

Antibiotics be responsible

Each year, 30 EU/EEA countries report data on antimicrobial resistance to the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net) and on antimicrobial consumption to the European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption network (ESAC-Net). Both networks are hosted at ECDC.

The emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance, in other words the ability of bacteria to resist the action of an antibiotic, has become a recognised global problem. Antibiotic resistance severely limits the number of antibiotics available for the treatment of diseases.

Antibiotic resistance



Streptococcus pneumoniae

8.7%
Resistance

Each year, about 25 000 patients die in the EU from an infection caused by these drug-resistant bacteria.



Staphylococcus aureus

17.8%
Resistance



Pseudomonas aeruginosa

21%
Resistance



Klebsiella pneumoniae

25.7%
Resistance



Enterococcus faecalis

26.5%
Resistance



Escherichia coli

57.4%
Resistance

Resistance occurs naturally and is developed through selective pressure, mutation and gene transfer.

Consequences for hospital patients include delayed administration of appropriate antibiotic therapy, longer length of stay, higher healthcare costs and poor patient outcomes.

Infections due to these multidrug-resistant bacteria in the EU result in extra healthcare costs each year of at least:

€ 1 500 000 000