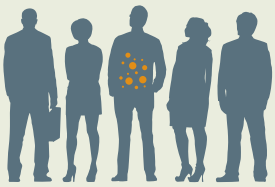
CS253604

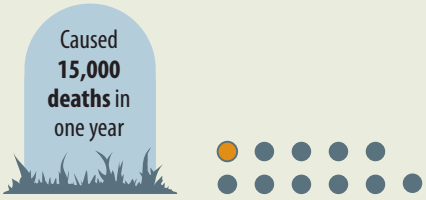
DEADLY DIARRHEA:
C. DIFFICILE CAUSES IMMENSE SUFFERING, DEATH

IMPACT

Caused close to half a million illnesses in one year.

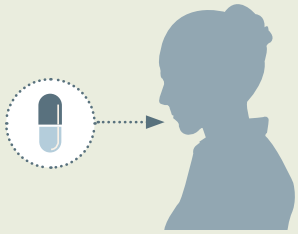


Comes back at least once in about 1 in 5 patients who get *C. difficile*.



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
www.cdc.gov/media

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