Dozens of *Candida* 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.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Only three classes of antifungal drugs are available to treat severe *Candida* infections: azoles, echinocandins, and amphotericin B.
- *Candida* species commonly cause bloodstream infections in hospitalized patients. About one in four of these patients die.
- *Candida* species also cause common yeast infections, which can affect the mouth, skin, and vagina, resulting in more than 3.6 million U.S. healthcare visits each year, and $3 billion estimated direct medical costs.
- Antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections increase the risk of *Candida* infections.

All data represented excludes *C. auris*.

**CASES OVER TIME**

Resistant *Candida* are commonly detected in hospitalized patients. About 7% of bloodstream infections are resistant to antifungals.
DIFFICULT TO DETECT THREAT

_Candida_ species are well known for causing infections in our mouth, skin, and vagina, but these germs are also a common cause of life-threatening bloodstream infections in hospitals. Most _Candida_ infections in people are caused by _Candida albicans_, which has very low levels of drug resistance. However, other types of _Candida_, including _Candida glabrata_, are frequently resistant and more deadly.

Many clinical laboratories do not have the capacity to test _Candida_ for drug resistance, limiting the ability to guide treatment and track resistance. Additionally, new, highly resistant species, such as _Candida auris_, are emerging and can also be difficult to identify. CDC’s Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network helps clinical labs across the United States identify emerging _Candida_ species and test for antifungal resistance. This helps lab professionals and healthcare providers rapidly and correctly identify the threat and stop its spread.

BLOODSTREAM INFECTIONS

_Candida_ species are a common cause of bloodstream infections and can be drug-resistant and difficult to treat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Candida Bloodstream Infections by Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. albicans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ONLINE RESOURCES

About _Candida_ infections
www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/index.html

About antifungal resistance
www.cdc.gov/fungal/antifungal-resistance.html

This fact sheet is part of CDC’s 2019 Antibiotic Resistance Threats Report. The full report, including data sources, is available at www.cdc.gov/DrugResistance/Biggest-Threats.html.