CDC Biggest Threat List

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| Name of Pathogen | Description | Cases / year | Deaths / year |
| **URGENT THREATS** |  |  |  |
| **Carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter** | [Acinetobacter](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/acinetobacter.html) bacteria causes pneumonia and wound, bloodstream, and urinary tract infections. Nearly all infections happen in patients who recently received care in a healthcare facility. | **8,500** estimated cases in hospitalized patients in 2017 | **700** estimated deaths in 2017 |
| **Drug-resistant Candida auris** | [C. auris](https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/Candida-auris/index.html) is an emerging multidrug-resistant yeast (fungi). It can cause severe infections and spreads easily between hospitalized patients and nursing home residents. | **323** clinical cases in 2018 | no data |
| ***Clostridioides difficile*** | [*C. difficile*](https://www.cdc.gov/cdiff/index.html), or C. diff, bacteria causes life-threatening diarrhea and colitis (an inflammation of the colon), mostly in people who have had both recent medical care and antibiotics. | **223,900** infections per year | **12,800** deaths per year |
| **Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE)** | [CRE](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/) bacteria are a major concern for patients in healthcare facilities. Some Enterobacterales are resistant to nearly all antibiotics, leaving more toxic or less effective treatment options. | **1,100** estimated cases in hospitalized patients in 2017 | **13,100** estimated deaths in 2017 |
| **Drug-resistant Gonorrhea** | [Gonorrhea](https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/arg/default.htm) is caused by the bacteria Neisseria gonorrhoeae. It is a sexually transmitted disease that can result in life-threatening ectopic pregnancy and infertility, and can increase the risk of getting and giving HIV. | **550,000** estimated drug-resistant infections per year | no data |
| **SERIOUS THREATS** |  |  |  |
| **Drug-resistant Campylobacter** | [*Campylobacter*](https://www.cdc.gov/campylobacter/index.html) bacteria usually causes diarrhea (often bloody), fever, and abdominal cramps. It can spread from animals to people through contaminated food, especially raw or undercooked chicken. | **448,400** drug-resistance infections per year | **70** estimated deaths per year |
| **Drug-resistant Candida Species** | Dozens of [*Candida*](https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/index.html) species—a group of fungi—cause infections, ranging from mild oral and vaginal yeast infections to severe invasive infections. Many are resistant to the antifungals used to treat them. | **34,800** estimated cases in hospitalized patents in 2017 | **1,700** deaths in 2017 |
| **Drug-resistant Candida Species** | Dozens of [*Candida*](https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/index.html) species—a group of fungi—cause infections, ranging from mild oral and vaginal yeast infections to severe invasive infections. Many are resistant to the antifungals used to treat them. | **34,800** estimated cases in hospitalized patents in 2017 | **1,700** deaths in 2017 |
| **ESBL-producing Enterobacterales** | [ESBL-producing Enterobacterales](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/ESBL.html) are a concern in healthcare settings and the community. They can spread rapidly and cause or complicate infections in healthy people. ESBLs (extended-spectrum beta-lactamase) are enzymes that make commonly used antibiotics ineffective | **197,400** estimated cases in hospitalized patients in 2017 | **9,100** estimated deaths in 2017 |
| **Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE)** | [Enterococci](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/vre/vre.html) bacteria can cause serious infections for patients in healthcare settings, including bloodstream, surgical site, and urinary tract infections. | **54,500** estimated cases in hospitalized patients in 2017 | **5,400** estimated deaths in 2017 |
| **Multidrug-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa** | [P. aeruginosa](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/pseudomonas.html) bacteria usually cause infections in people with weakened immune systems. It can be particularly dangerous for patients with chronic lung diseases. | **32,600** estimated cases in hospitalized patients in 2017 | **2,700** estimated deaths in 2017 |
| **Drug-resistant nontyphoidal Salmonella** | Nontyphoidal [Salmonella](https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/index.html)bacteria can spread from animals to people through food. It usually causes diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps. Some infections spread to the blood and can have life-threatening complications. | **212,500** estimated drug-resistant infections per year | **70** estimated deaths per year |
| **Drug-resistant Salmonella serotype Typhi** | Salmonella Typhi (also called [Typhoid Fever](https://www.cdc.gov/typhoid-fever/sources.html)) is bacteria that causes a serious disease called typhoid fever, which can be life-threatening. Most people in the U.S. become infected while traveling to countries where the disease is common. | **4,100** estimated drug-resistant infections per year | **Less than 5** estimated deaths per year |
| **Drug-resistant Shigella** | [Shigella](https://www.cdc.gov/shigella/index.html) bacteria spreads in feces through direct contact or through contaminated surfaces, food, or water. Most people with Shigella infections develop diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps. | **77,000** estimated drug-resistant infections per year | **Less than 5** estimated deaths per year |
| **Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)** | S. aureus are common bacteria that spread in healthcare facilities and the community. [MRSA](https://www.cdc.gov/mrsa/index.html) can cause difficult-to-treat staph infections because of resistance to some antibiotics. | **323,700** estimated cases in hospitalized patients in 2017 | **10,600** estimated deaths in 2017 |
| **Drug-resistant Streptococcus pneumoniae** | S. pneumoniae bacteria causes [pneumococcal disease](https://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/clinicians/drug-resistance.html) (also called pneumococcus), which can range from ear and sinus infections to pneumonia and bloodstream infections. | **900,000**estimated infections in 2014 | **3,600** estimated deaths in 2014 |
| **Drug-resistant Tuberculosis** | [Tuberculosis](https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/drtb/default.htm) (TB) is caused by the bacteria Mycobacterium tuberculosis. It is a common infectious disease that frequently causes death worldwide.TB can be resistant to more than one antibiotic used to treat it. | **847** Drug-resistant TB cases in 2017 | **62** Deaths in 2017 |
| **CONCERNING THREATS** |  |  |  |
| **Erythromycin-resistant Group A Streptococcus (GAS)** | [GAS](https://www.cdc.gov/groupastrep/index.html) bacteria can cause many different infections that range from minor illnesses to serious and deadly diseases, including strep throat, pneumonia, flesh-eating infections, and sepsis. | **5,400** estimated drug-resistant infections in 2017 | **450** estimated deaths in 2017 |
| **Clindamycin-resistant Group B Streptococcus (GBS)** | [GBS](https://www.cdc.gov/groupbstrep/index.html) bacteria can cause severe illness in people of all ages. | **13,000** estimated drug-resistant infections in 2016 | **720**estimated deaths in 2016 |
| **WATCH LIST** |  |  |  |
| **Azole-resistant Aspergillus fumigatus** | [Aspergillus](https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/aspergillosis/index.html) is a fungus that can cause life-threatening infections in people with weakened immune systems. These infections are treated with antifungals called azoles. Azoles are also increasingly used in agriculture to prevent and treat fungal diseases in crops. Azole use in human medicine and agriculture can contribute to [resistance to antifungal medicines](https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/antifungal-resistance.html)**.** | no data | no data |
| **Drug-resistant Mycoplasma genitalium (M. genitalium)** | [*M. genitalium*](https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/mycoplasmagenitalium.htm) bacteria are sexually transmitted and can cause urethritis in men (inflammation of the urethra) and may cause cervicitis in women (inflammation of the cervix). Few antibiotics are available to treat M. genitalium infections. Resistance to azithromycin, which has been recommended for treatment, is high across the globe. | no data | no data |
| **Drug-resistant Bordetella pertussis (B. pertussis)** | [Pertussis](https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html), a respiratory illness commonly known as whooping cough, is a very contagious disease caused by bacteria. It can cause serious and sometimes deadly complications, especially in babies. | no data | no data |