CDC estimated in 2002 that approximately 1.7 million HAIs occurred annually in U.S. hospitals, affecting five to ten percent of patients, and are associated with 99,000 deaths. Page 1: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20090401CDC_HAI_Testimony_final.pdf>

HAIs also have a tremendous financial toll, resulting in an estimated $28 to $33 billion of excess healthcare costs each year. However, despite their pervasiveness, most HAIs are preventable. (Centers for Disease Control, 2009). Page 2: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20090401CDC_HAI_Testimony_final.pdf>