

OUTPATIENT ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS — United States, 2013

Healthcare providers prescribed **268.6 million** antibiotic prescriptions—equivalent to **849 antibiotic prescriptions per 1000 persons**.

Table 1. Oral antibiotic prescriptions by age and sex—United States, 2013.

Characteristic	# antibiotic prescriptions (millions)	Antibiotic prescriptions per 1000 persons, rate
Age group ^a		
<20 years	66.8	812
≥20 years	197.5	843
Sex ^a		
Female	162.8	1,012
Male	104.8	673
Region ^a		
Northeast	49.0	874
Midwest	61.0	902
South	111.7	942
West	47.0	631

^a Totals may not add to all oral prescriptions (268.6 million) due to missing data.

Table 3. Oral antibiotic prescribing by provider specialty — United States, 2013.

Provider specialty	# antibiotic prescriptions (millions)	Antibiotic prescriptions per provider, rate
Primary Care Physicians	121.7	512
Physician Assistants & Nurse Practitioners	48.4	279
Dentistry	24.5	200
Surgical Specialties	20.3	228
Emergency Medicine	14.3	441
Dermatology	7.9	700
Obstetrics/Gynecology	6.8	182
Other	24.7	119
All Providers	268.6	295

Citation: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Outpatient antibiotic prescriptions — United States, 2013. Available via the internet: http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/community/pdfs/annual-reportsummary_2013.pdf

Table 2. Top oral antibiotic classes and agents prescribed — United States, 2013.

	# antibiotic prescriptions (millions)	Antibiotic prescriptions per 1000 persons, rate
Antibiotic class		
Penicillins	60.8	192
Macrolides	51.0	161
Cephalosporins	36.3	115
Quinolones	33.2	105
B-lactams, increased activity	23.1	73
Antibiotic agent		
Amoxicillin	53.3	169
Azithromycin	47.2	149
Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid	23.1	73
Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole	21.3	67
Ciprofloxacin	21.3	67
Cephalexin	21.2	67

Data Sources:

Systemic oral antibiotics were extracted from the IMS Health Xponent database. IMS Health captures >70% of outpatient prescriptions nationally, reconciles them to wholesale deliveries, and projects to 100% coverage. These data represent all outpatient antibiotic prescriptions from community pharmacies and non-governmental mail order 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

1. 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.
2. IMS. *The Uniform System of Classification (USC)*. [cited 2015 September 22]; Available from: http://www.imshealth.com/deployedfiles/ims/Global/Content/Insights/Health%20Services%20Research%20Network/USC_Classification_Process_2011.pdf.

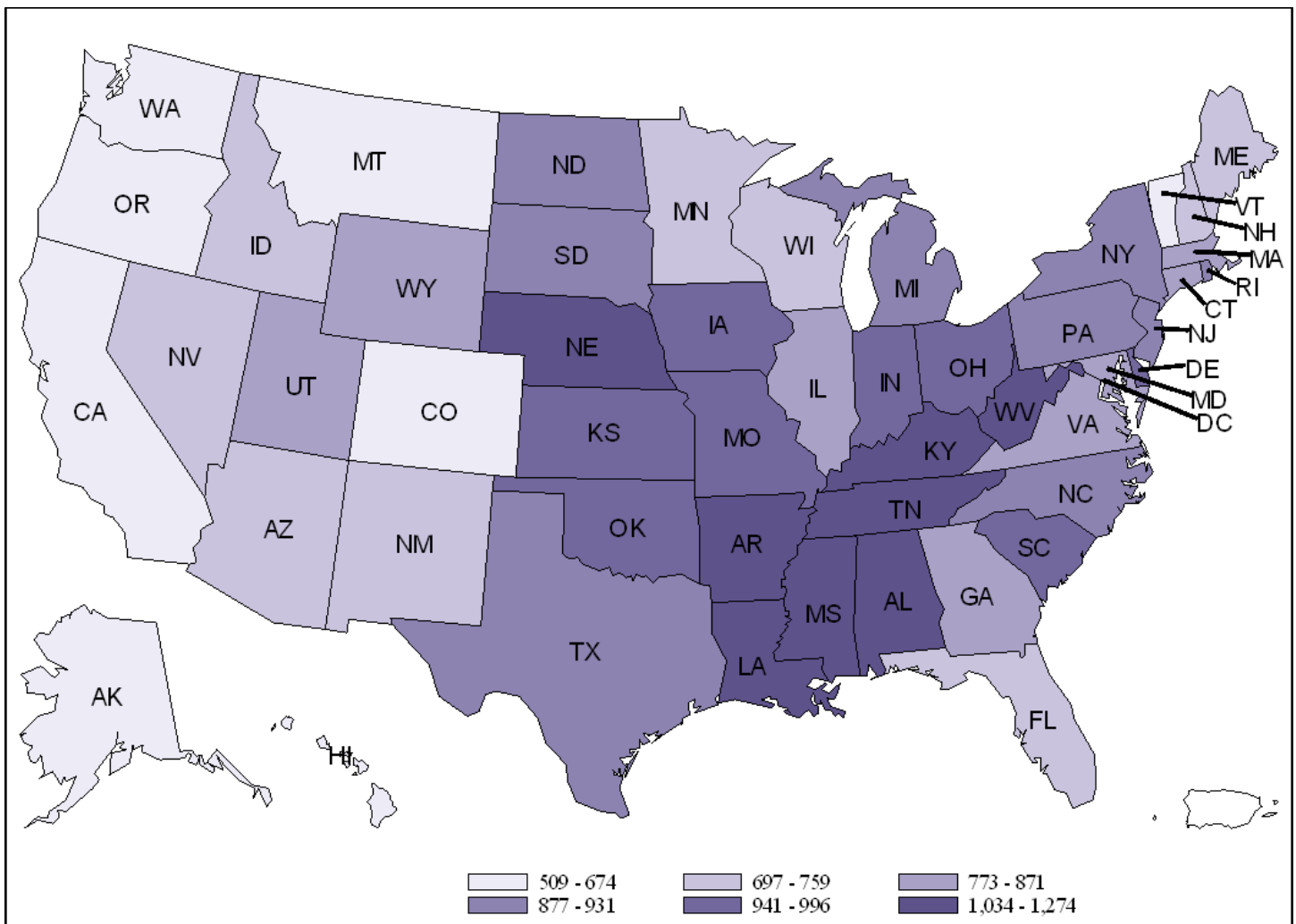


Figure 1. Antibiotic prescriptions per 1000 persons by state (sextiles) for all ages — United States, 2013.



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