

# Surgical Site Infections (SSIs)

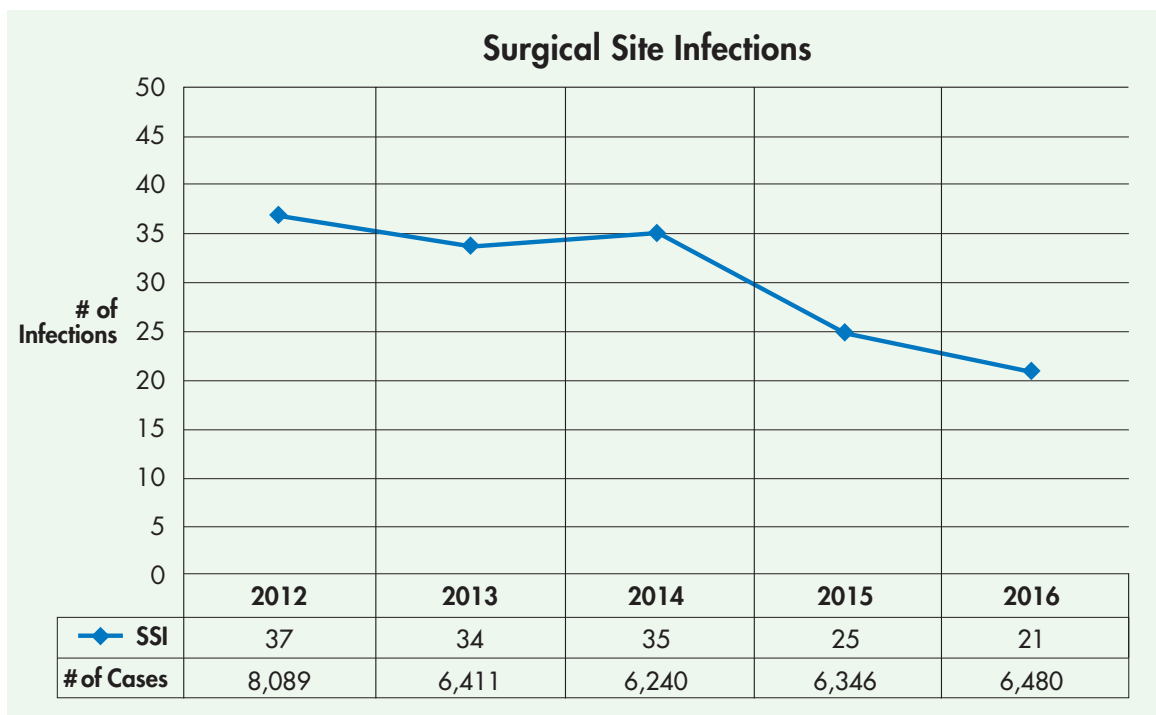
## Why is this so important?

A surgical site infection (SSI) is a type of complication resulting from surgery. An infection can potentially occur following any type of surgery to your body. SSIs develop when germs get into the surgical wound either during or after surgery and can cause delayed wound healing or result in a longer hospital stay for you or your child.

## How do we measure?

- We collect information on proper timing and dosing of antibiotics and proper pre-surgical skin preparation.
- For most SSIs, an infection is considered related to surgery if it occurs within 30 days following surgery (or within 90 days if an implant is involved).

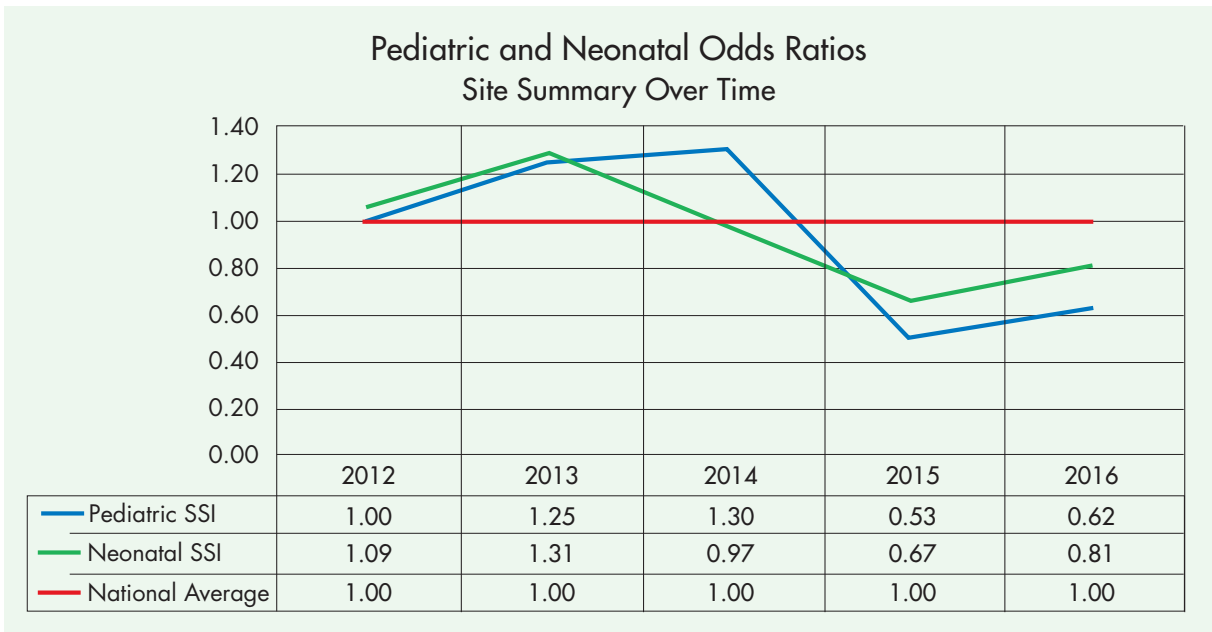
## How are we doing?



## How do we compare to other children's hospitals?

We compare ourselves to other children's hospitals by using an odds ratio. An odds ratio measures outcomes of a group. If the outcome is the same in comparison groups, the odds ratio will be 1.0; it is better to be below 1.0 (*see comparison chart next page*).

## SSIs, continued



## How are we improving?

- Family education is given regarding proper bathing of children prior to surgical procedures, and includes specific infection prevention measures to implement before and after their child's surgery.
- All children are bathed with special medicated wipes prior to surgery to decrease the chance of an infection occurring.
- All surgical site infection cases are reviewed by a team of clinicians to identify trends and processes for improvement.
- Promote strict hand hygiene practices for all of our staff, as well as our patients and visitors.
- Communication to each individual surgeon regarding his/her SSI rates to promote internal process improvement activities.