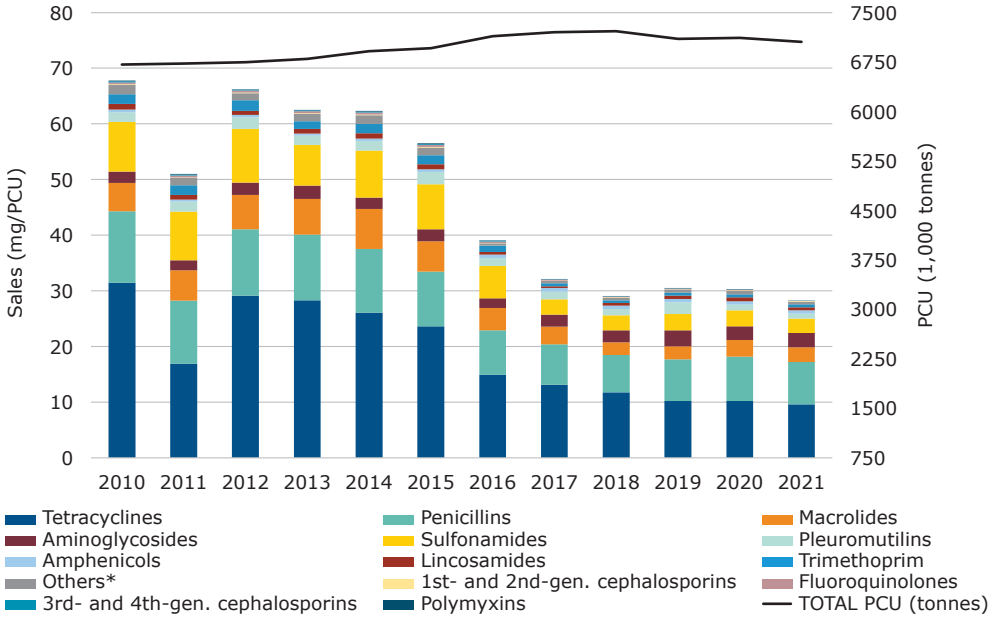
UNITED KINGDOM

Sales trends (mg/PCU) of antibiotic VMPs for food-producing animals

Sales trends by antibiotic class (mg/PCU) from 2010 to 2021[1,2]

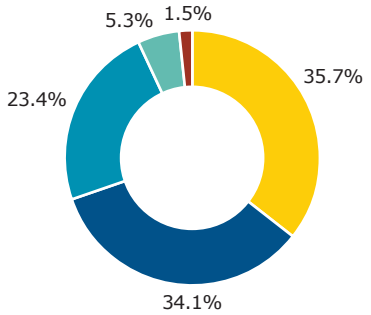


[1] Sales data sorted from highest to lowest in 2021.
[2] No sales of other quinolones in any of the years.
* The class 'Others' includes sales of the following sub-classes: imidazole derivatives (metronidazole) and other antibacterials (novobiocin and spectinomycin). Of note is that some of the sales could be for non-food-producing animals.

Since 2011:

- 44.5% overall annual sales (from 51.0 mg/PCU to 28.3 mg/PCU in 2021)
- 88.4% 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporin sales (from 0.17 mg/PCU to 0.02 mg/PCU in 2021)
- 66.4% quinolone sales (from 0.28 mg/PCU to 0.10 mg/PCU in 2021)
- 100% of all quinolone sales in all years were of fluoroquinolones
- 100% polymyxin sales (from 0.13 mg/PCU to 0 mg/PCU in 2021)
- The PCU increased by 4.9% between 2011 and 2021

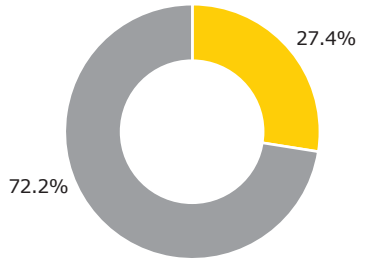
Proportion of sales (mg/PCU) by product form in 2021



Sales of oral powders, oral solutions and premixes accounted for 75.2% of the total sales in 2021.

* Other forms include intramammary, intrauterine, bolus and oral paste products.

Proportion of sales (mg/PCU) by AMEG categories in 2021[1]



The majority of antibiotic VMP sales in 2021 belonged to the AMEG category D (Prudence), accounting for 72.2% of the total sales.

[1] Sales of antibiotic classes belonging to the AMEG category B (Restrict) are not included in this figure and represent 0.4% of total sales.

2021 sales data

In 2021, overall sales decreased by 6.5% in comparison to 2020 (from 30.2 mg/PCU to 28.3 mg/PCU). The three highest selling antibiotic classes were tetracyclines, penicillins and macrolides, which accounted for 33.9%, 26.9% and 9.4% of total sales, respectively.

Country information

It is thought that 2011 sales are artificially low and 2010 sales are artificially high due to altered product-purchasing behaviour in anticipation of a change in MAHs for certain tetracycline-containing VMPs between 2010 and 2011.

A programme for the surveillance of antibiotic use continues to be developed in the UK. The UK-VARSS (Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance) report[1] includes antibiotic use data from the pig, turkey, broiler, duck, laying hen, game bird, salmon and trout sectors. A Medicine Hub was also launched by the UK ruminant sector in 2021, which is an independent, central repository to collate, report and compare antibiotic use at farm level for both cattle and sheep[2].

During 2021, the main livestock sectors continued to work towards delivering on their industry targets[3]. In addition, the Farm Vet Champions scheme was launched, which is an online learning platform for vets, which is focused on promoting good antimicrobial stewardship in veterinary practices and on farms[4].

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/veterinary-antimicrobial-resistance-and-sales-surveillance
[2] https://www.medicinehub.org.uk/
[3] https://www.ruma.org.uk/reports/
[4] https://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/amr/farm-vet-champions/