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SCIENTIFIC REPORT



Antimicrobial consumption and resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals

Fourth joint inter-agency report on integrated analysis of antimicrobial agent consumption and occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals in the EU/EEA

JIACRA IV – 2019–2021

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) |
 European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) | European Medicines Agency (EMA)

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Abstract

The fourth joint inter-agency report on integrated analysis of antimicrobial consumption (AMC) and the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals (JIACRA) addressed data obtained by the Agencies' EU-wide surveillance networks for 2019–2021. The analysis sought to identify whether significant trends in AMR and AMC were concomitant over 2019–2021. AMC in both human and animal sectors, expressed in mg/kg of estimated biomass, was compared at country and European level. In 2021, the total AMC was assessed at 125.0 mg/kg of biomass for humans (28 EU/EEA countries, range 44.3–160.1) and 92.6 mg/kg of biomass for food-producing animals (29 EU/EEA countries, range 2.5–296.5). Between 2014 and 2021, total AMC in food-producing animals decreased by 44%, while in humans, it remained relatively stable. Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed to study associations between AMC and AMR for selected combinations of certain antimicrobials and resistance to those substances in bacteria from both humans and food-producing animals. For certain combinations of bacteria and antimicrobials, AMR in bacteria from humans was associated with AMC in animals, which, in turn, was related to AMC in humans. For certain antimicrobials, statistically significant associations differed markedly between animals and humans. For certain antimicrobials, AMR were concomitant for food-producing animals over 2019–2021. Similarly, a proportion of total AMC also registered increasing size in food-producing animals and decreasing size in humans (i.e., exhibited a 'swap' set of antimicrobials). Overall, the findings suggest that measures to reduce AMC in food-producing animals and humans are needed. Wherever possible, AMC are retained and further controlled. The importance of measures that promote better hygiene, there

KEYWORDS
 antimicrobial consumption, antimicrobial resistance, food-producing animals, JIACRA

SIMPLIFIED SUMMARY

21 Feb 2024

Fourth joint inter-agency report on integrated analysis of antimicrobial consumption and occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals in the European Union (JIACRA IV – 2019–2021)

- Background**
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major global threat to human and animal health.
 - The use and misuse of antimicrobials in humans and in food-producing animals are major drivers of AMR. Addressing AMR requires a coordinated effort from the human and animal sectors across the globe.
 - Antimicrobial-resistant bacterial infections are a serious health problem in Europe, causing over 35,000 deaths annually. This is comparable to the combined impact of influenza, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Recent data show that antimicrobial-resistant bacteria are causing a growing number of infections and deaths in humans, particularly in healthcare settings.
 - In accordance with the European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance, the European Commission (EC) invited the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to gather data on the link between antimicrobial consumption (AMC) and AMR in humans and food-producing animals.
 - This is the fourth joint inter-agency Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance Analysis (JIACRA) report, primarily covering the period 2019–2021. The three previous JIACRA reports considered AMC and AMR data for a series of consecutive periods since 2011.

What were ECDC, EFSA and EMA asked to do?

- The EC invited ECDC, EFSA and EMA to produce the fourth JIACRA report. The report presents results of data analysis that investigate possible associations between AMC in humans and food-producing animals and the occurrence of AMR in bacteria in both sectors. The analysis also sought to identify significant trends in AMR and AMC, and assess whether trends were concomitant.

How did ECDC, EFSA and EMA carry out this work?

- The fourth JIACRA report was produced by considering different sets of data originating from the EU-wide surveillance and monitoring programmes of AMR and AMC in humans and food-producing animals in the European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA), respectively, and coordinated by ECDC, EFSA and EMA. Data from 2019 to 2021 formed the primary basis for the analyses (Figure 1).

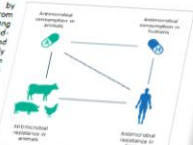


Figure 1: Potential links investigated between antimicrobial consumption in humans and food-producing animals and antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals

JIACRA

Antimicrobial consumption and resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals

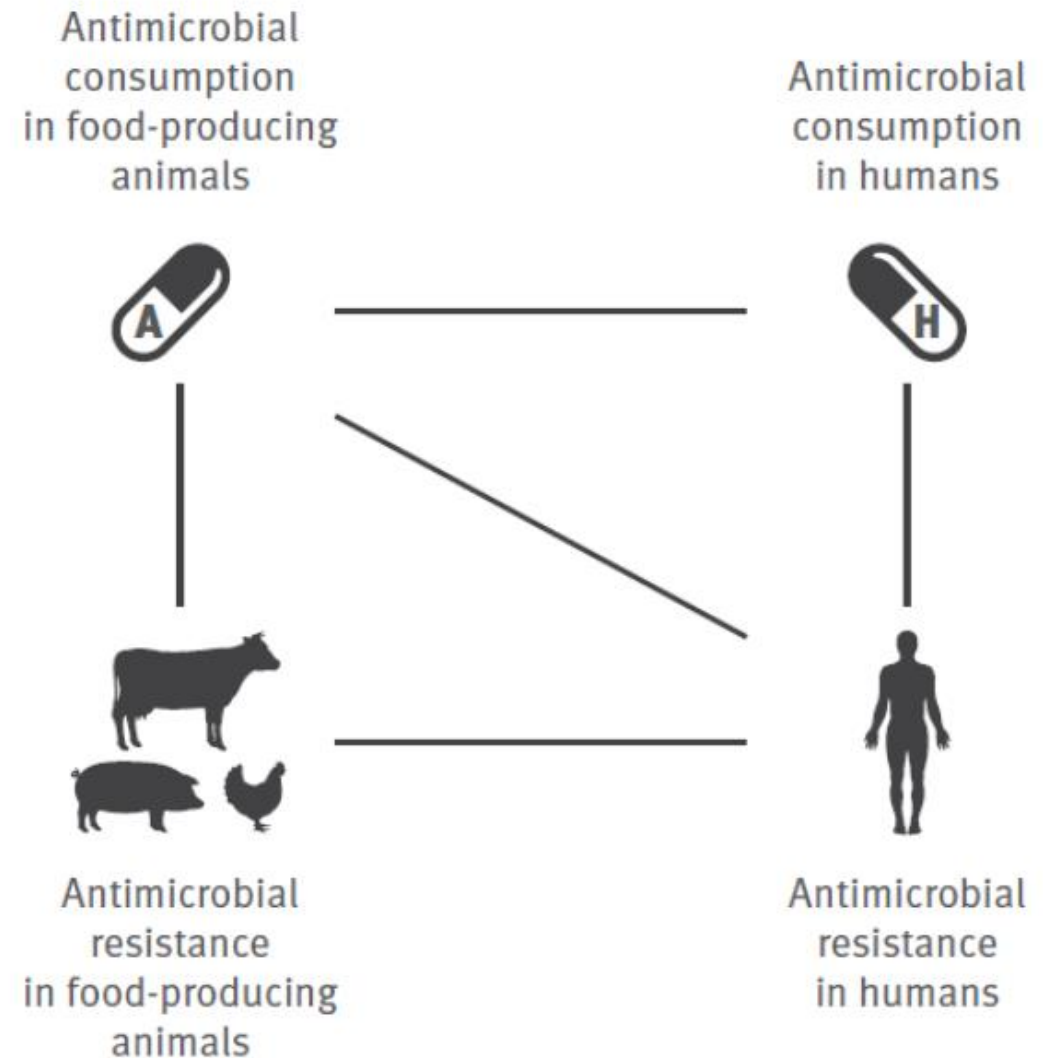
Fourth joint inter-agency report on integrated analysis of antimicrobial agent consumption and occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals in the EU/EEA

Introduction

The [4th report](#) was published on 21 February 2024

It presents results of analysis to assess the **relationship between AMC and AMR** in **food-producing animals** and **humans**.

Conclusions and recommendations based on results in a **One-Health perspective**.



Mandate from the European Commission

ECDC, EFSA and EMA were requested by the EC to provide a JIACRA IV report on 2019-2021 period with:

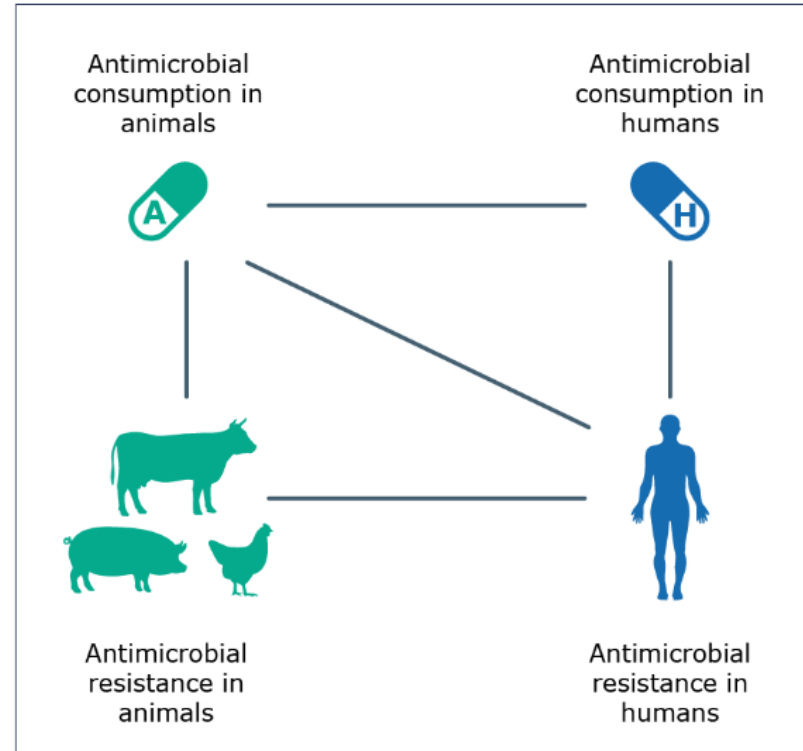
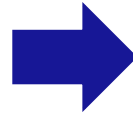
- a) Data on the consumption of antimicrobials in human and veterinary medicine as well as on AMR in the Union based on contributions received by Member States, as an **overview of the situation**
- b) An **integrated analysis of possible relationships** between AMC in humans and food-producing animals and the occurrence of AMR in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals focusing on relevant EU outcome indicators
- c) An **integrated analysis of relevant trends** at EU and national level in AMC and AMR in humans and food-producing animals
- d) **Advice for policy makers** on trends that require for policy measures to be taken in priority, based on the outputs of the integrated analyses of trends in AMC and AMR
- e) **Simplified summary** of the conclusions that could be easily used by Member States for policy making purposes.

Analysis performed



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
 SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC)



European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption Network (ESAC-Net)



European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net)
 Food- and Water-borne Disease Network (FWD-Net)




European Food Safety Authority

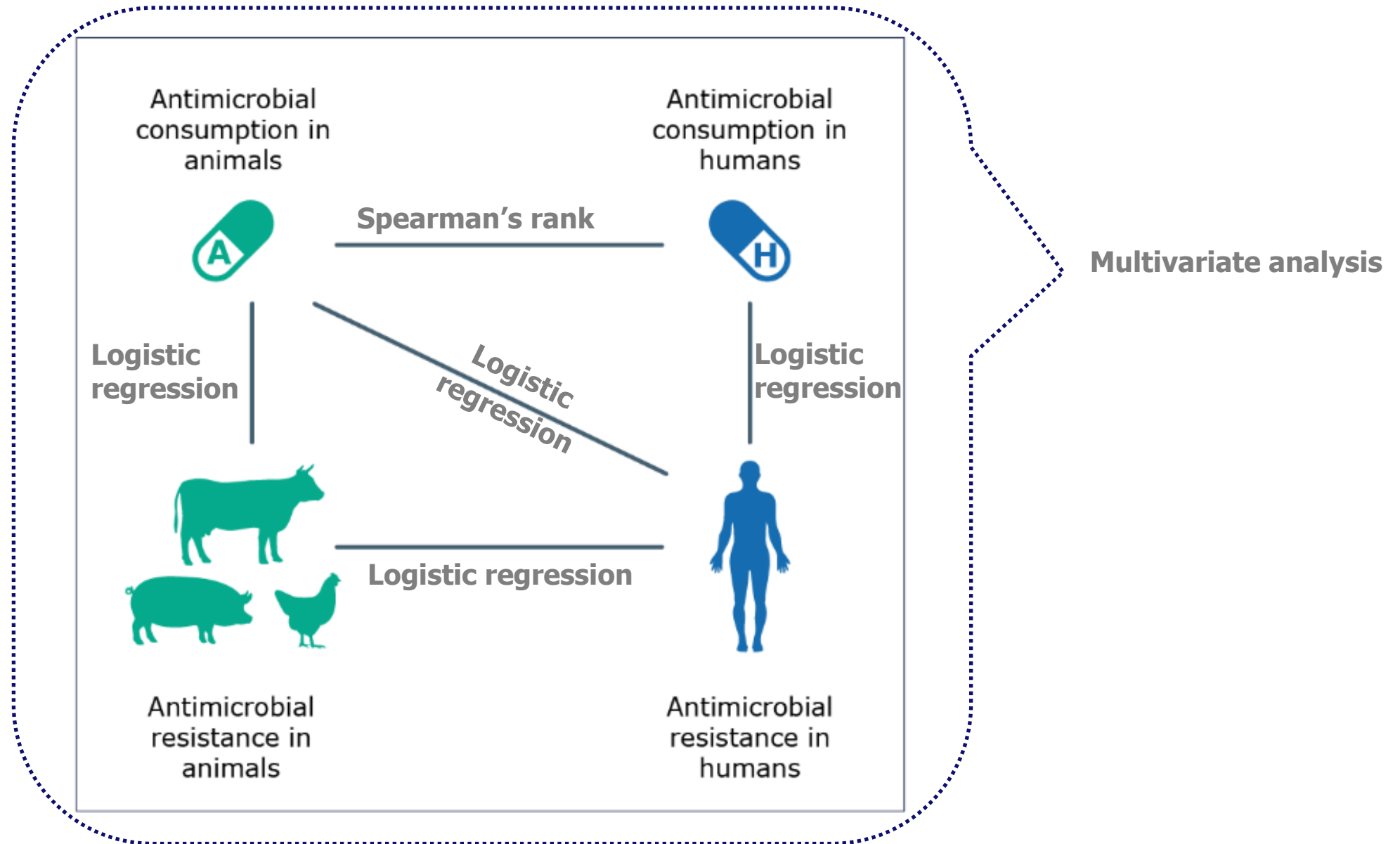
Network on Zoonoses Data Collection

EU Summary Report on AMR in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food

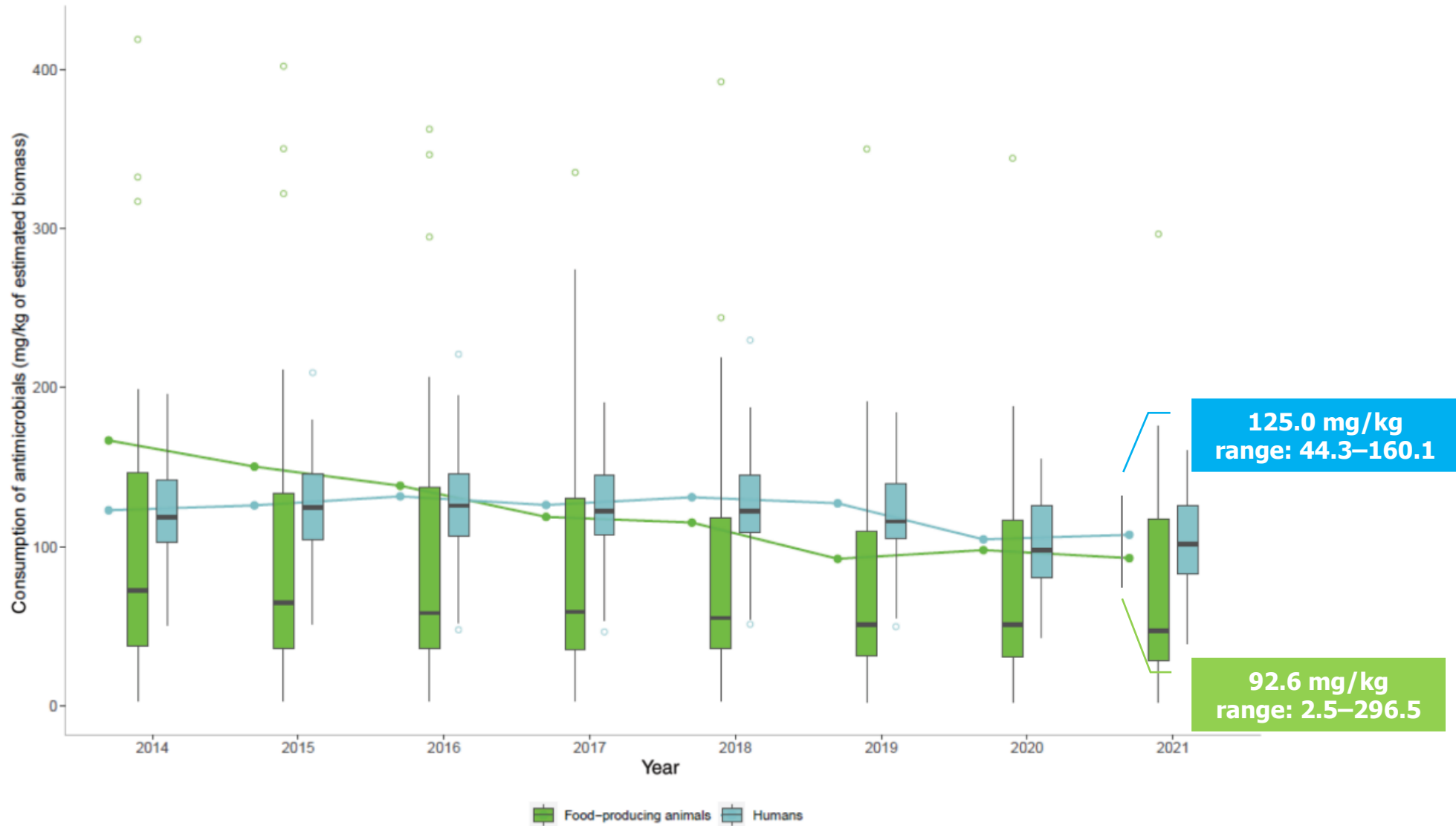


Years: 2019, 2020 and 2021

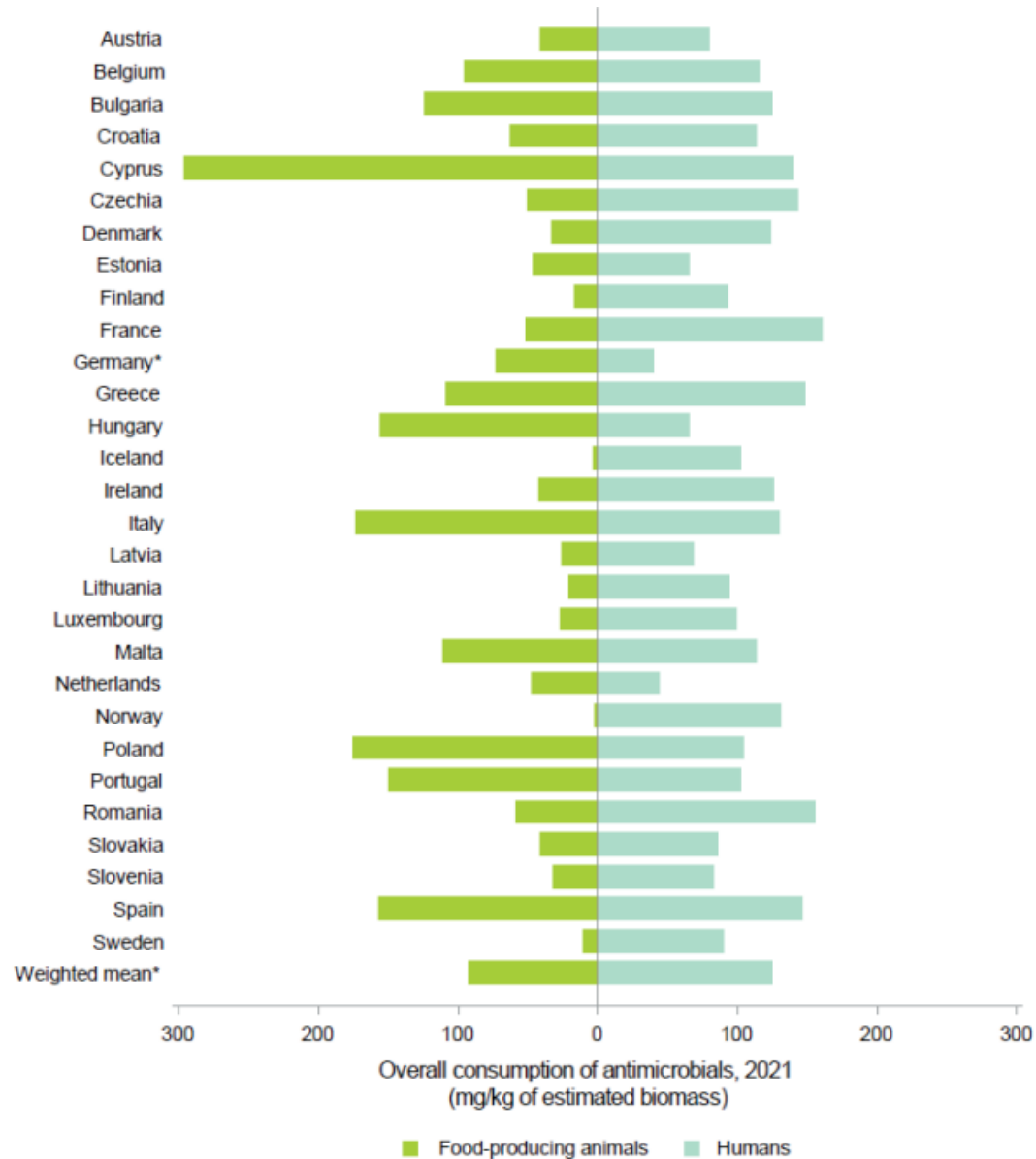
Analysis performed



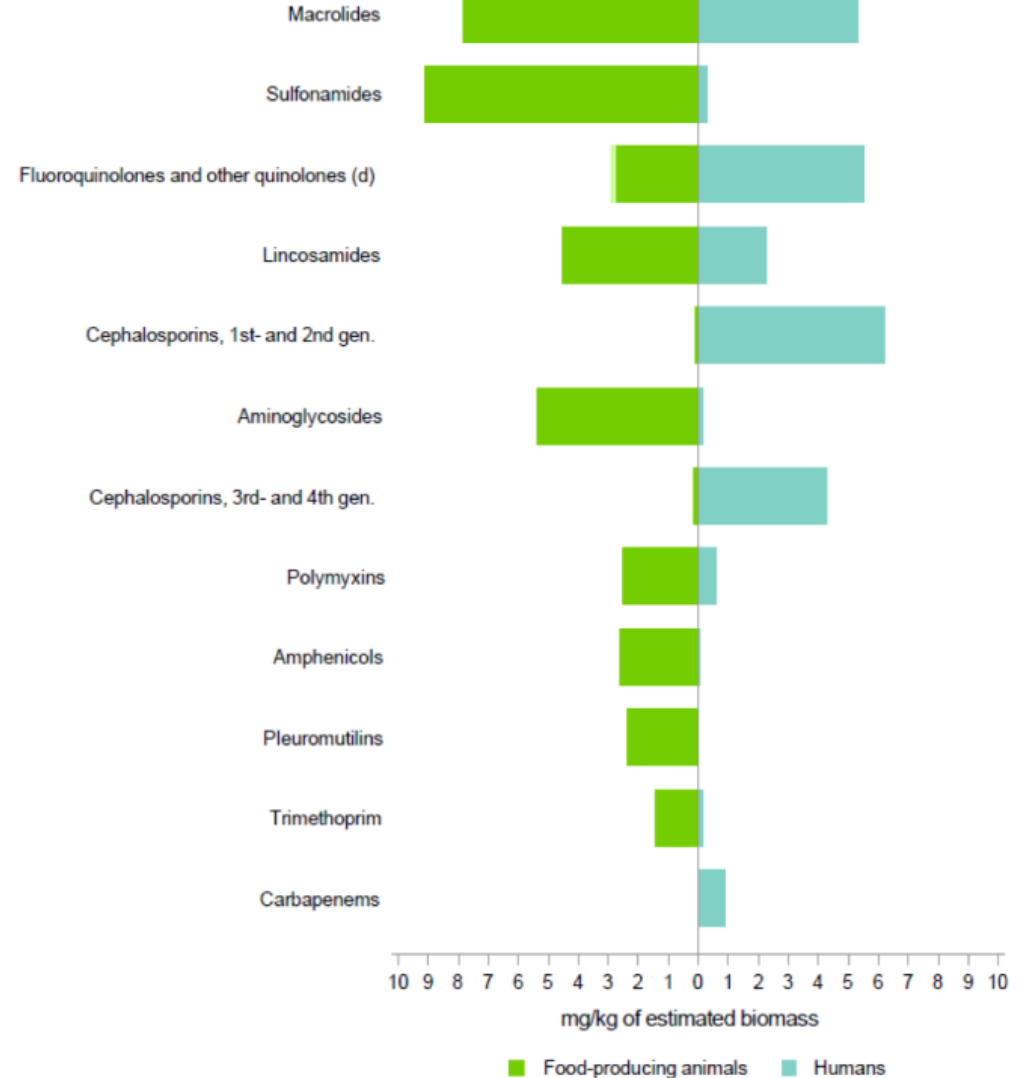
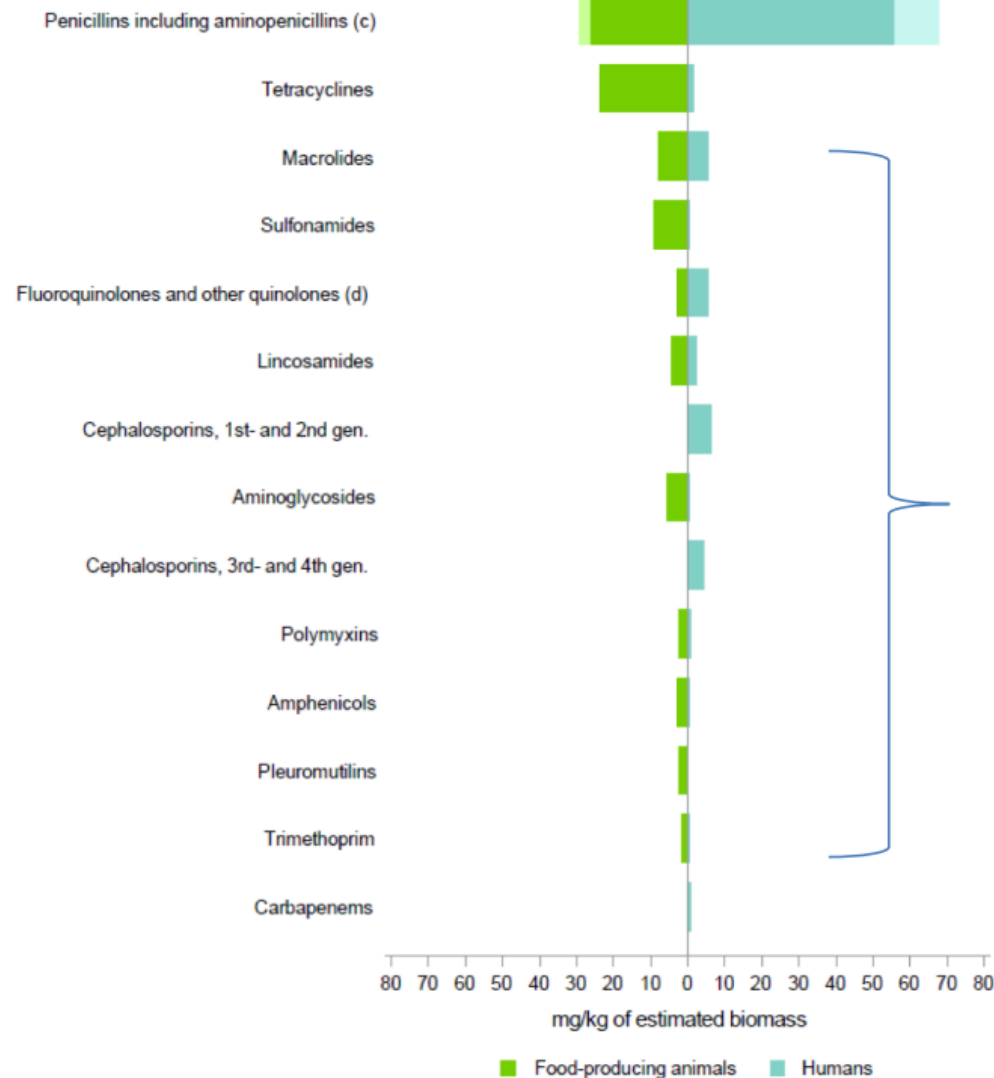
Total EU/EEA population weighted mean antimicrobial consumption in humans and food-producing animals



Consumption of antimicrobials in humans and food-producing animals




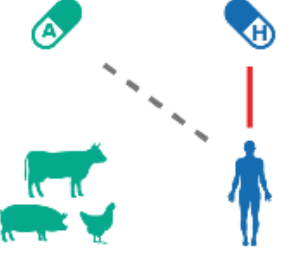

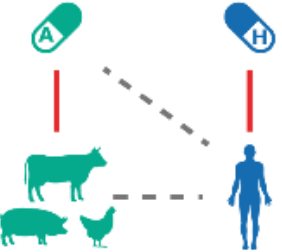
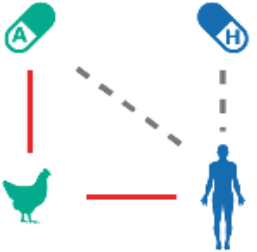








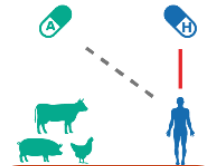

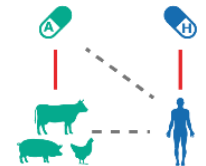
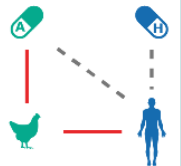


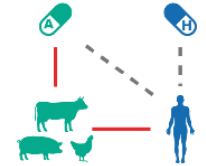

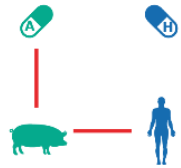


Comparison of consumption of antimicrobial classes in humans and animals






Antimicrobial class	Association between antimicrobial consumption in humans and animals	Association between antimicrobial consumption and antimicrobial resistance in humans and animals			
		<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i>	<i>Campylobacter coli</i>
Carbapenems (a)					
Third- and fourth-generation cephalosporins					
Fluoroquinolones and other quinolones					
Polymyxins					
Aminopenicillins					
Macrolides					
Tetracyclines					

- Statistically significant in multivariate analysis
- Statistically significant in univariate analysis (when multivariate cannot be performed)
- Statistically significant for at least one time period in the univariate analysis, but not confirmed in the multivariate analysis
- (a)** Carbapenems are not authorised for use in animals in the EU




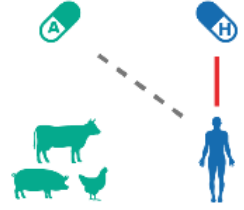

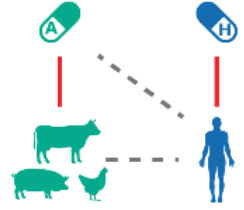
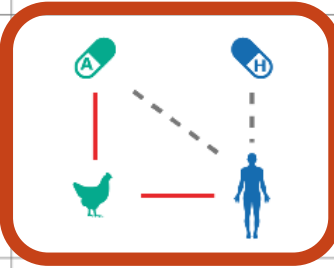




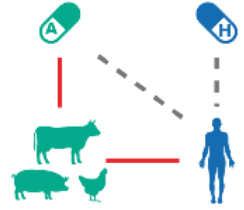



Antibiotic Class	antimicrobial consumption in humans and animals	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i>	<i>Campylobacter coli</i>
Antibiotics (a)					<p>Association between AMC and AMR in humans (<i>E. coli</i>)</p>
β-lactams					
Aminoglycosides					
Tetracyclines					

					
Third- and fourth-generation cephalosporins					
Fluoroquinolones and other quinolones					
Polymyxins					
Aminopenicillins					
Macrolides					
Tetracyclines					




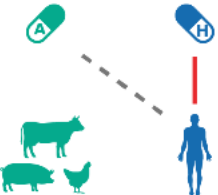

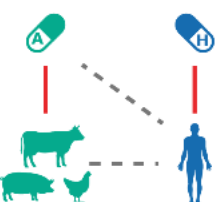
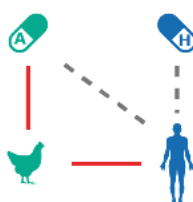
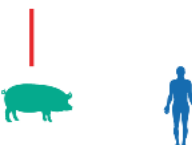



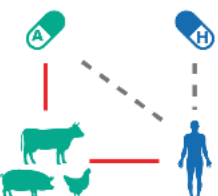





Association between AMC and AMR in food-producing animals (*E. coli*)

-  Statistically significant in multivariate analysis
-  Statistically significant in univariate analysis (when multivariate cannot be performed)
-  Statistically significant for at least one time period in the univariate analysis, but not confirmed in the multivariate analysis

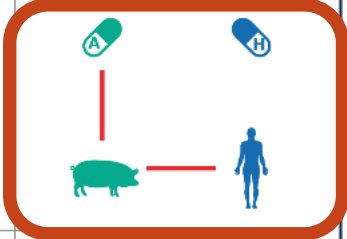
(a) Carbapenems are not authorised for use in animals in the EU

Antimicrobial class	consumption in humans and animals	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i>	<i>Campylobacter coli</i>
Carbapenems (a)					
Third- and fourth-generation cephalosporins					
Fluoroquinolones and other quinolones					
Polymyxins					
Aminopenicillins					
					

Association between AMR in poultry and humans (*C. jejuni*)

Carbapenems (a)					
Third- and fourth-generation cephalosporins					
Fluoroquinolones and other quinolones					
Polymyxins					
Aminopenicillins					
Macrolides					
					

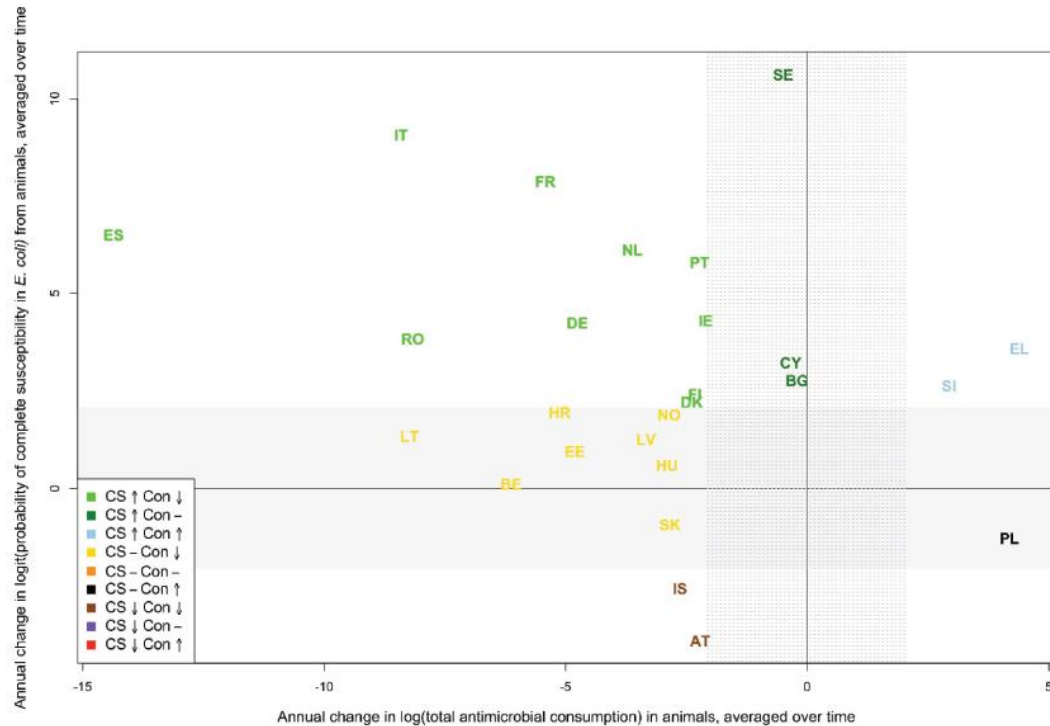
Association between AMR in pigs and humans (*C. coli*)



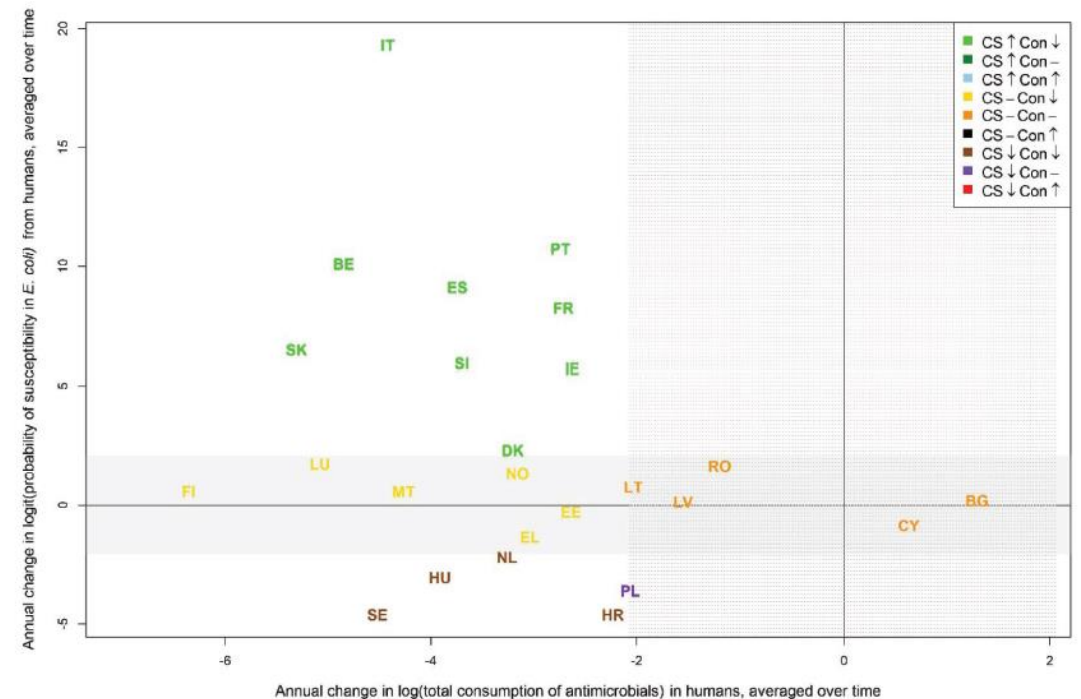
Trends in consumption and resistance from 2014 to 2021

Comparison of annual changes in total consumption in humans and complete susceptibility in *E. coli* isolates from humans, EU/EEA, 2014–2021

food-producing animals



humans



Primary Key Indicators over 2014-2021

Key AMC Indicators

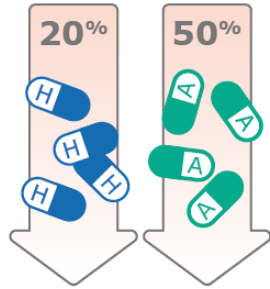
- Total consumption of antimicrobials **in humans**, expressed as defined daily doses (DDD) per 1,000 inhabitants and per day
- The overall sales of veterinary antimicrobials in milligram **in food-producing animals** in mg/PCU

Key AMR Indicators

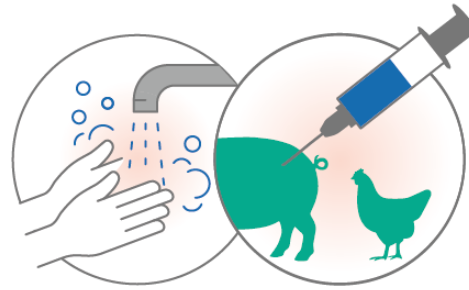
- The proportion of *E. coli* from **humans** with **resistance** to **3rd-generation cephalosporins**
- The proportion of *Staphylococcus aureus* resistant to methicillin (**MRSA**) in **humans**
- The proportion of *E. coli* from **food-producing animals** with **complete** antimicrobial **susceptibility**

2019	2020	2021	Country	Indicator	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Country	
11.6	8.8	8.8	Germany	AMC	AMC Humans*								Netherlands	
42.6	46.3	41.3			AMC Animals**	149.3	98.2	89.2	89.1	88.4	78.6	83.8		73.2
9.3	9.5	8.3		AMR	3GCR Ecoli Humans	10.5	10.3	11.1	12.3	12.2	11.5	10.4		9.1
5.2	4.4	3.1			MRSA Humans	12.9	11.5	10.2	9.1	7.7	6.7	5.5		4.9
3.0	38.5	37.4			Complete S EC Animals†	34.9	34.4	43.3	42.5	40.2	41.0	42.7		
21.4	16.7	17.4	Greece	AMC	AMC Humans*	31.0	33.2	33.1	34.2	34.1	34.1	28.1	23.5	
101.9	103.4	95.3			AMC Animals**		58.2	64.8	95.7	93.6	84.8	96.4	108.8	
10.0	9.9	8.3		AMR	3GCR Ecoli Humans	21.0	19.8	17.6	18.3	19.3	18.9	21.9	21.7	
6.7	6.9	4.1			MRSA Humans	37.1	39.4	38.8	38.4	36.4	37.6	40.2	41.9	
2.9	31.7	33.1			Complete S EC Animals†		10.0	4.9	4.4	7.2	11.5	14.1		
20.7	22.7	24.4	Hungary	AMC	AMC Humans*	15.2	15.8	14.4	14.6	14.8	14.4	11.2	11.9	
112.7	120.9	124.5			AMC Animals**	193.0	211.4	187.0	190.9	180.5	184.8	163.4	155.6	
38.6	41.4	37.3		AMR	3GCR Ecoli Humans	16.4	16.7	16.7	20.1	22.6	20.6	20.1	20.4	
14.8	11.8	15.2			MRSA Humans	23.1	24.7	25.2	23.6	23.1	19.4	21.0	19.3	
1.0	8.4	8.2			Complete S EC Animals†	22.5	21.5	20.2	20.4	22.9	21.5	22.3		
18.8	15.7	18.2	Iceland	AMC	AMC Humans*				20.7	20.4	19.3	16.5	16.8	
62.8	68.6	62.7			AMC Animals**	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.8	3.5	3.8	3.6	
15.9	16.6	18.6		AMR	3GCR Ecoli Humans	3.3	1.7	4.2	6.1	8.1	7.0	11.0	10.4	
24.9	29.2	34.8			MRSA Humans	3.3	0.0	1.3	1.4	0.0	5.8	5.2	1.1	
4.7	38.2	34.6			Complete S EC Animals†			76.3	71.7	69.5	71.7	61.1		
30.1	28.9	25.0	Ireland	AMC	AMC Humans*	21.0	23.0	22.0	20.9	22.4	22.8	18.6	17.8	
350.0	344.2	296.5			AMC Animals**	47.5	50.8	52.0	46.5	45.9	40.8	47.0	42.4	
20.7	29.8	32.8		AMR	3GCR Ecoli Humans	10.7	11.4	11.4	12.0	12.9	12.1	11.8	10.0	
36.2	49.1	42.9			MRSA Humans	19.4	18.1	14.3	16.3	12.4	12.6	11.6	10.6	
5	1.1	7.9			Complete S EC Animals†	27.7	27.6	25.7	30.3	33.5	32.2	36.6		

Recommendations



Reduction in the use of antimicrobials
(overall reduction of 20% in people and 50% in animals)



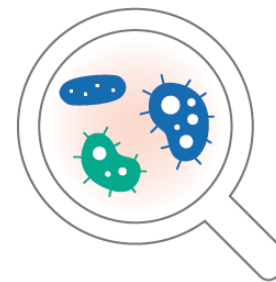
Increased focus on infection prevention and control
(vaccination and better hygiene)



Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials
(availability of diagnostic tests for selective use of antimicrobials and adherence to treatment guidelines)



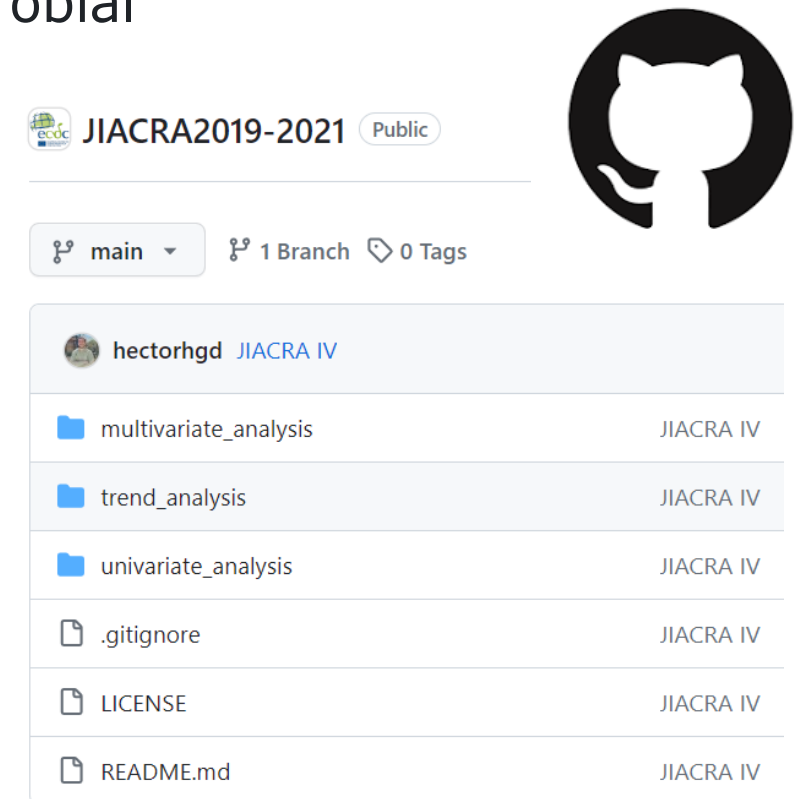
Complementary data for future analysis of links between antimicrobial consumption and resistance



Targeted studies for understanding the transmission of antimicrobial resistance

JIACRA IV Code Repository – new feature!

- A public repository containing code and synthetic anonymised data for the Fourth Joint Inter-Agency Report on Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance Analysis (JIACRA IV).
- The code developed used for the univariate, multivariate and time trend analyses can be found in a [GitHub repository](#). The repository includes code written in various programming languages, such as R and SAS.
- It includes documentation files as a guide for users to **understand and reproduce the analyses** performed in the report.



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'JIACRA2019-2021'. The repository is public and has 1 branch and 0 tags. The repository owner is hectorhgd. The repository contains the following files and folders:

File/Folder Name	Associated Report
multivariate_analysis	JIACRA IV
trend_analysis	JIACRA IV
univariate_analysis	JIACRA IV
.gitignore	JIACRA IV
LICENSE	JIACRA IV
README.md	JIACRA IV

The JACRA IV report and the Simplified Summary can be downloaded from:

<https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/veterinary-regulatory-overview/antimicrobial-resistance-veterinary-medicine/analysis-antimicrobial-consumption-resistance-jiacra-reports>

... and from ECDC's and EFSA's websites.

