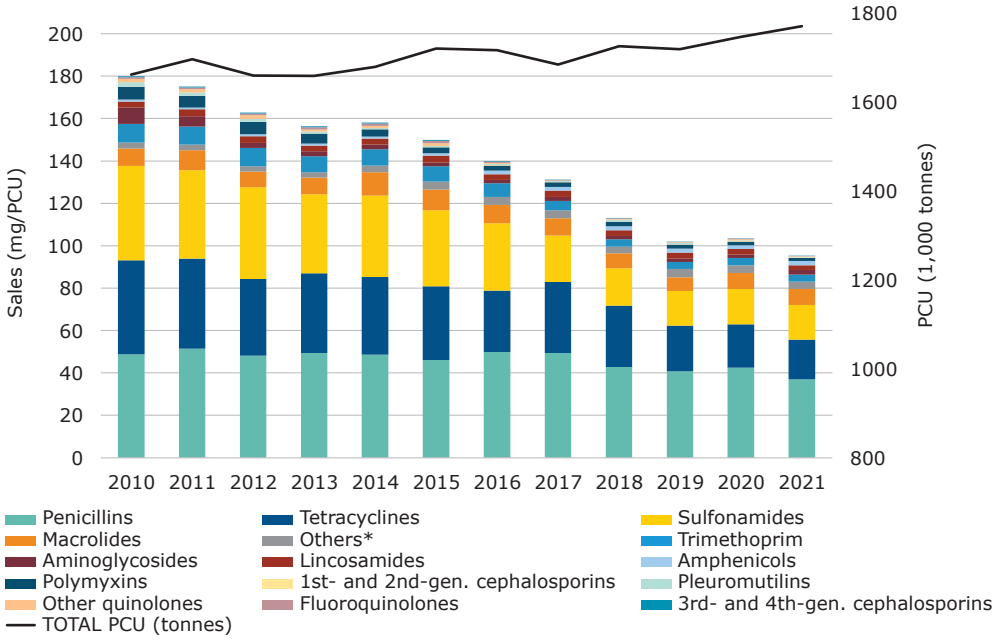
BELGIUM

Sales trends (mg/PCU) of antibiotic VMPs for food-producing animals

Sales trends by antibiotic class (mg/PCU) from 2010 to 2021[1]

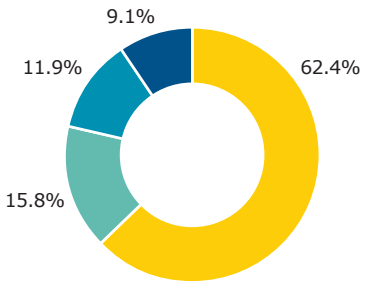


[1] Sales data sorted from highest to lowest in 2021.
* The class 'Others' includes sales of bacitracin, rifaximin and spectinomycin (classified as other antibacterials in the ATCvet system).

Since 2011:

- 45.6% overall annual sales (from 175.1 mg/PCU to 95.3 mg/PCU in 2021)
- 85.7% 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporin sales (from 0.50 mg/PCU to 0.07 mg/PCU in 2021)
- 76.6% fluoroquinolone sales (from 0.8 mg/PCU to 0.2 mg/PCU in 2021)
- 86.6% other quinolone sales (from 1.6 mg/PCU to 0.2 mg/PCU in 2021)
- 74% polymyxin sales (from 5.4 mg/PCU to 1.4 mg/PCU in 2021)
- The PCU increased by 4.4% between 2011 and 2021

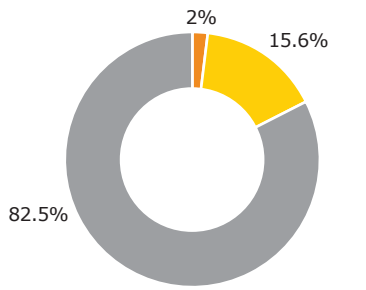
Proportion of sales (mg/PCU) by product form in 2021[1]



Sales of oral powders, oral solutions and premixes accounted for 87.3% of the total sales in 2021.

[1] Sales of other forms (intramammary, intrauterine, bolus and oral paste products) are not included in this figure and represent 0.7% of total sales).

Proportion of sales (mg/PCU) by AMEG categories in 2021



The majority of antibiotic VMP sales in 2021 belonged to the AMEG category D (Prudence), accounting for 82.5% of the total sales.

2021 sales data

In 2021, overall sales decreased by 7.8% in comparison to 2020 (from 103.4 mg/PCU to 95.3 mg/PCU). The three highest selling antibiotic classes were penicillins, tetracyclines and sulfonamides, which accounted for 38.8%, 19.7% and 17.1% of total sales, respectively.

Country information

From 2012, the year before ZnO premixes — which were authorised to be applied in therapeutic doses to weaned piglets and primarily replacing colistin — became available in Belgium, sales of polymyxins decreased substantially, by 65%. Also notably, on 26 June 2017, the EC adopted a decision to withdraw all marketing authorisations for VMPs containing ZnO administered orally to food-producing animal species[1]. As of 1 January 2021, the use of VMPs containing ZnO administered orally to food-producing species is no longer authorised in Belgium.

In Belgium, awareness campaigns on antibiotic use and the emergence of resistance are primarily based on the results of the national monitoring programme 'BelVet-Sac', which includes data on sales and on the use of veterinary antimicrobial VMPs. For this, the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP)[2] collaborates with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Ghent and the Centre of Expertise on Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance in Animals (AMCRA) to collect and analyse data.

Due to of a rather slow decreasing trend in overall antimicrobial use since 2011 (reference year) and the disappointing figures of 2014, the competent authorities decided in 2015 to prepare co-regulation measures to complement the awareness-raising activities of AMCRA and its partners. This resulted in a first Covenant on the responsible use of antibiotics in animals. Additional legal measures were implemented, and a centralised use data collection system was installed, with restrictions on the use of critically important antibiotics for human medicine, requiring obligatory sampling and sensitivity testing before use for food-producing animals. The Royal Decree came into force in mid-2016 and had an almost immediate effect.

Since 2016, the main activities include further awareness-raising initiatives (by AMCRA), enforcement activities by the competent authority regarding the new legislation and the preparation of individual analysis reports (benchmarking of both veterinarians and farmers).

In 2021, a 4-year national action plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was validated[3]. The aim of this action plan is to coordinate all AMR-related actions at the level of human medicines, veterinary medicines and the environment. In the framework of this national action plan, additional legal measures will be implemented and the data collection system to measure use at farm level will be extended to other target species. Also in 2021, the renewed Covenant on the responsible use of antibiotics in animals was signed by the competent authorities, AMCRA and partners from all sectors, which sets additional strategic and operational objectives for all parties involved.

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/health/documents/community-register/2017/20170626136754/dec_136754_en.pdf
[2] https://www.fagg-afmps.be/nl/DIERGENEESKUNDIG_gebruik/geneesmiddelen/geneesmiddelen/goed_gebruik/Antibiotica_0
[3] https://www.health.belgium.be/en/combating-antimicrobial-resistance-amr