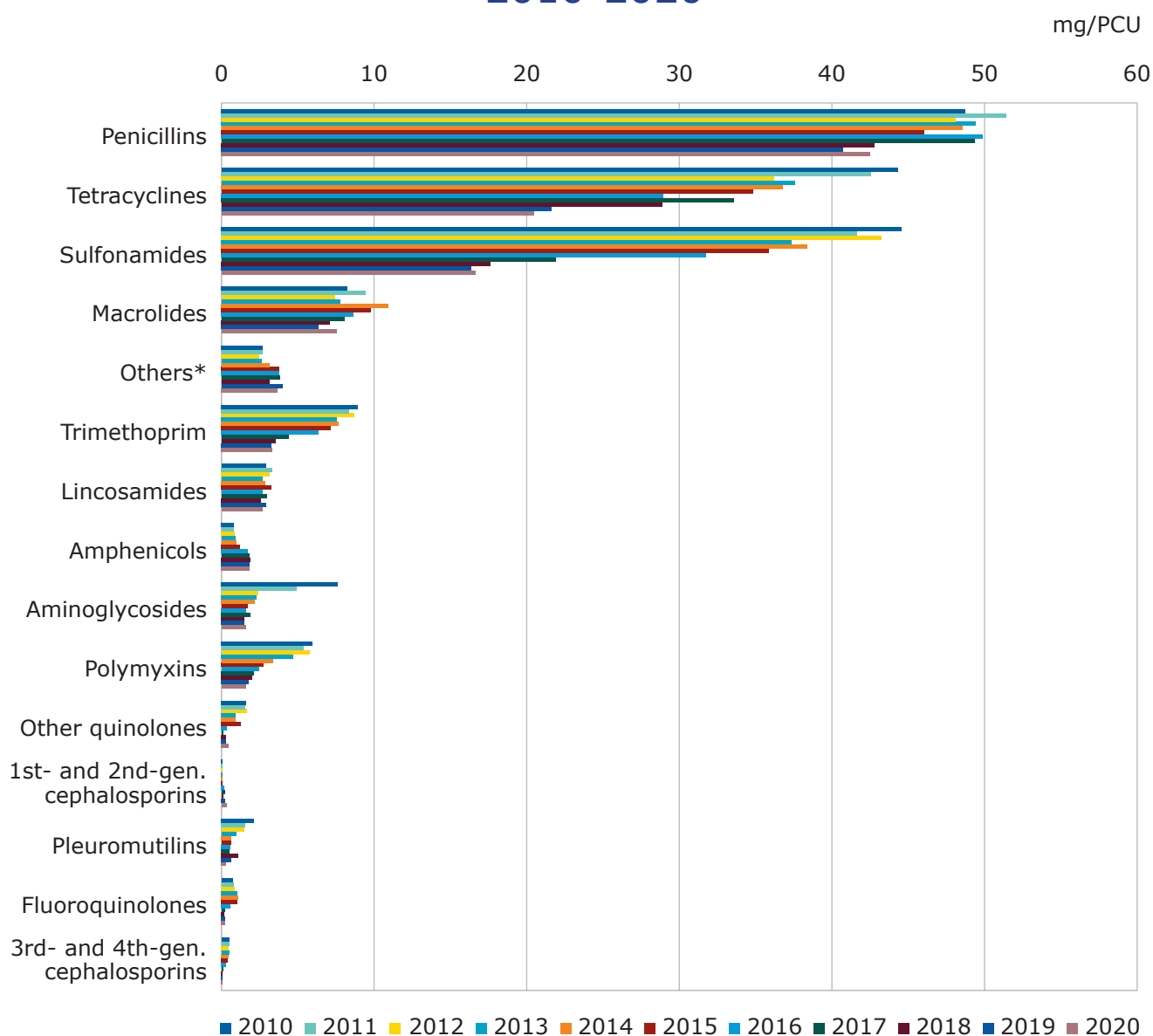




SALES TRENDS (MG/PCU) OF ANTIMICROBIAL VMPs FOR FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS

2010-2020



* The class 'Others' includes sales of bacitracin, rifaximin and spectinomycin (classified as 'Other antibacterials' in the ATCvet system).

In the past 10 years, overall annual sales of antimicrobials have declined by 41% in Belgium, from 175.1 mg/PCU in 2011 to 103.4 mg/PCU in 2020. In 2019, overall sales dropped by 9.8% in comparison with 2018 (from 113.0 mg/PCU in 2018 to 101.9 mg/PCU in 2019). However, in 2020 overall sales have increased slightly, by 1.4% compared to 2019. Sales of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins have dropped significantly since 2016, after a relatively consistent period of sales between 2011 and 2015. In 2020, sales of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins increased by 3.3% in comparison with 2019, from 0.079 mg/PCU to 0.081 mg/PCU. Aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 0.16 mg/PCU.

Overall sales of fluoroquinolones declined by 66.6% between 2011 (0.79 mg/PCU) and 2020 (0.26 mg/PCU). It has to be highlighted that the increase in sales of fluoroquinolones from 2010 was reversed for the first time in 2015 and dropped substantially in 2016 (by 43%). Sales increased again from 2018 (0.20 mg/PCU) to 2019 (0.24 mg/PCU) by 18.7%, and again from 2019 to 2020 (0.26 mg/PCU) by 11.6%, while aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 2.21 mg/PCU.

Overall annual sales of other quinolones decreased by 69.3% between 2011 (11.58 mg/PCU) and 2020 (0.48 mg/PCU). In comparison with 2019 (0.3 mg/PCU), sales of other quinolones increased by 61% in 2020. Until 2015, they represented $\leq 1\%$ of total annual antimicrobial sales, dropping to 0.3% in 2016. In 2020, they represented 0.5% of total annual sales. Aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 0.16 mg/PCU.

Between 2011 (5.37 mg/PCU) and 2020 (1.59 mg/PCU), sales of polymyxins declined by 70.4%. In comparison with 2019 (1.78 mg/PCU), sales of polymyxins dropped by 10.7% in 2020 (1.59 mg/PCU). Aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 2.58 mg/PCU. Of note, from 2012, the year before ZnO premixes – which are 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 species¹. As of 1 January 2021 the use of VMPs containing ZnO administered orally to food-producing species is no longer authorised in Belgium.

Sales of macrolides in 2020 (7.54 mg/PCU) have also dropped by 20.5% from 2011 (9.46 mg/PCU) and increased by 18.3% from 2019 (6.38 mg/PCU).

In Belgium, awareness campaigns on antibiotic use and the emergence of resistance are primarily based on the national monitoring programme 'BelVet-Sac'. For this, the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP)² collaborates with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Ghent to collect and analyse data.

Because of a rather slow decreasing trend in overall antimicrobial use since 2011 (reference year) and the disappointing figures of 2014, the competent authority decided in 2015 to prepare co-regulation measures to complement the awareness-raising activities of the Centre of Expertise on Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance in Animals (AMCRA) and its partners. Additional legal measures were implemented, and a centralised 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. 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).

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, upon invitation by the Belgian authorities, jointly carried out a country visit between 16 and 24 November 2017 in order to discuss policies relating to antimicrobial resistance³.

In 2019–2020, a national action plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was elaborated. 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.

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://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit_reports/details.cfm?rep_id=3995

