

OUTPATIENT ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS — United States, 2015

Healthcare providers prescribed **269.4 million** antibiotic prescriptions—equivalent to **838 antibiotic prescriptions per 1000 persons**.

Citation: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Outpatient antibiotic prescriptions — United States, 2015. Available via the internet: <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/pdfs/Annual-Report-2015.pdf>

Data Sources:

Systemic oral antibiotics were extracted from the QuintilesIMS Xponent database. QuintilesIMS captured an estimated 88% of outpatient prescriptions for any medication nationally, reconciled them to wholesale deliveries, and projected to 100% coverage. These data represent all outpatient antibiotic prescriptions from community pharmacies from all payers, but exclude federal facilities. Provider specialties are taken from the American Medical Association (AMA) self-designated practice specialties and categorized into one of 17 groups. Population data were obtained from the U.S. Census bridging files.

References

Hicks, L.A., et al., *US Outpatient Antibiotic Prescribing Variation According to Geography, Patient Population, and Provider Specialty in 2011*. Clin Infect Dis, 2015. **60**(9): p.1308-16.

Table 1. Oral antibiotic prescriptions by age, sex and region—United States, 2015

CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER OF ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS (MILLIONS)	ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS PER 1,000 PERSONS, RATE
Age group^a		
<20 years	64.7	788
≥20 years	203.3	850
Sex^a		
Female	164.0	1,005
Male	104.9	663
Region^b		
Northeast	48.8	867
Midwest	61.0	898
South	111.5	920
West	48.1	632

^aTotals may not add to all oral prescriptions (269.4 million) due to missing data

^bTotals may not add to all oral prescriptions (269.4 million) due to rounding.

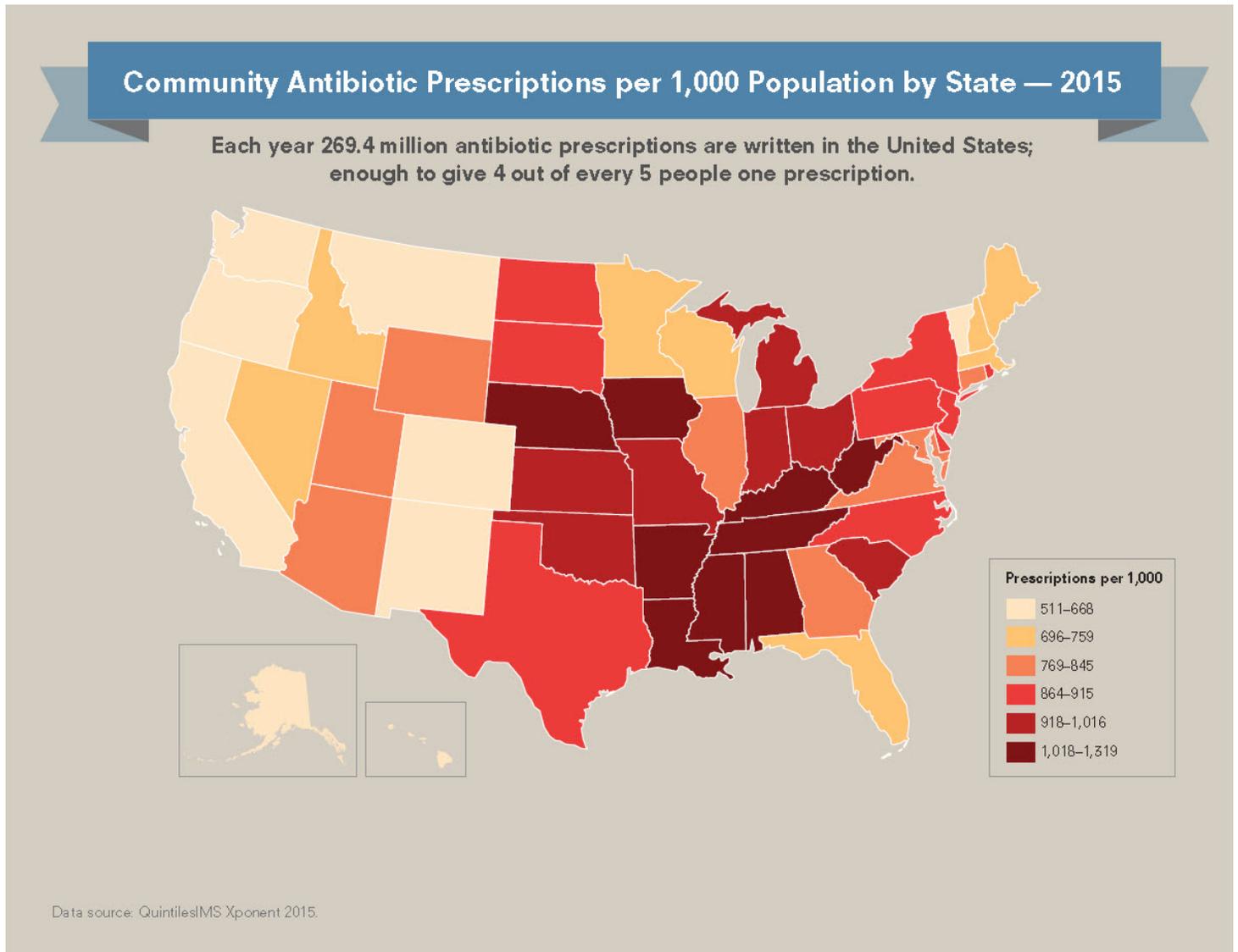
Table 2. Top oral antibiotic classes and agents prescribed—United States, 2015

CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER OF ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS (MILLIONS)	ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS PER 1,000 PERSONS, RATE
Antibiotic class		
Penicillins	61.6	192
Macrolides	49.4	154
Cephalosporins	36.3	113
Fluoroquinolones	32.5	101
Beta-lactams, increased activity	25.3	79
Antibiotic agent		
Amoxicillin	54.8	171
Azithromycin	46.2	144
Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid	25.3	79
Cephalexin	21.4	67
Ciprofloxacin	20.3	63

Table 3. Oral antibiotic prescribing by provider specialty — United States, 2015

PROVIDER SPECIALTY	NUMBER OF ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS (MILLIONS)	ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS PER PROVIDER, RATE
Primary Care Physicians	110.8	466
Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners	62.9	363
Surgical Specialties	19.5	219
Dentistry	25.1	205
Emergency Medicine	14.8	457
Dermatology	7.1	628
Obstetrics/Gynecology	6.3	167
Other	22.9	110
All Providers	269.4	295

Figure 1. Antibiotic prescriptions per 1000 persons by state (sextiles) for all ages — United States, 2015.



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