

Nigel Mills MP:

*The importance of hand hygiene
in the NHS and the 'HANDZ'
campaign*

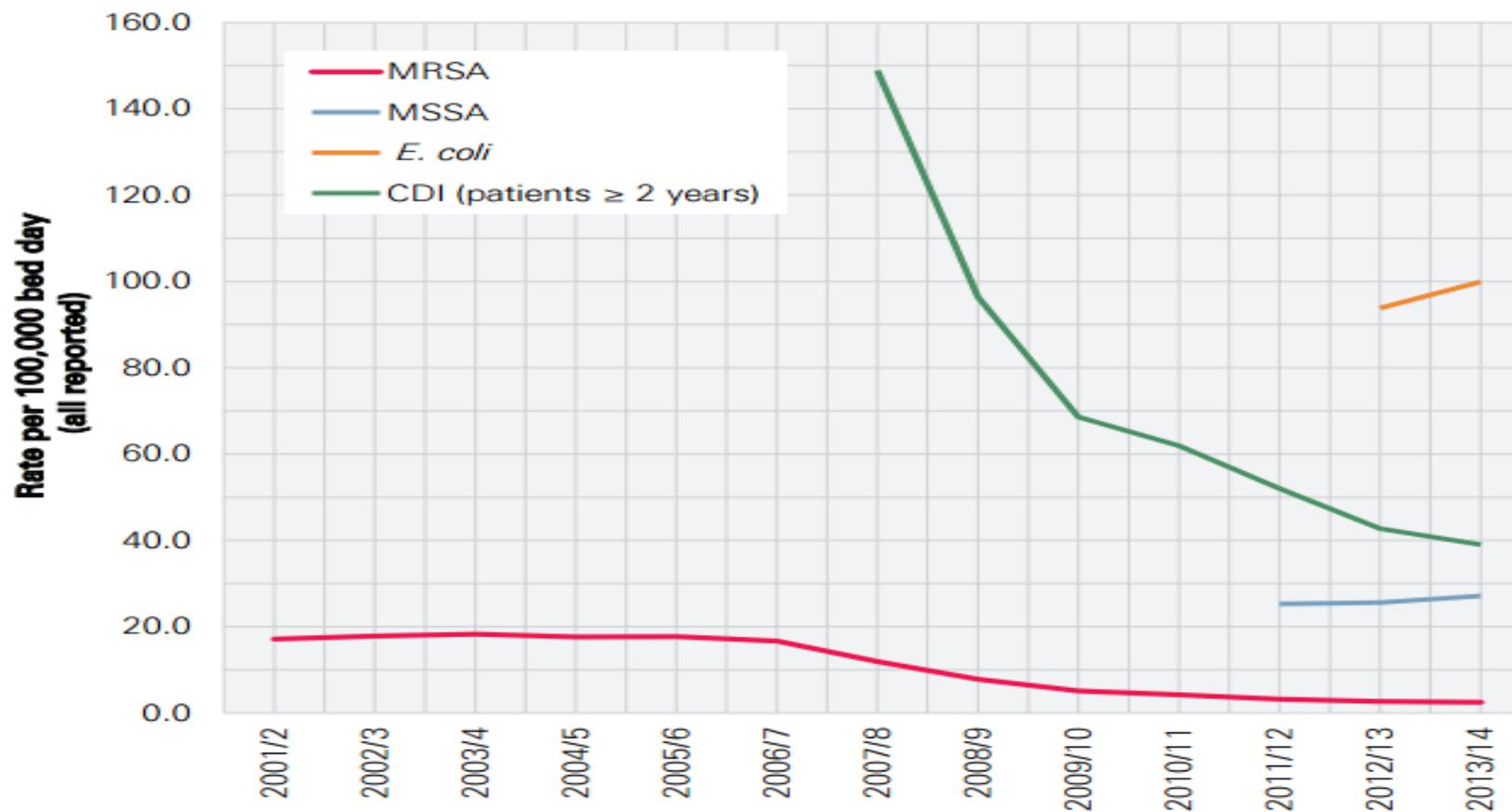
Hand Hygiene in the NHS

- Poor hand hygiene contributes to Healthcare Associated Infections which threatens lives and costs the NHS money.
- Good hand hygiene is the number one way to reduce the spread of infection.
- As anti-microbial resistance grows we need to be tackling the problem and stop infections in the first place.
- Manual methods for auditing hand hygiene are outdated and data is overstated.
- Current NICE guidelines do not go far enough.
- Accurate and meaningful data needs to be collected to ensure incidences of infection reduce.

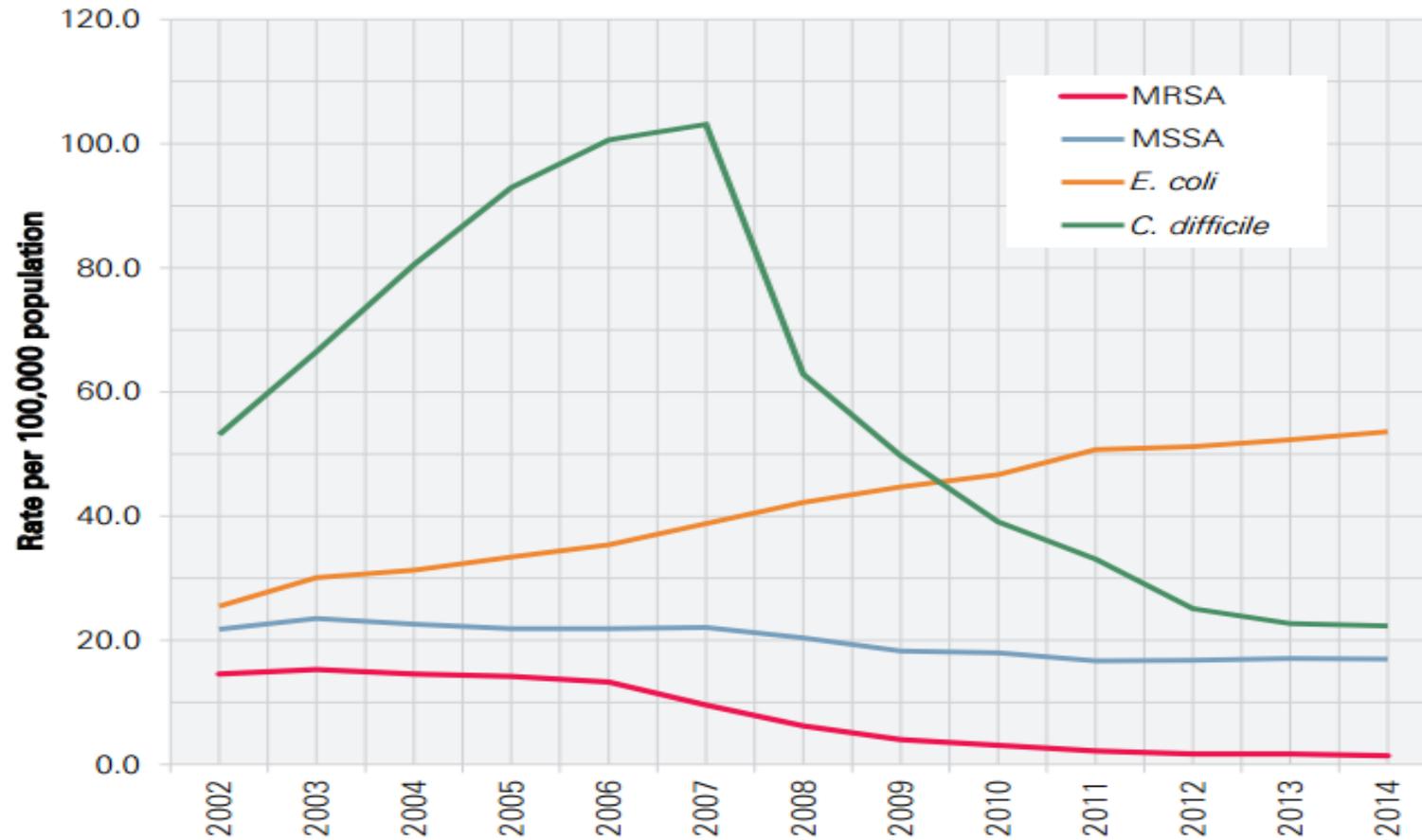
Hand Hygiene in the NHS - Impact

- English National Point Prevalence Survey on Healthcare-associated Infections and Antimicrobial Infections and Antimicrobial Use 2011 showed that patients in England have a **6.4 per cent chance of contracting an HAI.**
- HAIs affect more than **300,000 patients every year**, resulting in **5,000 deaths.**
- HAIs cost UK hospitals up to **£1billion every year** with the main costs associated with increased hospital stays, additional antibiotic therapy and the need for repeat surgery.
- Patients who acquire HAIs **remain in hospital** on average **2.5 times longer** than uninfected patients – representing approximately **11 extra days**, but this can range between 5 and 25 days.

All reported rates England Average: MRSA, BSI, *C.difficile* infection, MSSA BSI, *E.coli* BSI, 2001/02-2013/14



Trends in *C.difficile* infection, MRSA, MSSA and Ecoli BSIs (England 2002-2014)



Hand Hygiene in the NHS - compliance

- Currently, compliance to Hand hygiene best practise is measured in the NHS using “direct observation” with nurses manually counting the number of handwashes versus opportunities.
- The “Hawthorne effect” is thought to **artificially increase reported compliance rates by over 50%**.
- In turn this leads to Hospitals collecting inflated false data, reporting 90%-100% compliance.
- 24/7 electronic trials show that **in reality compliance rates are 18% - 40%**.

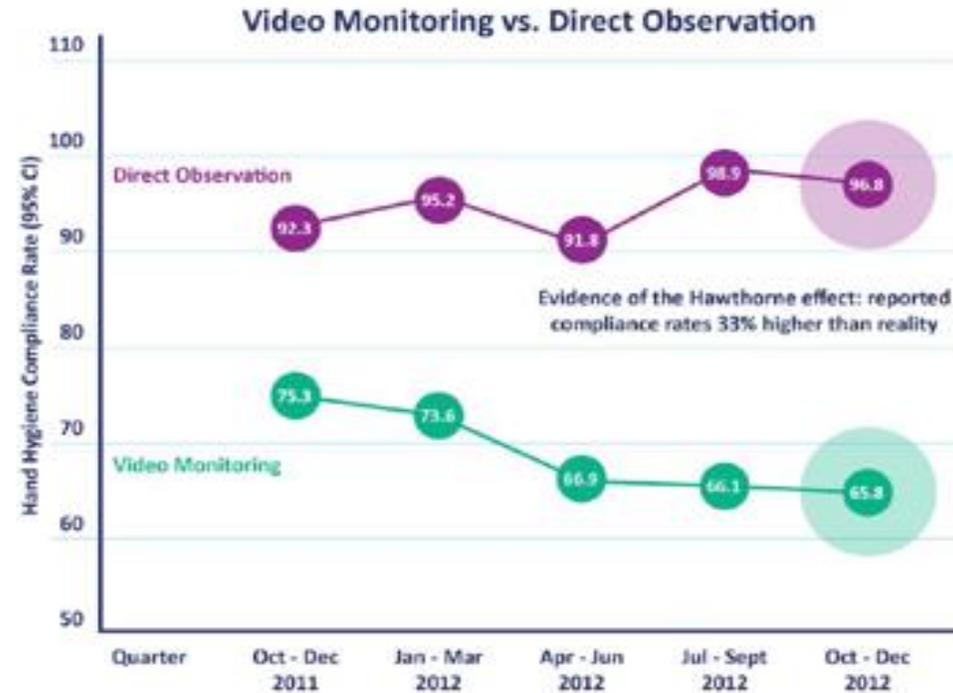


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Infection prevention and control – what now?

- Need to ensure hospitals collect **meaningful, accurate data**;
- Infection prevention and control needs to be central to **inspection and regulation**:
 - Improved guidelines from NICE – to ensure monitor both compliance and the accuracy of data collected;
 - The CQC should review rates of HAIs in Trusts in its assessments of hospitals and ensure competent and accurate results are collected.
- **Need to ensure this remains on the Government's agenda..**