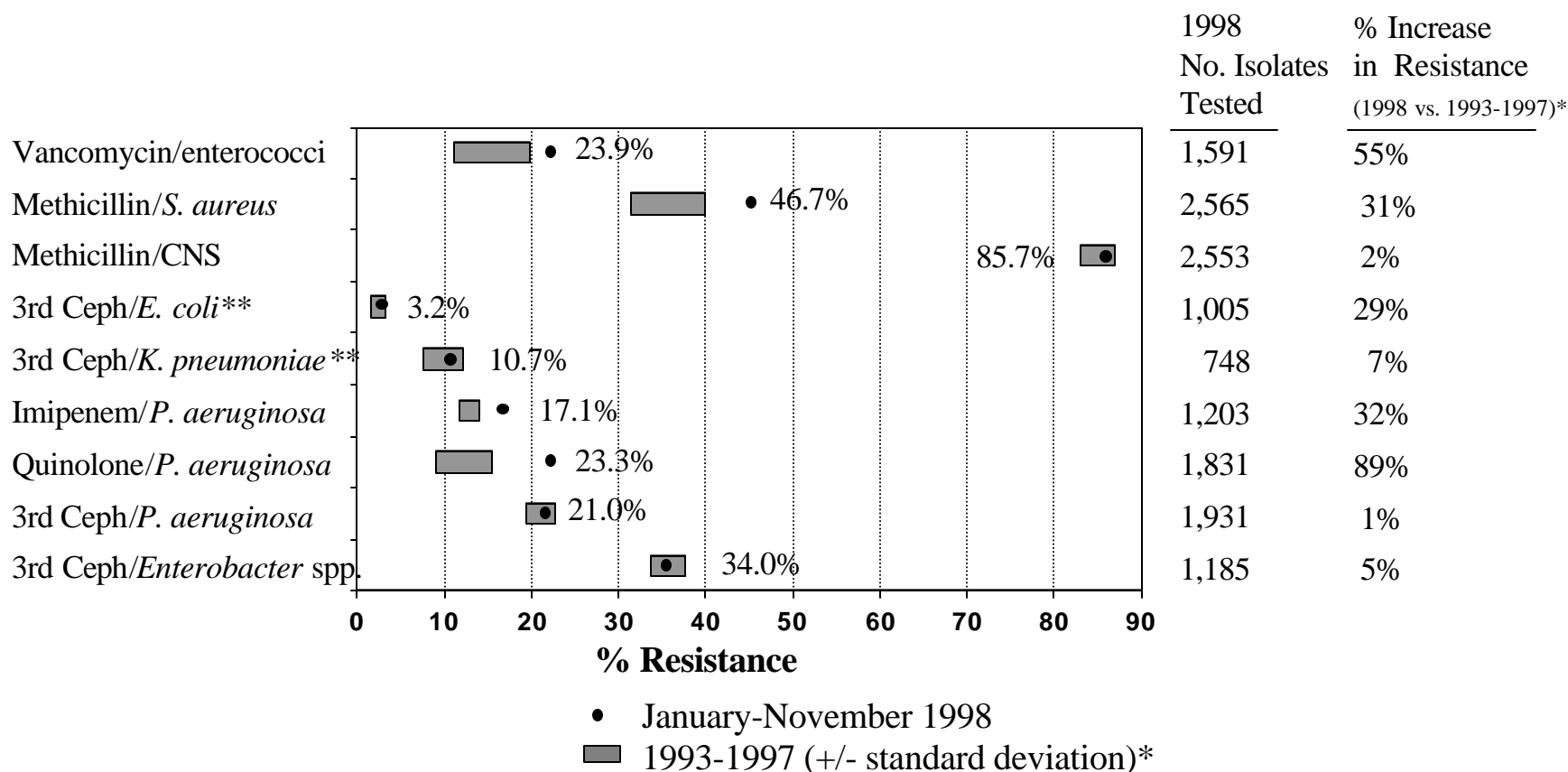


Figure 1. Selected antimicrobial resistant pathogens associated with nosocomial infections in intensive care unit patients, comparison of resistant rates from January-November 1998, with 1993-1997, National Nosocomial Infections Surveillance System



Note: CNS=coagulase-negative staphylococci, 3rd Ceph = resistance to 3rd generation cephalosporins (either ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, or ceftazidime), quinolone=resistance to either ciprofloxacin or ofloxacin.

* Percentage (%) increase in resistance rate of current year (January-November 1998) compared to mean rate of resistance over previous 5 years (1993 through 1997): $[(1998 \text{ rate} - \text{previous 5 year mean rate})/\text{previous 5 year mean rate}] * 100$.

** "Resistance" for *E. coli* or *K. pneumoniae* is actually the rate of non-susceptibility of these organisms to the 3rd Ceph group.

Description of methods and results for new antimicrobial resistance surveillance report –NNIS.

Figure 1 is a new surveillance report summarizing the rates of antimicrobial resistance among pathogens identified from ICU patients with nosocomial infections. The figure summarizes several important points for the more common pathogens reported to NNIS. First, we provide the pooled mean rate of resistance for January-November 1998. Second, we graph this rate next to the average rate of resistance (± 1 standard deviation) over the previous 5 years, for each pathogen. Finally, we calculate the percentage increase in the resistance rate in 1998 compared to the previous 5 years. These data display the concerning and continuing increase in antimicrobial resistance in U.S. hospitals. However, these data are not risk-adjusted and comparisons of these rates between hospitals should be made with caution.