

Table 1. Distribution of MSSA and MRSA clinical isolates included in the study.

Population ^a	USA Census Region	Number of States	Number of Sites	Number of isolates
MSSA	1. New England	5	7	100
	2. Mid-Atlantic	3	23	100
	3. East North Central	5	26	100
	4. West North Central	7	15	100
	5. South Atlantic	7	24	100
	6. East South Central	4	9	100
	7. West South Central	4	14	100
	8. Mountain	5	9	100
	9. Pacific	5	18	100
	Total		45	135
MRSA	1. New England	4	6	101
	2. Mid-Atlantic	3	23	100
	3. East North Central	5	27	100
	4. West North Central	7	15	101
	5. South Atlantic	7	24	100
	6. East South Central	4	9	103
	7. West South Central	4	14	101
	8. Mountain	5	9	100
	9. Pacific	5	18	101
	Total		44	145

a. Methicillin-susceptible (MSSA) and -resistant (MRSA) *S. aureus* clinical isolates defined by the oxacillin and/or ceftaxime susceptibility results obtained by the reference broth microdilution and/or disk diffusion methods according to CLSI (M02-A12, M07-A10 and M100-S25).