

Greetings,

We kindly ask you to take part in this survey led by the SHEA Pediatric Leadership Council Steering Committee (Project Leads: Dr. Caitlin McGrath, Fellow-in-Training Member, and Dr. Lynn Ramirez, Mentor). We are seeking to better understand if SRN member institutions are tracking disparities in healthcare-associated infections based on various factors. The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes. Please answer this survey regarding the primary hospital linked to the SRN ID on your invitation email.

Your participation is voluntary, and you may opt out at any time. Your choosing to complete the survey represents your consent to participate in the study. Your participation will not benefit you personally; however, your contribution will improve knowledge about current practices in the assessment of disparities in healthcare-associated infections. This project has been designated exempt by the University of Washington IRB.

Your responses will be kept confidential. Your responses to the survey will be linked to the state in which the hospital is located. All other information will be reported in aggregate form. For questions about the survey or this study, please contact Caitlin McGrath, MD at [caitlin.mcgrath@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:caitlin.mcgrath@seattlechildrens.org).

Thank you for your time,

Caitlin McGrath, MD

Lynn Ramirez, MD

On behalf of the SHEA Pediatric Leadership Council Steering Committee

## Background

Health disparities are defined as “a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage.”<sup>1</sup> Information about disparities in healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) is limited. We aim to determine if infection prevention (IP) programs are monitoring if disparities exist in the occurrence of HAIs. Our questions cover a subset of potential areas of disparity and are not inclusive of all potential areas.

1. As part of your surveillance program, does your facility collect the following health disparity variables for patients that have HAIs?

Language for care	Yes	No	Don't know
Race and ethnicity	Yes	No	Don't know
Insurance status (e.g. uninsured, Medicaid, other insurance)	Yes	No	Don't know
Other ( <i>free text</i> )	Yes	No	Don't know

*(If yes, survey would automatically offer questions 2-3)*

2. If yes, for which HAIs are any of these variables collected?

Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI)	Yes	No	Don't know
Surgical site infections (SSI)	Yes	No	Don't know
Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)	Yes	No	Don't know
Ventilator-associated events (VAEs)	Yes	No	Don't know
Other ( <i>free text</i> )	Yes	No	Don't know

3. If your facility collects health disparity variables for patients with HAIs, when did this begin? (Please indicate first date of any relevant monitoring effort.)

In last 1 month  
In last 6 months  
In last 12 months  
In last 2 years  
In last 5 years  
Greater than 5 years ago  
Don't know

4. Does your facility analyze whether disparities exist (including but not limited to language for care, race/ethnicity, and insurance status) in the rates of any HAIs? This refers to comparing HAI rates by these variables to determine if disparities exist. For example, what are the CLABSI rates among patients whose primary language is English compared to those whose primary language is a language other than English?)

Yes  
No  
Don't know

*(If yes, survey would automatically offer questions 5-9 and 11 and skip questions 10-12.)*

(If no, survey would automatically skip questions 5-9; would offer questions 10-12.)  
 (If don't know, survey would automatically skip questions 5-9; would offer questions 10-12.)

5. If yes, which HAIs are analyzed?

Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI)	Yes	No	Don't know
Surgical site infections (SSI)	Yes	No	Don't know
Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)	Yes	No	Don't know
Ventilator-associated events (VAEs)	Yes	No	Don't know
Other ( <i>free text</i> )	Yes	No	Don't know

6. If yes, does your facility analyze for disparities in HAIs by the following characteristics?

Language for care	Yes	No	Don't know
Race and ethnicity	Yes	No	Don't know
Insurance status (e.g. uninsured, Medicaid, other insurance)	Yes	No	Don't know
Other ( <i>free text</i> )	Yes	No	Don't know

7. If your facility analyzes for disparities in HAIs, when did this begin? (Please indicate first date of any relevant monitoring effort.)

- In last 1 month
- In last 6 months
- In last 12 months
- In last 2 years
- In last 5 years
- Greater than 5 years ago
- Don't know

8. If your facility collects health disparity variables and/or analyzes for disparities in HAIs, how is this information used?

(Please select all that apply.)

- Currently collecting but not otherwise analyzing or using this information
- To help design HAI prevention interventions
- To help encourage patient/family/caretaker engagement in HAI reduction
- To help design patient/family/caretaker HAI education
- To report to senior leadership
- For internal quality/performance reporting
- Required by local or state health organization
- Required for external/performance quality reporting
- Not sure
- Other (*free text*)

9. If your facility collects health disparity variables and/or analyzes for disparities in HAIs, would you be interested in sharing your findings and experience with SHEA leadership and members?

Yes

No

*(Per SHEA, emails of those who respond yes can be provided in aggregate without linkage to other individual responses.)*

10. If your facility does not collect health disparity variables and/or analyze for disparities in HAIs, is this something you would be interested in your facility doing?

Yes

No

Unsure

11. If your facility does not collect health disparity variables and/or analyze for disparities in HAIs, what are the reasons?

*(Please select all that apply.)*

Have not considered doing so

Do not expect disparities exist

This is not currently a priority

Unclear how to use this information in designing/implementing HAI improvement work/projects

Data on race/ethnicity, language, or insurance status about patients not collected and/or available

No data resources to abstract/analyze this demographic information for HAI surveillance

No staff resources to collect this additional data

Lack of leadership support

Not sure

Other *(free text)*

12. If your facility does not currently collect health disparity variables and/or analyze for disparities in HAIs, but may be interested, what resources, support, or information could SHEA provide to assist?

*(Free text response)*

13. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share?

*(Free text response)*

#### References:

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Disparities. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/about/foundation-health-measures/Disparities>. Accessed 04/27/2021.