



APUA

The cost of antibiotic resistance to U.S. families and the health care system

For Consumers, Patients, Policy-Makers

A Quick Reference Sheet from the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics

Antibiotic-resistant infections cost the U.S. healthcare system over \$20 billion each year

Antibiotic-resistant (ABR) infections are major problems in the community and in health care. ARIs can cause treatment failure and/or death for patients, and they lead to increased costs for consumers and the health care system.



NATIONAL FACTS & FIGURES

- ◆ **Antibiotic-resistant (ABR) infections are avoidable.** However, the misuse and overuse of antibiotics increases these infections and costs the U.S. health care system over \$20 billion each year.
- ◆ In the year 2000, the U.S. had nearly 900,000 cases of ABR infections.
- ◆ U.S. households lost approximately \$35 billion in 2000 to antibiotic-resistant infections including lost wages, extended hospital stays and premature deaths.
- ◆ The costs of ABR infections have continued to increase since 2000, because the number of cases reported has more than doubled over the past decade.
- ◆ Reducing ABR infections by just 20% would save \$3.2 - \$5.2 billion in health care costs each year and cut up to \$11.3 million additional in-hospital days for patients with ABR infections.

For more information, visit the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA): www.apua.org

ABR infections are avoidable, yet they cost U.S. families more than \$35 billion each

What is antibiotic resistance?

Antibiotics are a medical treasure because they have the ability to cure infections caused by bacteria. However, the effectiveness of antibiotics is being threatened by overuse and improper use for viral (non-bacterial) infections, such as the common cold and flu, which cannot be cured by antibiotics. This misuse inevitably leads to bacteria that are resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections. ABR infections are not only costly, difficult to treat, and potentially deadly, but they can also spread rapidly, affecting society as a whole.



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The costs of antibiotic-resistant infections

- **Financial Cost:** The medical costs per patient suffering from an antibiotic-resistant (ABR) infections ranges from \$18,588 to \$29,069. These costs per patient total over \$20 billion in health care system costs each year in the U.S.
- **Societal Cost:** The duration of hospital stays for patients with ARIs was extended by 6.4-12.7 days. During this time, patients are unable to work and thus lose wages. These costs to U.S. households total over \$35 billion each year.
- **Cost of Death:** A study of ARIs in hospitals showed that the death rate for patients with ARIs was two-fold higher than the death rate for patients without ARIs. Premature death of patients with ARI is an emotional and financial burden on society and the healthcare system.



Why we must address the ARI problem

The medical and societal costs of antibiotic-resistant infections are high.

Reducing ABR infections and other hospital-acquired infections through effective interventions will lead to significant health benefits

More attention must be given to antibiotic resistance, which is fueled by the misuse and overuse of antibiotics.

Antibiotic-resistant infections are an avoidable burden to U.S. families and the U.S. health care system.

A 20% reduction in ABR infections would save \$3.2 - \$5.2 billion in health care costs each year.

For more information on the costs of antimicrobial-resistant infections, refer to the Clinical Infectious Diseases article: Roberts RR, Hota B, Ahmad I, et al. **Hospital and societal costs of antimicrobial-resistant infections in a Chicago teaching hospital: implications for antibiotic stewardship.** Clin Infect Dis 2009; 49:1175–84

and the news release: bioMérieux, Inc. (2009, October 19). *Antibiotic-Resistant Infections Cost the U.S. Healthcare System in Excess of \$20 Billion Annually* [News release]. Retrieved from http://www.biomerieux-usa.com/servlet/srt/bio/usa/dynPage?open=USA_NWS_NWS&doc=USA_NWS_NWS_G_PRS_RLS_73&crptprm=ZmlsdGVyPQ==



Established in 1981, The Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA) is an international nongovernmental organization fighting to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics and other antimicrobials.

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