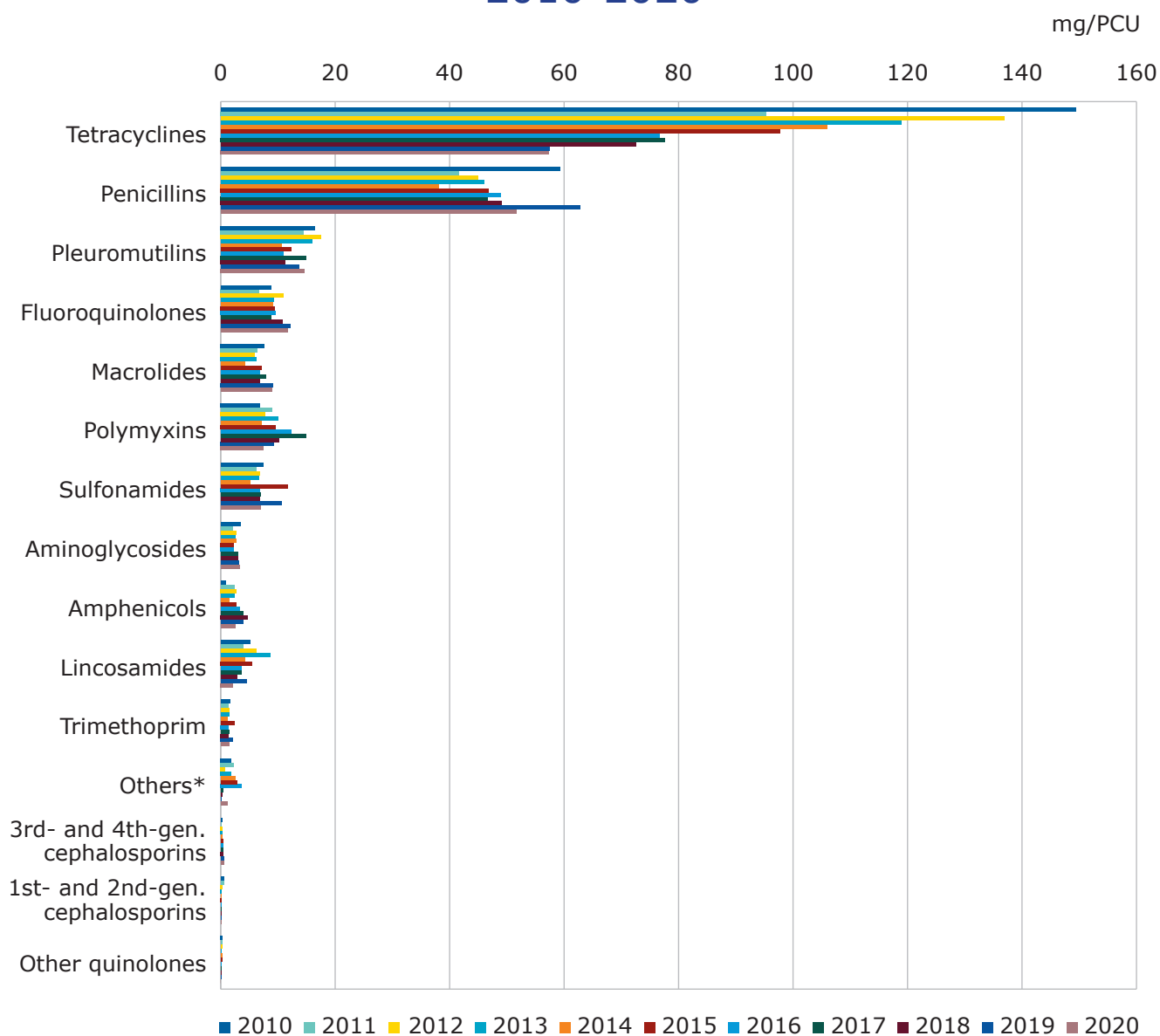




SALES TRENDS (MG/PCU) OF ANTIMICROBIAL VMPs FOR FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS

2010-2020



No sales of other quinolones were reported in 2020.

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

Total sales (mg/PCU) fluctuated during the period 2010 to 2020. Sales were 269.9 mg/PCU, 192.5 mg/PCU, 245.7 mg/PCU, 230.6 mg/PCU, 193 mg/PCU, 211.4 mg/PCU, 187 mg/PCU, 190.9 mg/PCU, 180.5 mg/PCU, 189.7 mg/PCU and 169.9 mg/PCU for each year, respectively. In 2010, the system for collecting data was different. Wholesalers also reported the amounts they had sold to each other, so the 2010 data are probably overestimates.

From 2018 to 2019, sales increased by 5.1%, but fell again in 2020 by 10.4%. Overall, from 2011 to 2020, total sales fell by 11.7%. The highest-selling antimicrobial classes over the years were tetracyclines and penicillins, despite fluctuations. In comparison to 2011, sales of tetracyclines have decreased by 39.8%, while sales of penicillins have increased by 24.3%. Tetracyclines and penicillins accounted for 33.8% and 30.4%, respectively, of total annual sales in 2020. 1st- and 2nd-generation cephalosporins accounted for 0.06% of total annual sales (in mg/PCU).

Sales of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins show a rising trend over the years and in 2020 accounted for 0.3% of total annual sales. From 2011 (0.14 mg/PCU) to 2020 (0.51 mg/PCU), sales increased by 255.2%. Aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 0.16 mg/PCU.

Sales of fluoroquinolones fluctuated over the years, increasing by 72.6% between 2011 (6.74 mg/PCU) and 2020 (11.64 mg/PCU). Between 2018 (10.81 mg/PCU) and 2019 (12.19 mg/PCU), sales increased by 12.8%, followed by a 4.5% decrease in 2020 when sales of fluoroquinolones accounted for 6.8% of total annual sales, making them the fourth highest-selling antimicrobial class. Aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 2.21 mg/PCU.

For other quinolones, sales decreased by 63.9% from 2011 (0.20 mg/PCU) to 2019 (0.07 mg/PCU), with no sales reported in 2020. Aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 0.16 mg/PCU.

Sales of polymyxins also fluctuated, and in comparison to 2011 (8.91 mg/PCU) were 15.6% lower in 2020 (7.51 mg/PCU). Of note, in 2020, polymyxins accounted for 4.4% of total annual sales, making them the sixth highest-selling antimicrobial class. Aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 2.58 mg/PCU.

Annual sales of macrolides fluctuated over the years, peaking in 2019 at 9.19 mg/PCU. In 2020, they decreased by 3.1% in comparison to 2019 but were 39% higher than in 2011 (6.41 mg/PCU).

A national action plan to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance was developed in 2018. In line with this action plan, amendments to national legislation on VMPs were made in 2021. The most important measures are the following:

- antimicrobial VMPs can only be prescribed for food-producing animals for a maximum of 7 days if the product is administered by the animals' owner/keeper;
- the efficacy of any antibiotic treatment administered to food-producing animals should be checked by the responsible veterinarian during an on-site clinical examination;
- for food-producing animals, the prophylactic use of VMPs containing 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and colistin is prohibited;
- for food-producing animals, antimicrobial VMPs may only be prescribed by veterinarians officially authorised to do so.

