



SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP) Patients at Wisconsin hospitals have less of a chance of getting a serious infection than most nationwide.

An annual report from the state Division of Public Health shows Wisconsin hospitals have significantly reduced the number of the most serious infections and now have a rate below the national average.

Among the things the report looked at is the risk of getting infected by dirty needles. Wisconsin hospitals average less than one. The national average is one.

Affinity Health System's Infections Prevention Coordinator Brenda Ehlert says that emphasis on hand-washing helped reduce infection rates, along with close monitoring of patients' need for medications and fluids.

Hospital officials say they are striving to eliminate infections.