

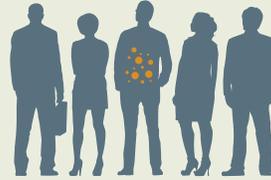
# DEADLY DIARRHEA:

## *C. DIFFICILE* CAUSES IMMENSE SUFFERING, DEATH

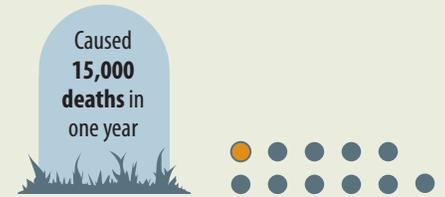
### IMPACT



Caused close to half a million illnesses in one year.

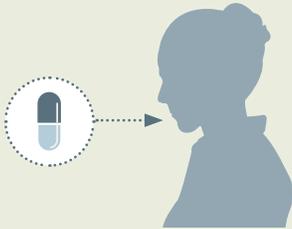


Comes back at least once in about 1 in 5 patients who get *C. difficile*.



1 in 11 people 65 and older died within a month of *C. difficile* infection diagnosis.

### RISK



People on antibiotics are 7-10 times more likely to get *C. difficile* while on the drugs and during the month after.



Being in healthcare settings, especially hospitals or nursing homes.



More than 80% of *C. difficile* deaths occurred in people 65 and older.

### SPREAD



Touching unclean surfaces, especially those in healthcare settings, contaminated with feces from an infected person.



Dirty hands.



Failing to notify other healthcare facilities when patients with *C. difficile* transfer from one facility to another.

### PREVENT



Improve prescribing of antibiotics.



Use best tests for accurate results to prevent spread.



Rapidly identify and isolate patients with *C. difficile*.



Wear gloves and gowns when treating patient with *C. difficile*. Remember that hand sanitizer doesn't kill *C. difficile*.



Clean room surfaces with EPA-approved, spore-killing disinfectant (such as bleach), where *C. difficile* patients are treated.

[http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/cdiff/Cdiff\\_infect.html](http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/cdiff/Cdiff_infect.html)

[www.cdc.gov/media](http://www.cdc.gov/media)



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
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