

# What is antibiotic-resistant bacteria?



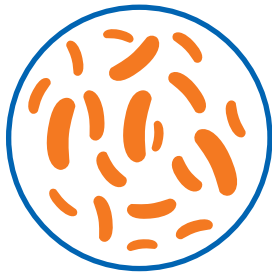
**BE  
ANTIBIOTICS  
AWARE**

SMART USE, BEST CARE

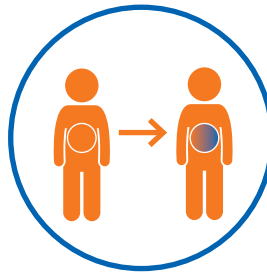
Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria no longer respond to the drugs designed to kill them. Anytime antibiotics are used, they can cause antibiotic resistance.



Bacteria, not the body, become resistant to the antibiotics designed to kill them.



When bacteria become resistant, antibiotics cannot fight them, and the bacteria multiply.



Some resistant bacteria can be harder to treat and can spread to other people.

Each year in the U.S., at least **2 million** people get infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria. At least **23,000 people** die as a result.

To learn more about antibiotic prescribing and use, visit [www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use).

