

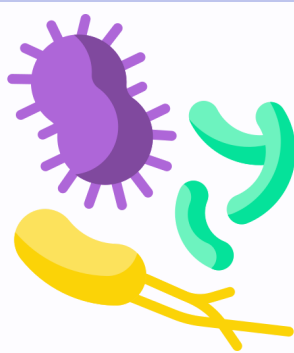
Economic burden of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

AMR is a global public health concern. It is defined as the ability of a micro-organism (such as a bacterium) to stop an antimicrobial from working against it.

Antimicrobials - such as antibiotics - are medicines used to prevent and treat infections. Due to wide spread AMR they become ineffective at fighting infections.



We conducted a **literature review** followed by an **economic analysis**.



We focused on **8 antimicrobial-resistant bacteria** of **public health concern**.



We estimated the costs for **50 public acute hospitals** in Ireland, in **2019**.

Over 4,700 resistant infections occurred in 2019, costing the health service an additional **€12 million** due to **longer hospital stays**.

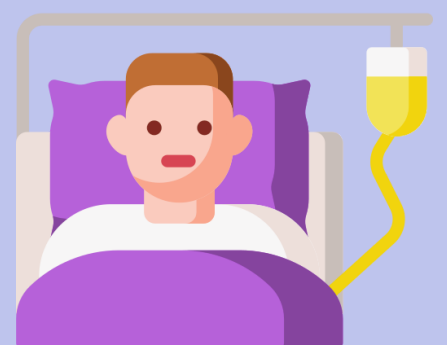


Due to a lack of complete data, this is an **underestimate of the total cost**.

These infections resulted in about 215 deaths and almost 5,000 years of full health lost.

AMR also places a significant burden, both health and financial, on patients, carers and families.

We found the burden of AMR in Ireland is similar to that reported for certain cancers and rheumatoid arthritis.



There is a need for enhanced surveillance of AMR in Ireland.

This would lead to:

- earlier identification and management of AMR threats
- allow an estimate of the true cost of AMR in Ireland.



This costing study was undertaken at the request of the Department of Health to support Ireland's First National Action Plan (iNAP) on Antimicrobial Resistance (2017-2020).

You can find out more at www.hiqa.ie.