

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT ORGANISMS (MDROs)

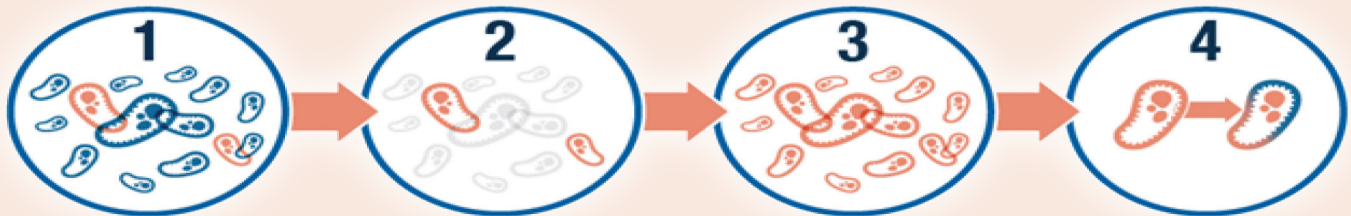


## What Are MDROs?

Multidrug-resistant organisms are germs like bacteria or other microorganisms that have developed resistance to multiple antibiotics or antifungals normally used to treat them.

Each year in the U.S., **at least 2.8 million people are infected** with antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and **at least 35,000 people die** as a result.<sup>1</sup>

## How Does Antibiotic Resistance Occur?



**1**  
Lots of bacteria.  
A few of them  
are resistant  
to antibiotics.

**2**  
Antibiotics kill bacteria  
causing the illness, as  
well as good bacteria  
protecting the body  
from infection.

**3**  
The resistant  
bacteria now  
have favorable  
conditions to grow  
and take over.

**4**  
Bacteria can even  
transfer their  
drug-resistance  
to other bacteria,  
causing more problems.

## What is Antibiotic Resistance?

An antibiotic is a medicine that kills or slows the growth of bacteria. Antibiotic resistance does not mean the body is becoming resistant to antibiotics; it is that bacteria have become resistant to the antibiotics designed to treat them.

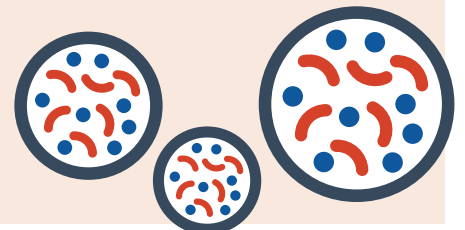
## Antibiotic Resistance Can Affect Anyone

No one can completely avoid the risk of infections caused by MDROs but some people are at greater risk than others (for example, people with chronic illnesses). If antibiotics lose their effectiveness, then we lose the ability to treat infections.

About a hundred antibiotic drugs have been developed and bacterial resistance has been acknowledged for every one of them, many of them within months of their availability.<sup>1</sup>

## Reduce Your Risks, Protect Yourself and Others

- Inform your health care provider if you recently received health care in another country or facility.
- Talk to your health care provider about preventing infections, taking good care of chronic conditions and getting recommended vaccines.
- Practice good hygiene, such as keeping hands clean and keeping cuts clean and covered until healed.
- Take antibiotics as appropriate and as instructed by your health care provider.



For more information regarding antibiotic resistance and the NC SHARPPS Program, visit:

<https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/hai/program.html> and email [nchai@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:nchai@dhhs.nc.gov)



State of North Carolina • Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health • Communicable Disease Branch

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<sup>1</sup> CDC. Antibiotic Resistance Threatens Everyone at: [www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/about.html](http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/about.html)