In 2009 the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Emerging Infections Program (EIP) began laboratory, population-based active surveillance for *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The surveillance includes all patients at least 1 year of age, with positive *Clostridium difficile* tests who reside in Benton, Morrison, Olmsted (added in 2012) Stearns, and Todd counties. Patients are categorized into three epidemiologic classifications depending on the location and timing of the *C. difficile* positive sample in relation to healthcare exposure.

**Community Associated (CA)**
- developed CDI in the community and had no overnight stay in a healthcare facility in the past 12 weeks.

**Community Onset, Healthcare Facility Associated (CO-HCFA)**
- developed CDI in the community and had an overnight stay in a healthcare facility in the past 12 weeks.

**Healthcare Facility Onset (HCFO)**
- developed CDI in a healthcare facility and had CDI specimen collected 4 days after admission.

- A healthcare facility is defined as an acute care hospital, long-term acute care hospital, or long-term care facility.

**Prior Antibiotic Use (Risk Factors)**
- 11% of interviewed CA patients reported no antibiotic and no healthcare exposure in the 12 weeks prior to illness (as documented in medical record and reported on interview)
- 49% of interviewed CA patients reported taking an antibiotic in the 12 weeks prior to their illness; of those:
  - 31% for ear, sinus, or upper respiratory infections
  - 14% skin infections
  - 13% dental procedures
  - 12% urinary tract infections
- 71% of all CDI patients received antibiotics in the 12 weeks prior to their illness

**6 of 10 people with CDI are female**
- 59% female
- 41% male

**4 of 10 people with CDI are older than 65**
- 65+ 40%
- 45 - 64 28%
- 18 - 44 25%
- 1 - 17 7%

* Incidence rates, per 100,000 population, based on estimated 2013 population (ages >1 yr.) data for Benton, Morrison, Olmsted, Stearns, and Todd Counties
** One major clinical laboratory switched laboratory testing methods from EIA to PCR in 2010
# May have taken >1 antibiotic or for >1 problem

Because *C. difficile* is reportable in only 5 counties, the results may not be generalizable to the entire state of Minnesota.