

WHO bacterial priority pathogens list, 2024: Bacterial pathogens of public health importance to



Overview

The 2024 WHO Bacterial Priority Pathogens List (WHO BPPL) is an important tool in the global fight against antimicrobial resistance. Building on the 2017 edition, the 2024 WHO BPPL updates and refines the prioritization of antibiotic-resistant bacterial pathogens to address the evolving challenges of antibiotic resistance. The list categorizes these pathogens into critical, high, and medium priority groups to inform research and development (R&D) and public health interventions.

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Antibiotic resistance

17 May 2024 | Report

The 2024 WHO BPPL covers 24 pathogens, spanning 15 families of antibiotic-resistant bacterial pathogens. Notable among these are Gram-negative bacteria resistant to last-resort antibiotics, drug-resistant *mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and other high-burden resistant pathogens such as *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Staphylococcus aureus*. The inclusion of these pathogens in the list underscores their global impact in terms of burden, as well as issues related to transmissibility, treatability, and prevention options. It also reflects the R&D pipeline of new treatments and emerging resistance trends.

The WHO BPPL acts as a guide for prioritizing R&D and investments in AMR, emphasizing the need for regionally tailored strategies to effectively combat resistance. It targets developers of antibacterial medicines, academic and public research institutions, research funders, and public-private partnerships investing in AMR R&D, as well as policy-makers responsible for developing and implementing AMR policies and programs.

Further details on the rationale behind the list, the methodologies used to develop the list and the key findings, can be found in the accompanying report.

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