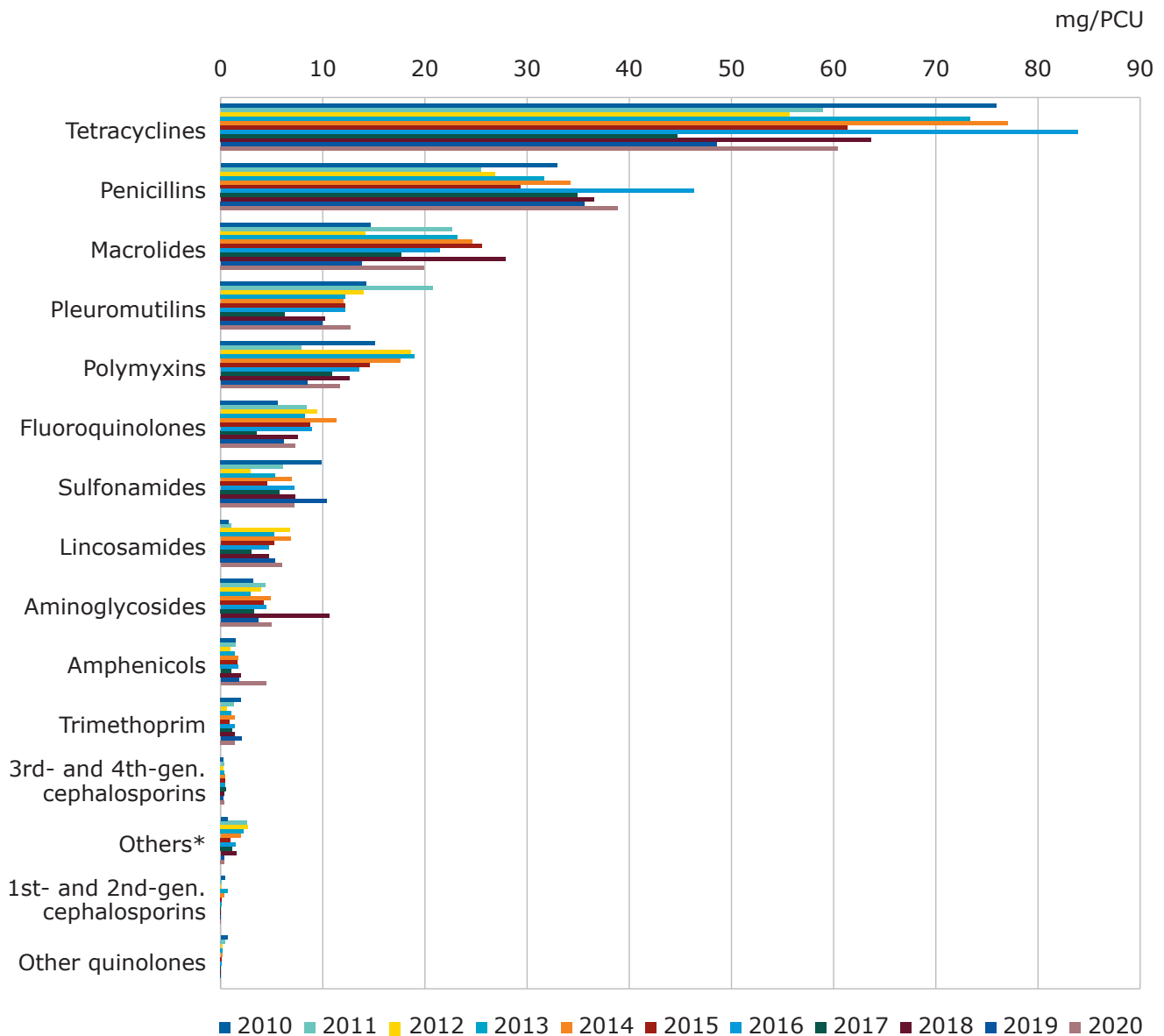




SALES TRENDS (MG/PCU) OF ANTIMICROBIAL VMPs FOR FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS

2010-2020



No sales of other quinolones were reported in 2020.

Under-reporting has been identified for 2010-2014, 2017 and 2019.

* The class 'Others' includes sales of the following sub-classes: Imidazole derivatives (metronidazole), Nitrofurantoin derivatives (furazolidone) and Other antibacterials (bacitracin, rifaximin and spectinomycin). Of note is that some of the sales could be for non-food-producing animals.

In Portugal, overall sales fluctuated over the period of participation in the ESVAC project, showing a peak in 2016 (208 mg/PCU) and a trough in 2017 (134.2 mg/PCU). In 2020 (175.8 mg/PCU), a 19.9% increase of sales was recorded in comparison to 2019 (146.6 mg/PCU). The 2019 sales data are a result of both under-reporting and consumption reduction (confirmed by the stakeholders). In 2020, there was an increase in sales, but this was not as big as the data suggest due to the under-reporting in 2019. Taking this fact into consideration, Portugal developed a new platform for the collection, management and analysis of these data in order to reduce errors in data collection and reporting. Tetracyclines, penicillins and macrolides are the highest-selling antimicrobials in Portugal, accounting for 34.4%, 22.1% and 11.4%, respectively, of total sales in 2020.

In 2014, the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Reduction of Use of Antibiotics in Animals emphasised the need for a reduction in the use of HP CIAs in human medicine. In 2016, the autonomous regions of Portugal initiated the reporting of antimicrobial VMP sales to support accurate data collection. Since then, datasets have included sales of antimicrobial VMPs in those regions.

Sales (in mg/PCU) of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins remained relatively stable from 2010 to 2020. In 2020, sales of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporin VMPs were 0.38 mg/PCU, while aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 0.16 mg/PCU.

Sales of fluoroquinolones fluctuated over the years, peaking in 2014 (11.38 mg/PCU). This was mainly attributed to the availability of several wide-spectrum generic VMPs, particularly those containing enrofloxacin. In 2020, sales of fluoroquinolones were 7.30 mg/PCU, while aggregated sales for the 25 countries in that year were 2.21 mg/PCU.

Sales of other quinolones dropped from 2010 to 2019, with no sales reported in 2020. In 2010, this subclass accounted for 0.37% of total sales, while in 2019 the figure was 0.001%.

Sales (mg/PCU) of polymyxins, namely colistin, have fluctuated over the years, with the highest (18.99 mg/PCU) and lowest (7.90 mg/PCU) levels observed in 2013 and 2011, respectively. Polymyxins are last-resort antimicrobials for use in humans, which means that sales of VMPs containing antimicrobial agents of this class require further attention. In 2020, sales of polymyxins increased to 11.66 mg/PCU — up by 37.4% compared to 2019.

A new strategic national plan under the 'One Health' approach involving the human, veterinary and environment sectors, with an operational plan and measurable objectives based on previous results, was established for 2019–2023¹.

Meanwhile, new initiatives have already been taken, namely voluntary programmes for the reduction of the use of antimicrobials in rabbits and poultry and colistin in pigs.

Since 2010, the national annual reports monitoring the antimicrobial consumption of VMPs approved for use in food-producing and companion animals are publicly available on the Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary website².

¹ <https://www.dgs.pt/documentos-e-publicacoes/plano-nacional-de-combate-a-resistencia-aos-antimicrobianos-2019-2023-pdf.aspx>

² <https://www.dgav.pt/medicamentos/conteudo/medicamentos-veterinarios/planos-de-controlo-oficial-e-relatorios/esvac/>

