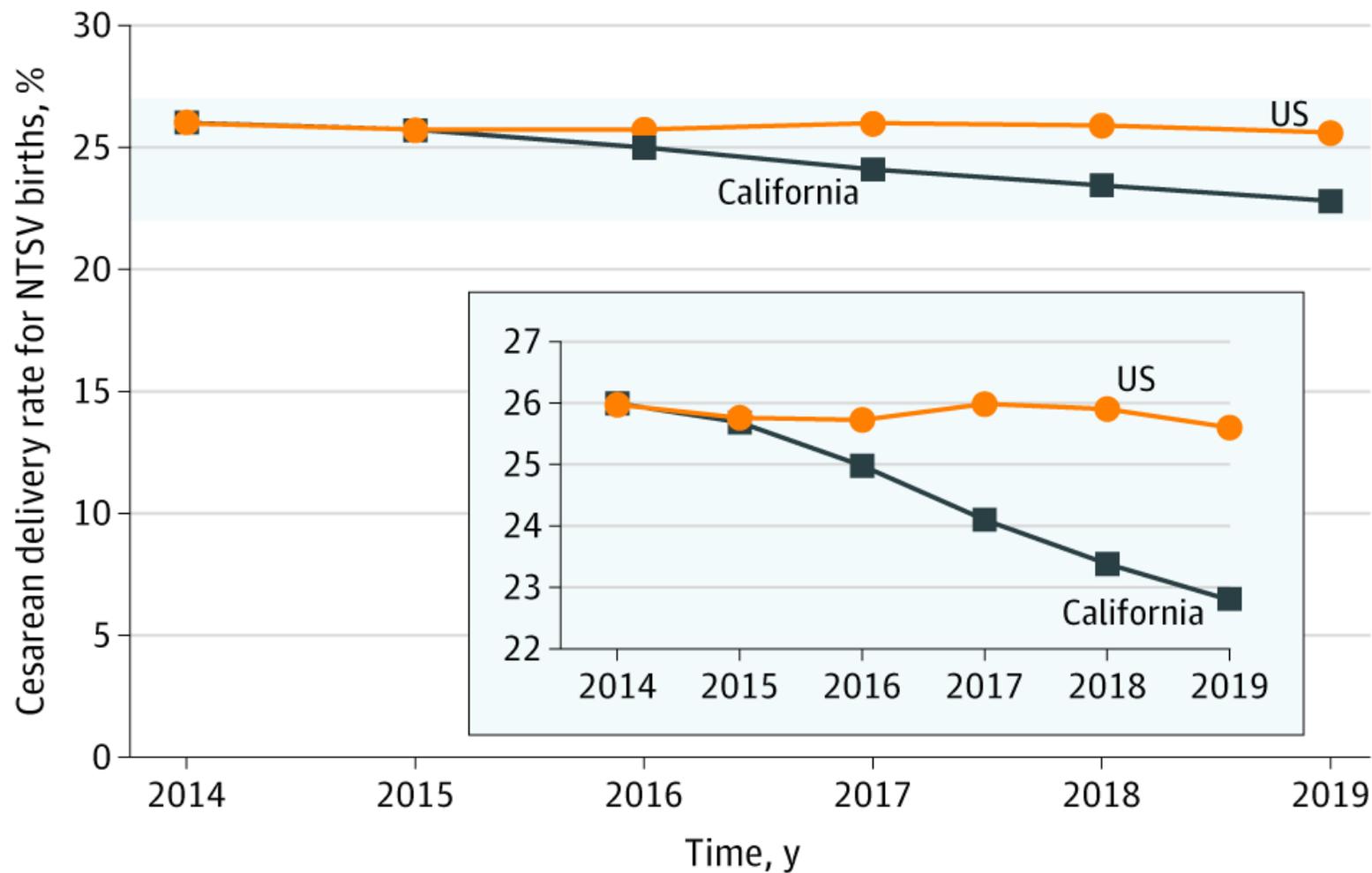
Organization-led quality improvement

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



Impact of California Initiatives on NTSV C-Section

Alignment Strategies Work!



Klein, K., Grobman, W. A., & Rhee, K. (2021). Hospital Quality Improvement Interventions, Statewide Policy Initiatives, and Rates of Cesarean Delivery for Nulliparous, Term, Singleton, Vertex Births in California. *JAMA*, 325(16), 1631–1639. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2021.3816>

Cal HQ's Vision



Elevate Patient Care for ALL Californians



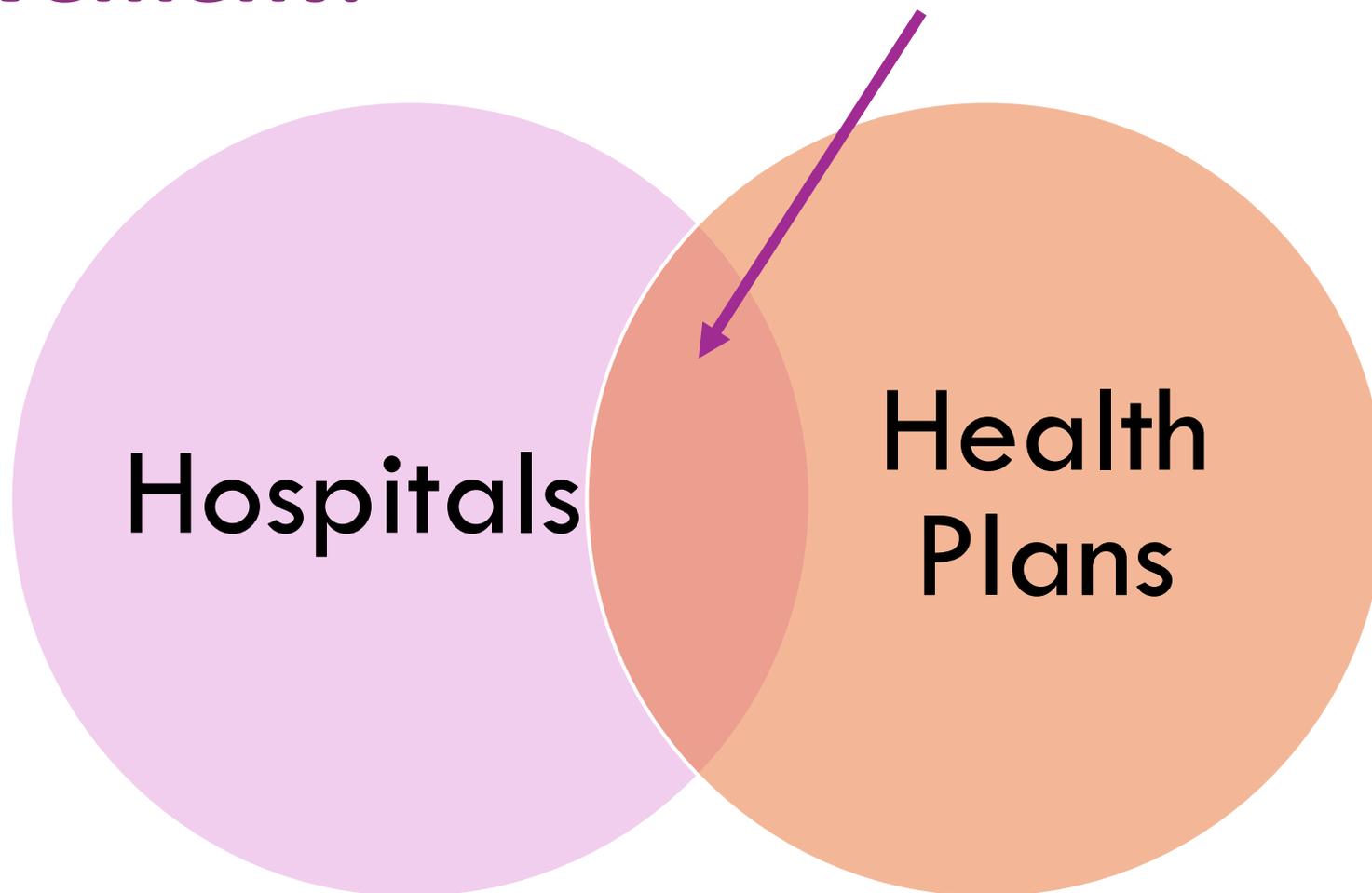
Unlock the Power of Data: Accelerating Digital Quality Measures



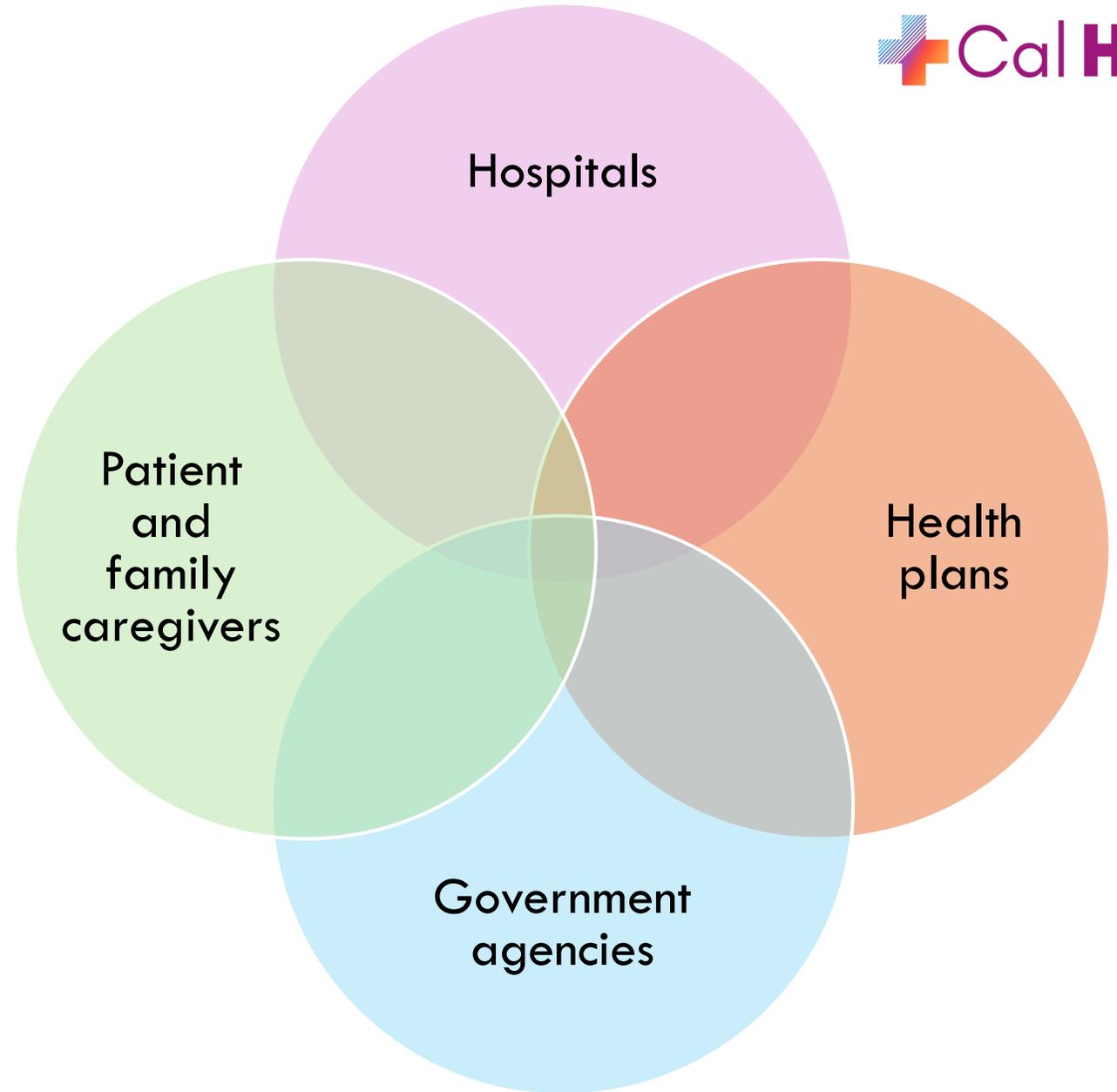
Build a Network of Excellence



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

**Prevent over 2,000
infections**

Save ~100 lives

Save \$64,000,000*



“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, 13th 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

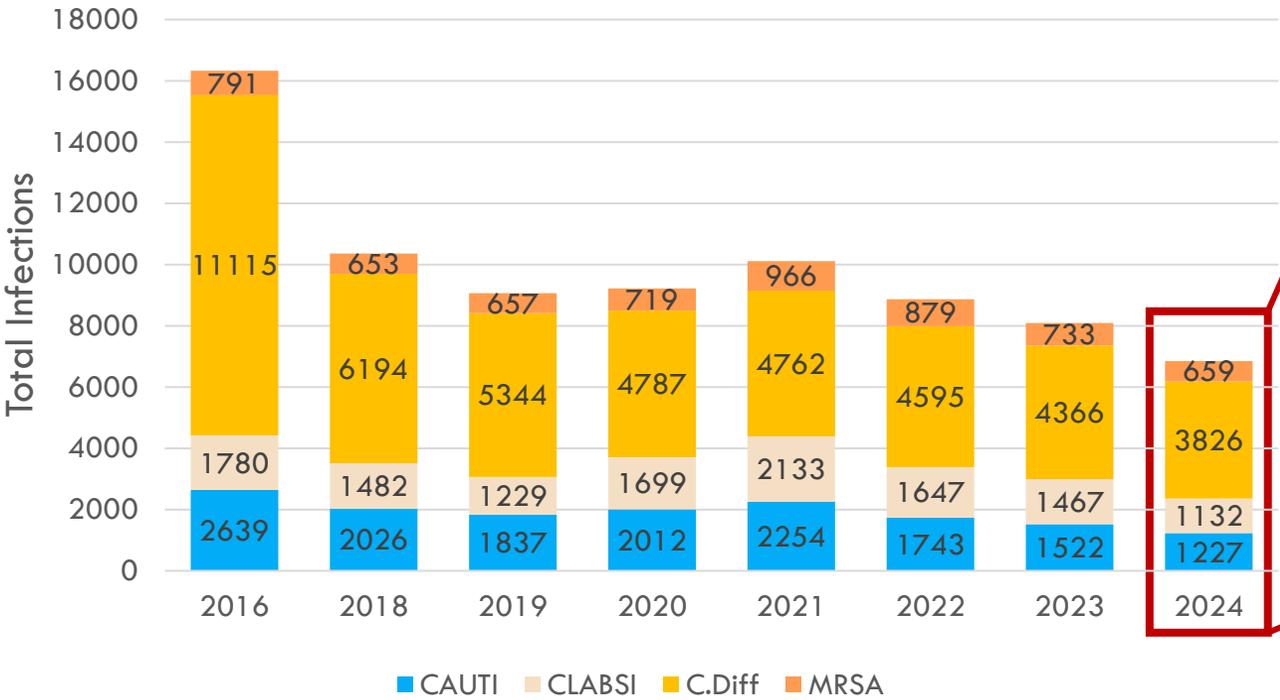
Alignment with federal program goals

Included in various recognition programs

Continued Need to Reduce HAIs

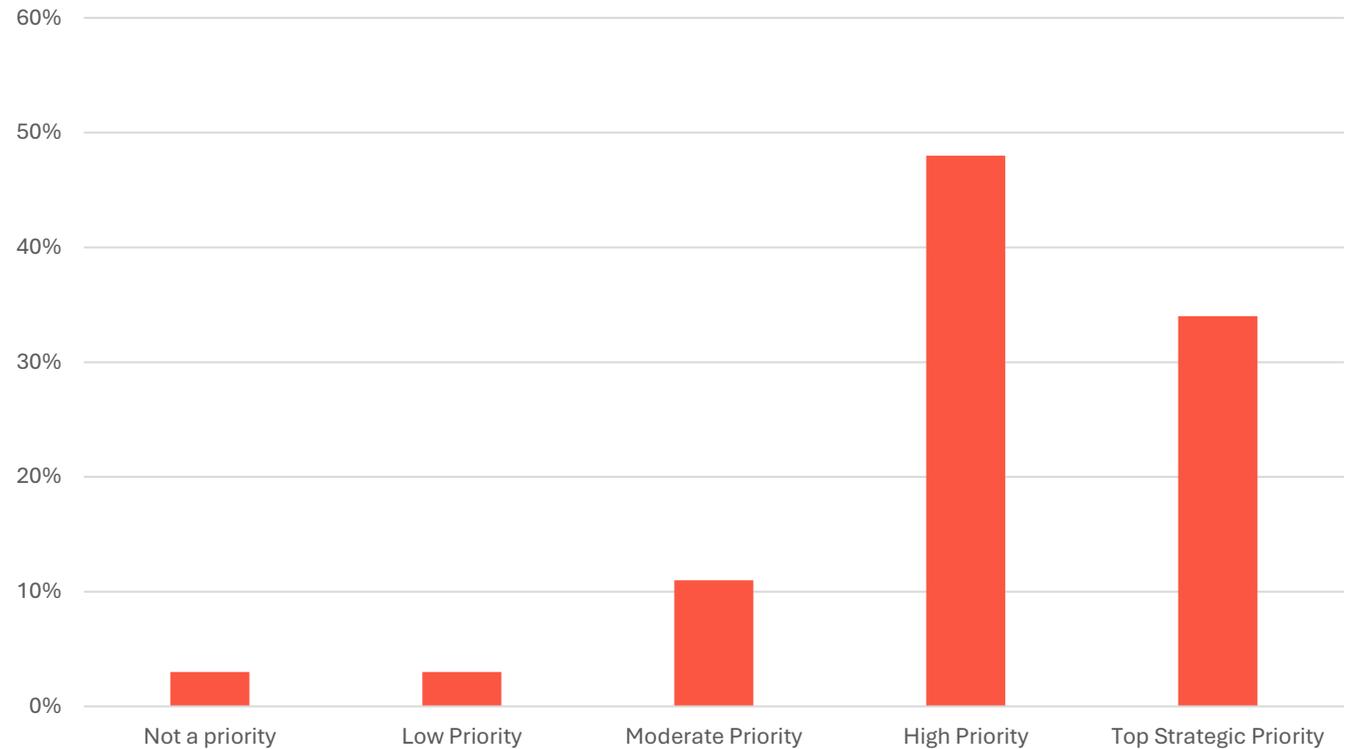
More than 70% of CA hospitals have at least one HAI greater than US average SIR

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

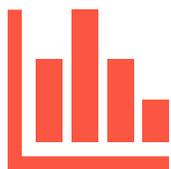
Our Game Plan

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

| | |
|--|---|
|  <p>Foundational Infection Prevention Practices</p> <p><i>Cal HQ Change Package 2026</i></p> |  <p>About Cal HQ About this Change Package</p> <p>Definition & Scope Measurement How to Improve Fundamental Practices</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Leadership Support2. Healthcare Personnel Education & Training3. Patient, Family and Caregiver Engagement4. Surveillance5. Hand Hygiene6. Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection <p>Conclusion & Action Planning Appendices References</p> <p><small>© 2026 Cal HQ. All rights reserved.</small></p> |
|  <p>Preventing Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)</p> <p><i>Cal HQ Change Package 2026</i></p> |  <p>About Cal HQ About this Change Package</p> <p>Definition & Scope Measurement How to Improve Primary Drivers & Change Ideas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prevent Unnecessary Urinary Catheter Use2. Ensure Proper Technique3. Optimize Prompt Catheter Removal4. Practice urine Culture Stewardship <p>Conclusion & Action Planning Appendices References</p> <p><small>© 2026 Cal HQ. All rights reserved.</small></p> |
|  <p>Preventing MRSA Transmission & Infection</p> <p><i>Cal HQ Change Package 2026</i></p> |  <p>About Cal HQ About this Change Package</p> <p>Definition & Scope Measurement How to Improve Primary Drivers & Change Ideas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify Infections2. Promote Antibicrobial Stewardship3. Prevent Transmissions <p>Conclusion & Action Planning Appendices References</p> <p><small>© 2026 Cal HQ. All rights reserved.</small></p> |

Specialized Support

Cal HQ Listserv

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

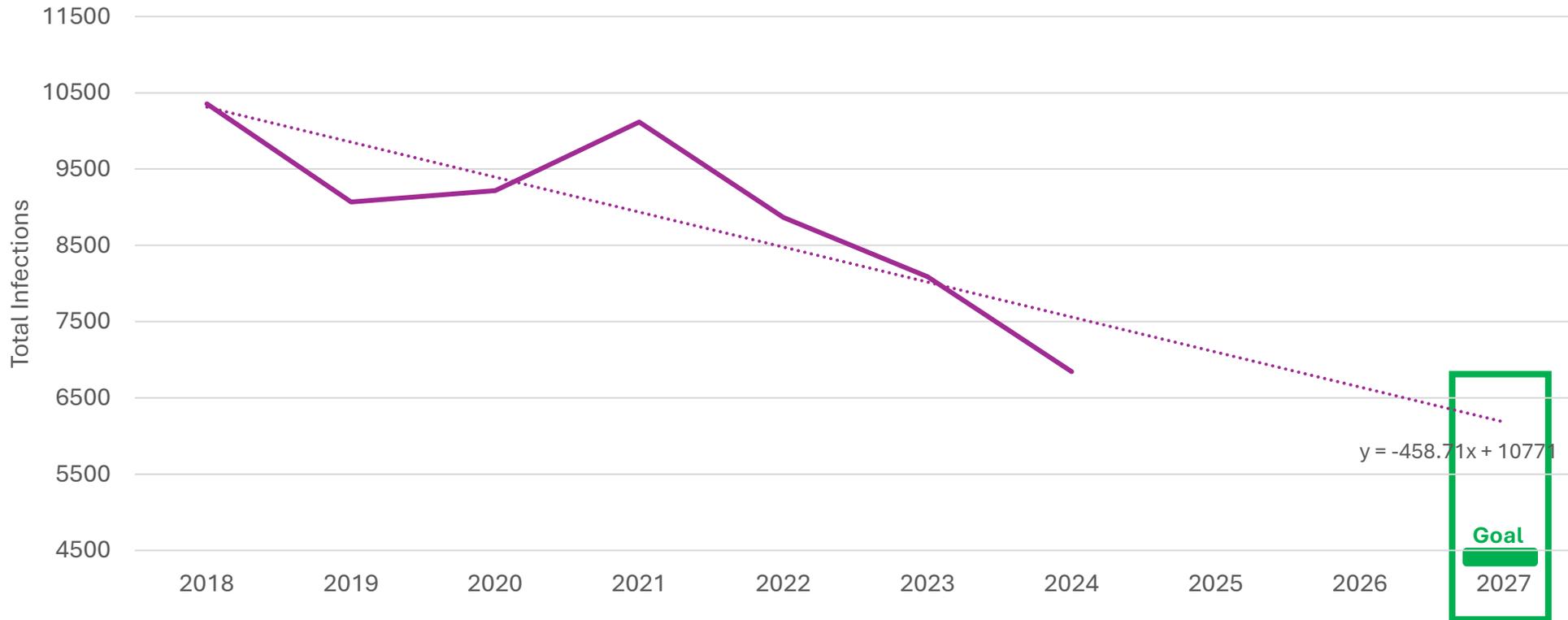
Affinity Groups

- 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

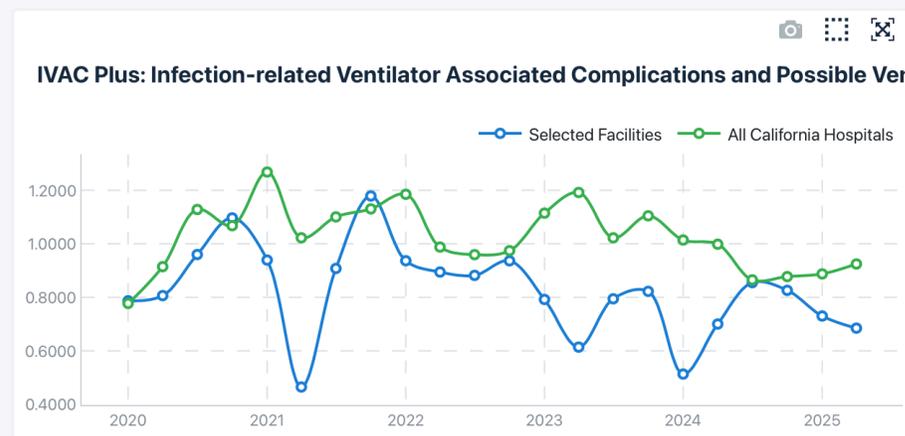
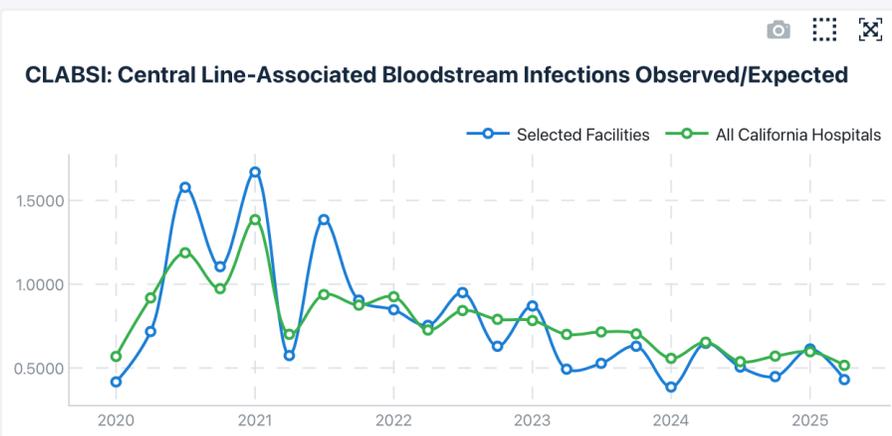
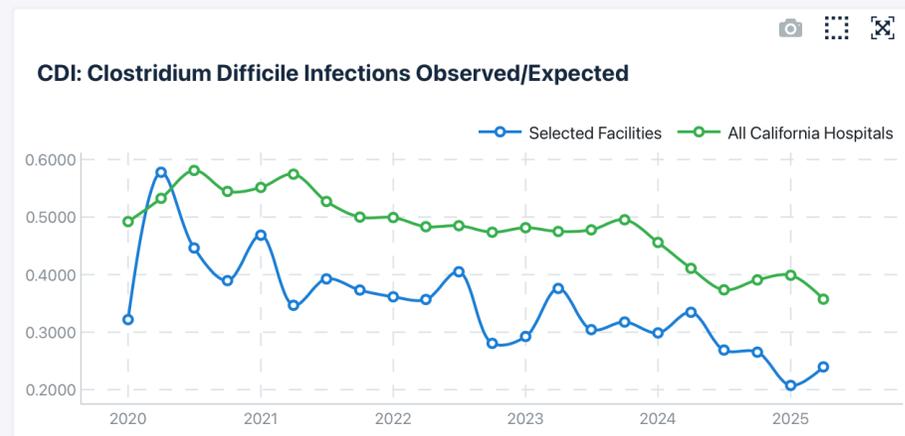
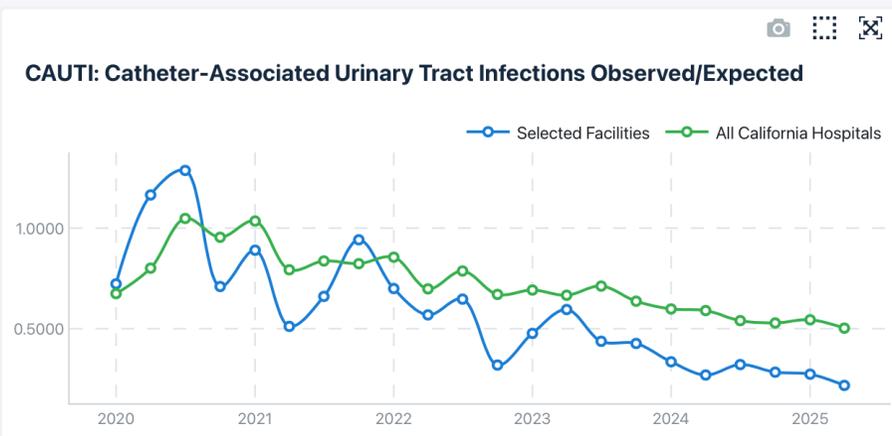
Cal HQ Goal: Reduce to 4,500 total HAIs by the end of 2027

Using Data to Drive Improvement



National Healthcare Safety Network

NHSN HAI Rates, Trends, & Benchmarks



Let's get started.

Today

Complete the Cal HQ contact form to receive information about upcoming events and new tools.

March
2026

Watch for events and new resources.

April
2026

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

Join today!



Cal HQ Kickoff: Partnering for Progress

Join our in-person kickoff for this multi-year, statewide collaborative to improve quality and safety for ALL Californians.

Choose the date and location that's most convenient:



Register [HERE](#)

April 14, 2026 | 8:30 – 3:00
The Grand, Long Beach

April 30, 2026 | 8:30 – 3:00 pm
CalPERS Offices, Sacramento

Agenda

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

| Session Title | Speakers & Objectives |
|---|---|
| <i>Registration, Breakfast & Networking – Beginning at 8:00am</i> | |
| The Cal HQ Approach | Understand the genesis and goals of Cal HQ, what makes us different, and how your organization will benefit from participating in this collaborative. |
| Keynote 1 | Libby Hoy , Founder & CEO PFCCpartners |
| Connecting to Purpose | Through tabletop activities, explore the unique and complementary roles, responsibilities, and resources we each contribute to improving quality and safety. |
| <i>Lunch</i> | |
| Keynote 2 | Dr. Chase Coffey , Chief Quality Officer & Associate Chief Medical Officer, LA General Medical Center |
| Collaborating to Improve Quality | Test Cal HQ resources and engage in peer-to-peer conversation about technical, cultural and cross-industry strategies to reduce hospital-acquired infections. |
| Co-designing Forward | Create specific action plans to collaborate in new ways to drive state-wide improvements in quality and safety. |

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2026

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April
2026

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

Questions & Suggestions?

We'd love to hear
from you.



eqt@covered.ca.gov



CPPD@calpers.ca.gov



calcompare@convergencehealth.org

Thank
you!