When Antibiotics Fail



Council of Conseil des Canadian académies Academies canadiennes

The growing cost of antimicrobial resistance in Canada

We depend on the widespread availability of effective antimicrobials to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals, and crops. But bacteria continually evolve to resist antimicrobials, leading to ineffective drugs, and serious infections, that are increasingly difficult to treat. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is on the rise worldwide and new data suggest that the potential impact of AMR poses a serious threat to the health and wealth of Canada.

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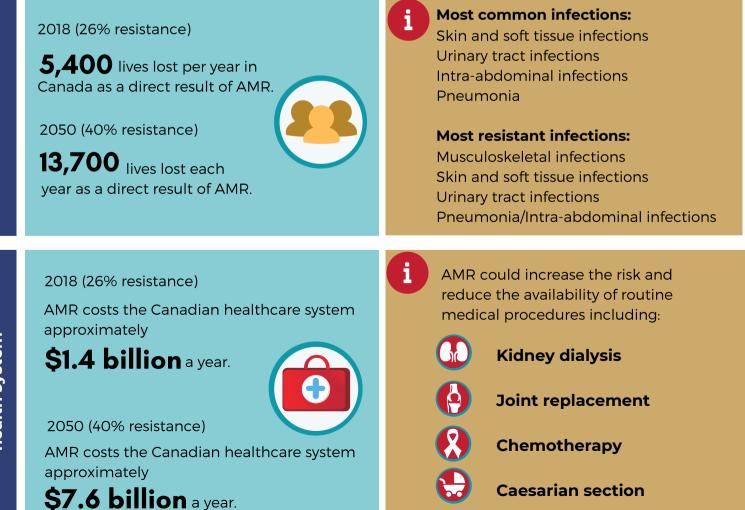
When Antibiotics Fail is an independent, evidence-based assessment of the potential socio-economic impact of AMR in Canada. Using existing data and a quantitative economic model, a panel of experts found that in Canada:



In 2018, approximately **26%** of infections were resistant to the drugs generally used to treat them.

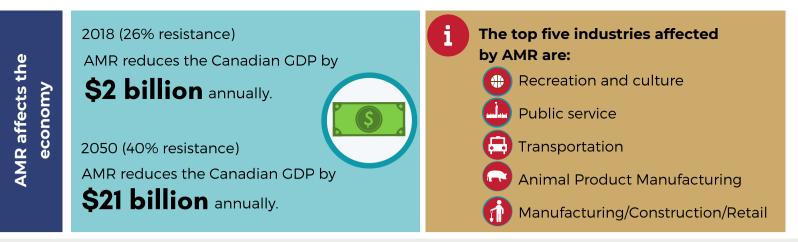


By 2050, the rate of resistance is likely to grow to 40%



AMR affects health

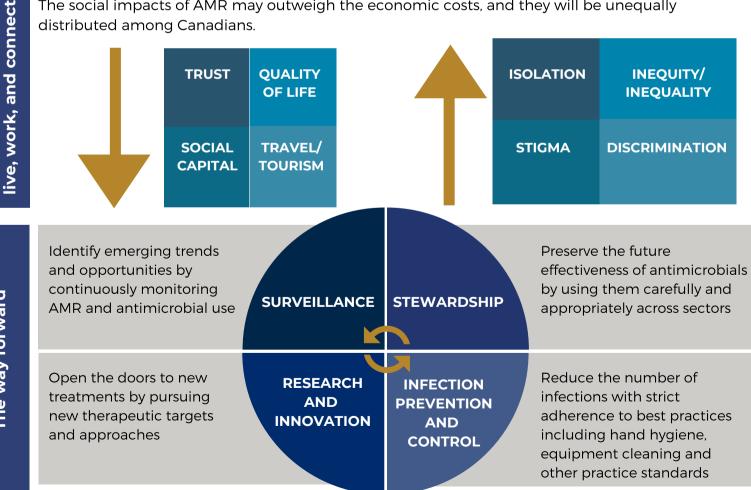
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If AMR increases gradually from 26% to 40%, by 2050, the **cumulative** cost to Canada is estimated at:



The social impacts of AMR may outweigh the economic costs, and they will be unequally distributed among Canadians.



When Antibiotics Fail. The Expert Panel on the Socio-Economic Impacts of Antimicrobial Resistance in Canada (2019).

AMR affects how we

The way forward