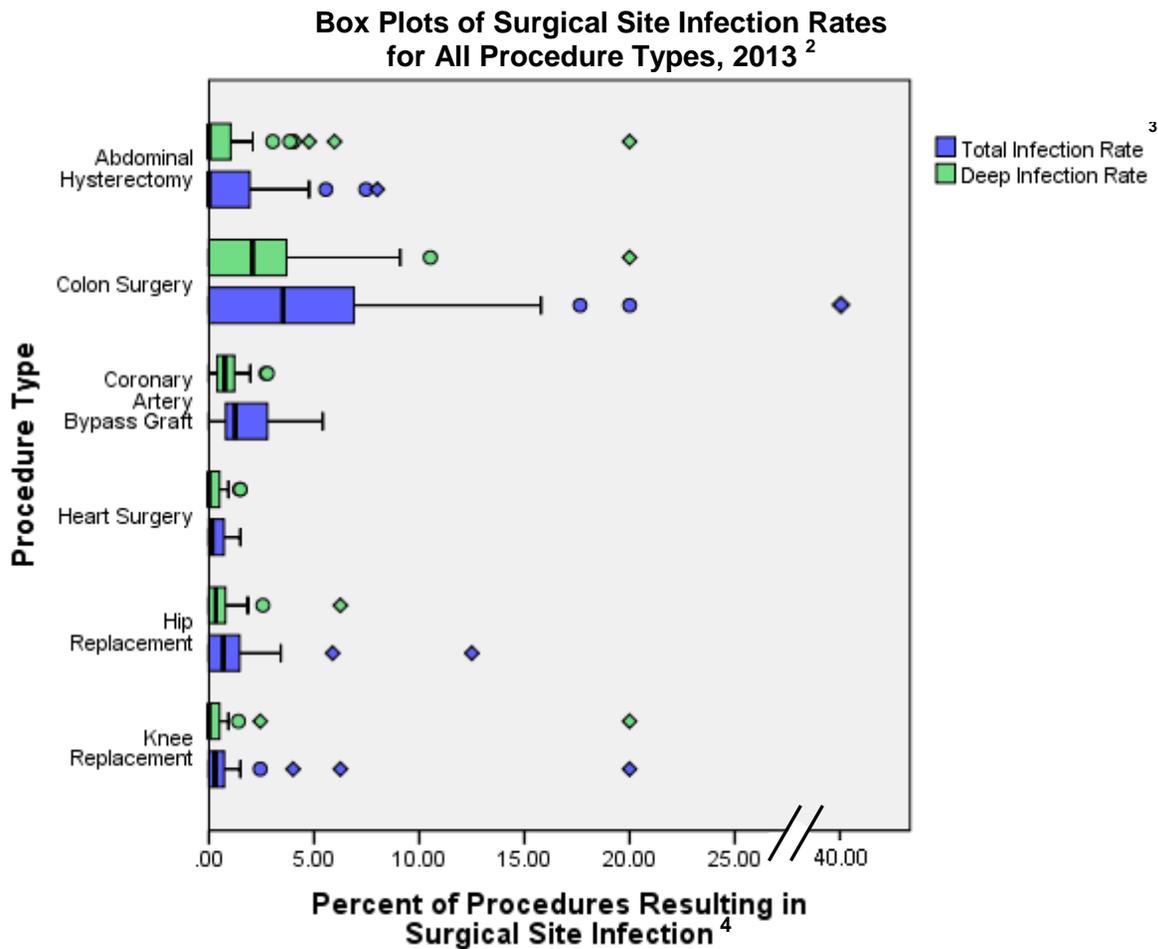


Box Plot of Surgical Site Infection Rates, by Procedure Type and Infection Depth, 2013¹

October 8, 2014 download of January 2013 – December 2013 NHSN data



Notes:

1. All rates are a percent calculated as the number of surgical site infections (SSI) among all similar surgical procedures (infections per 100 procedures). Hospitals identified in the plots below, have statistically significantly higher surgical infection rates than other hospitals. Visit our website for more information about our [statistical methods](#).

The annual number of procedures performed by a hospital (in the table and map format of the [annual SSI reports](#)) provides more context to explain certain infection rates and inform patients and providers in planning for elective surgery. In general, surgical teams which perform more of the same procedures have better outcomes.

2. The distribution of hospital infection rates for all six Washington State reportable surgery types is included in this box plot. Below are more detailed boxplots grouping these procedures into three broad categories ([abdominal surgeries](#), [heart surgeries](#), and [joint replacements](#)). Visit our website for descriptions of these [types of surgeries](#).
3. Depth of [surgical site infection](#) classification:
 - a. Deep infection rates include surgical wound infections occurring well below the skin and subcutaneous tissue, affecting muscles, organs, or bones (“deep incisional” and “organ/space” SSI per NHSN). Deep infections may be severe and difficult to treat, often requiring antibiotics and additional hospital care.
 - b. Total infection rates include deep infections as well as shallow surgical wound infections occurring within the skin and subcutaneous tissue (“superficial incisional” SSI per NHSN). Shallow infections can be more easily treated without hospitalization and may not require antibiotics.
 - c. Rates for deep and total infections from the same procedure type use the same denominator (number of procedures performed) during the reporting period.

Box Plot of Surgical Site Infection Rates, by Procedure Type and Infection Depth, 2013 ¹

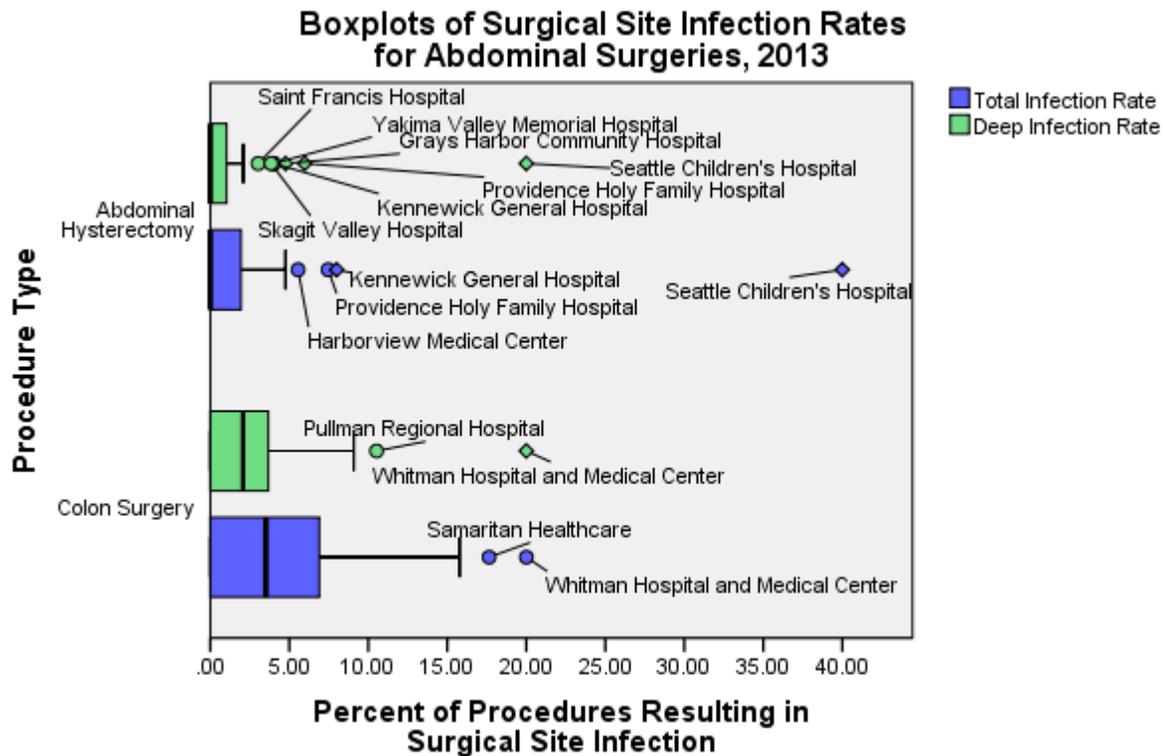
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4. Rates shown here are for the surgical procedure overall. Details of certain surgical procedure types are included in the [SSI table](#) (coronary artery bypass graft procedures and joint replacement procedures). Hospitals are compared by their “overall” infection rates in these categories to compare hospitals more accurately. However, the more specific infection rate and procedure volume information in the table may be useful for patients and providers in planning for elective surgery.

Box Plot of Surgical Site Infection Rates, by Procedure Type and Infection Depth, 2013¹

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Abdominal Surgeries



Abdominal Hysterectomies

5. Grays Harbor Community Hospital – Infection rate is due to one deep surgical wound infection with a low number of procedures performed. The hospital reviewed the case and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed. Additions were made to post-operative monitoring and patient follow-up after discharge.
6. Harborview Medical Center – Infection rate is due to two shallow surgical wound infections, with no indication of cross infection. The hospital reviewed both cases and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed. The hospital also reports enhanced infection surveillance due to a large outpatient clinic network.
7. Kennewick General Hospital – Infection rate is due to four surgical wound infections, two shallow and two deep, with no indication of cross-infection. The hospital's standardized infection ratio (SIR), as calculated by CDC/NHSN, is also significantly higher than the national baseline. The hospital reviewed each case with their surgery committee and reports changing operating room work-flow and performed surgeon reeducation.
8. Providence Holy Family Hospital – Infection rate is due to five surgical wound infections, one shallow and four deep, with no indication of cross-infection. The hospital's standardized infection ratio (SIR), as calculated by CDC/NHSN, is also significantly higher than the national baseline. The hospital investigated each case and has formed a multidisciplinary review board for infections, with administrative support. Surgical care processes have also been revised and operating room staff reeducated on infection prevention measures.
9. Saint Francis Hospital - Infection rate is due to only one deep surgical wound infection. The hospital reviewed the case and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed.
10. Seattle Children's Hospital – Infection rate is due to two surgical wound infections, one shallow and one deep, with no indication of cross infection and only five hysterectomy procedures performed during the year. The hospital operates on children with complex anatomical anomalies undergoing reconstructive surgeries. The hospital reviewed both cases and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed.
11. Skagit Valley Hospital – Infection rate is due to only one deep surgical wound infection. The hospital reviewed the case and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed.

Box Plot of Surgical Site Infection Rates, by Procedure Type and Infection Depth, 2013 ¹

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12. Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital – Infection rate is due to only one deep surgical wound infection. The case was reviewed and improvements were made to surgical care processes and infection prevention measures reinforced.

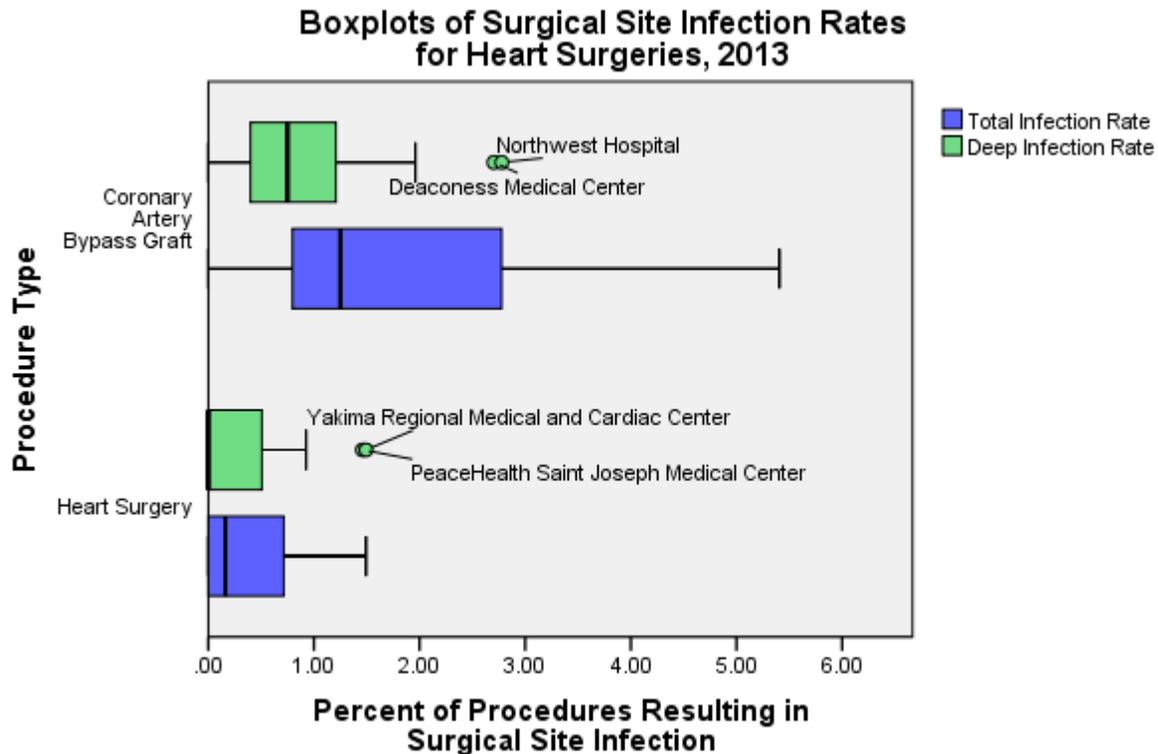
Colon Surgeries

13. Central Washington Hospital (*not pictured*) – The hospital's standardized infection ratio (SIR), as calculated by CDC/NHSN, is significantly higher than the national baseline, with two times the predicted number of infections occurring throughout the year. The hospital reviewed each case and has made improvements to their operative infection prevention practices. The hospital also reports enhanced infection surveillance from access to an outpatient clinic network.
14. Pullman Regional Hospital – Infection rate is due to two deep surgical wound infections, with no indication of cross-infection and a low number of colon procedures performed during the year. The hospital investigated both cases and identified a potential issue with a surgical closure device in both cases and has since discontinued the use of that device brand. Surgical site prevention practices have been reinforced and staff reeducated.
15. Samaritan Healthcare – Infection rate is due to three surgical wound infections, two shallow and one deep, with no indication of cross-infection and a low number of colon procedures performed during the year. The hospital reviewed each case and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed.
16. Whitman Hospital and Medical Center – Infection rate is due to one deep surgical wound infection out of only five colon procedures performed during the year. The hospital reports all appropriate infection prevention measures have been in place and continue to be enforced.

Box Plot of Surgical Site Infection Rates, by Procedure Type and Infection Depth, 2013 ¹

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Heart Surgeries



Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgeries

Rates shown here are for coronary artery bypass graft surgeries overall. Details of coronary artery bypass graft surgeries with secondary incision sites (CBGB) or chest incision only (CBGC) are included in the [2013 SSI table](#). Hospitals are compared by their "overall" infection rates in these categories to compare hospitals more accurately.

17. Deaconess Medical Center – Infection rate is due to three deep surgical wound infections with no indication of cross-infection. The hospital investigated each case and reports increasing surgical staff, with reeducation and reinforcing infection prevention measures. Changes were also made to artery donor site incision practices.
18. Northwest Hospital – Infection rate is due to only one deep surgical wound infection with a low number of coronary artery procedures performed during the year. The hospital reviewed the case and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed. Recent updates in cardiac surgery infection prevention guidelines have also been added to their routine pre-operative measures.

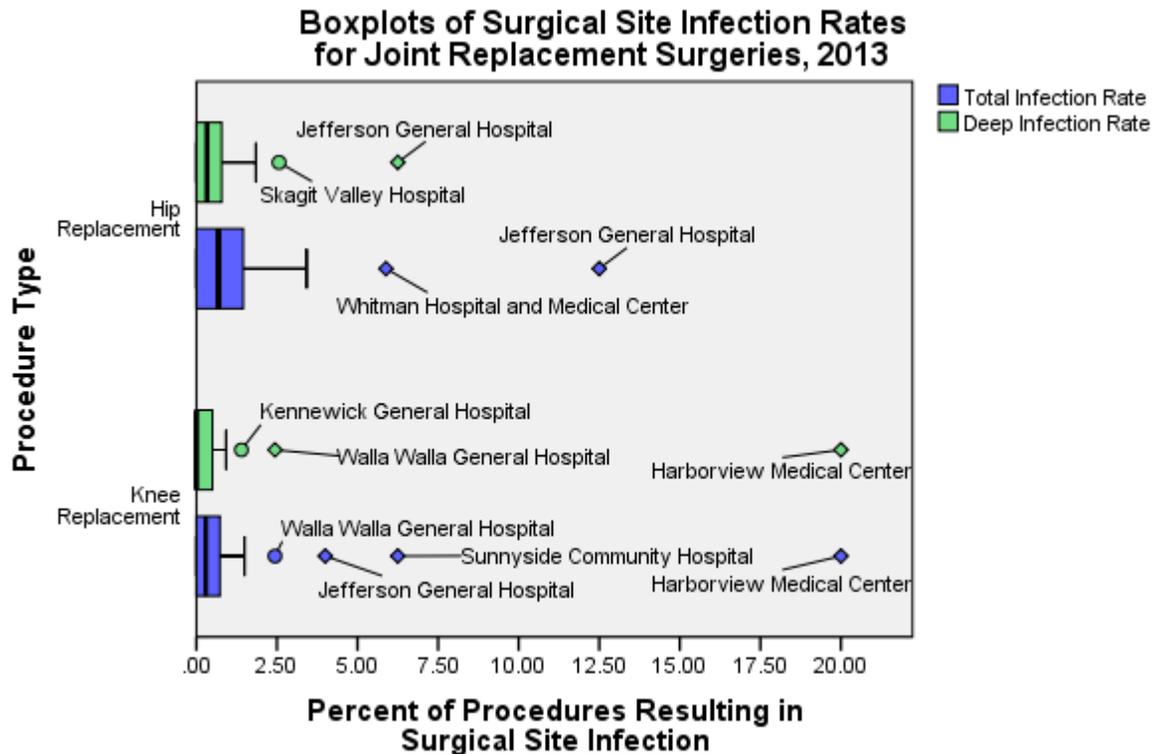
Heart (Cardiac) Surgery

19. PeaceHealth Saint Joseph Medical Center – Infection rate is due to two deep surgical wound infections with no indication of cross-infection. The hospital reviewed the cases with a multi-disciplinary team and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed.
20. Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center – Infection rate is due to only one deep surgical wound infection with a low number of heart surgeries performed during the year. The hospital reviewed the case and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed.

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Joint Replacements



Hip Replacement

Rates shown here are for all hip replacement surgeries overall. Details of initial (primary) and repeat or revision procedures are included in the [2013 SSI table](#). Hospitals are compared by their “overall” infection rates in these categories to compare hospitals more accurately.

21. Jefferson General Hospital – Infection rate is due to four surgical wound infections, two shallow and two deep, with no indication of cross-infection and a low number of hip replacement surgeries during the year. The hospital reviewed each case and has reinforced surgical care measures, made improvements to their operative infection prevention practices and has formed a multidisciplinary team to review infections.
22. Skagit Valley Hospital – Infection rate is due to three deep surgical wound infections throughout the year. The hospital reports that surgical care measures were followed. The hospital is working to improve processes and communication between the surgeons, surgical teams, and patients to prevent and investigate infections.
23. Whitman Hospital and Medical Center – Infection rate is due to one shallow surgical wound infection with a low number of hip procedures performed during the year. The hospital reports all appropriate infection prevention measures have been in place and continue to be enforced.

Knee Replacement

Rates shown here are for all knee replacement surgeries overall. Details of initial (primary) and repeat or revision procedures are included in the [2013 SSI table](#). Hospitals are compared by their “overall” infection rates in these categories to compare hospitals more accurately.

24. Harborview Medical Center – Infection rate is due to only one deep surgical wound infection out of only five knee replacement procedures performed during the year. The hospital reviewed the case and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed. The hospital does not perform elective joint replacement surgery. The patients that receive these procedures are admitted for traumatic injuries.

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25. Jefferson General Hospital – Infection rate is due to only one shallow surgical wound infection with a low number of knee replacement surgeries during the year. The hospital reviewed each case and has reinforced surgical care measures, made improvements to their operative infection prevention practices and has formed a multidisciplinary team to review infections.
26. Kennewick General Hospital – Infection rate is due to two deep surgical wound infections with no indication of cross-infection. The hospital reviewed each case with their surgery committee and reports changing operating room workflow and that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed.
27. Sunnyside Community Hospital – Infection rate is due to only one shallow surgical wound infection and a very low number of knee replacement surgeries during the year. The hospital reviewed the case and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed.
28. Walla Walla General Hospital – Infection rate is due to only one deep surgical wound infection. The hospital reviewed the cases and reports that surgical care and infection prevention measures were followed. The hospital also reports changes to preoperative procedures including pre-surgery patient preparation and education.