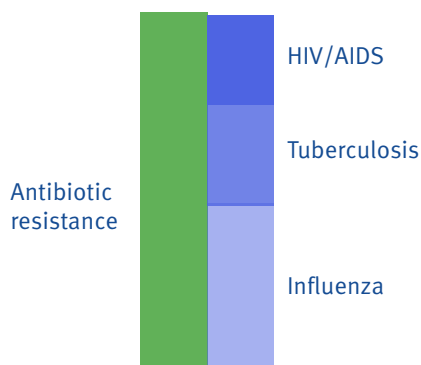


Antibiotic resistance: a growing threat to human health

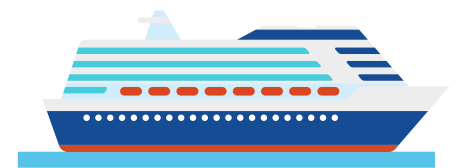
Antibiotic resistance is the ability of bacteria to combat the action of one or more antibiotics. Bacteria, not humans or animals, become antibiotic-resistant.

In Europe, the health impact of antibiotic resistant infections is comparable to that of influenza, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS combined.

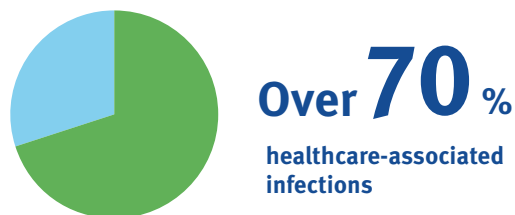


More than
35000 deaths

Each year, more than 35 000 people die from antibiotic-resistant infections in the European Union, Iceland and Norway. This is equivalent to the number of passengers on 13 cruise ships.



Antibiotic resistance is a silent pandemic and a growing threat to human health.



Over 70% of the health impact of antibiotic-resistant infections is directly linked to healthcare-associated infections. This could be minimized through adequate infection prevention and control measures, as well as antibiotic stewardship in healthcare settings.

Increasing burden

Resistance to antibiotics that are used as last line for treatment of infections, such as the carbapenems, has the highest health impact.

Between 2016 and 2020, the overall number of deaths caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria under study has increased.

For carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Acinetobacter* spp, commonly causing healthcare-associated infections, the number of attributable deaths increased by approximately 50%.



Solutions

There are several means to address this threat and ensure that antibiotics remain effective in the future



Using antibiotics prudently, only when they are necessary.



Implementing good infection prevention and control practices such as hand hygiene, screening for infection with multidrug-resistant bacteria and isolating infected patients.



Promoting research and development of novel antibiotics

Everyone is responsible

Everyone is responsible and can make a difference in addressing this growing threat to human health: patients, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, veterinarians, farmers, policy makers.

