

OUTPATIENT ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS — United States, 2012

Healthcare providers prescribed **272.3 million** antibiotic prescriptions—equivalent to **867 antibiotic prescriptions per 1000 persons**.

Table 1. Oral antibiotic prescriptions by age and sex—United States, 2012.

Characteristic	# antibiotic prescriptions (millions)	Antibiotic prescriptions per 1000 persons, rate
Age group ^a		
<20 years	70.8	858
≥20 years	197.0	851
Sex ^a		
Female	164.7	1,032
Male	106.5	689
Region ^a		
Northeast	49.5	886
Midwest	61.3	910
South	114.4	975
West	47.1	640

^a Totals may not add to all oral prescriptions (272.3 million) due to missing data.

Table 3. Oral antibiotic prescribing by provider specialty — United States, 2012.

Provider specialty	# antibiotic prescriptions (millions)	Antibiotic prescriptions per provider, rate
Primary Care Physicians	129.0	543
Physician Assistants & Nurse Practitioners	43.2	249
Dentistry	23.4	191
Surgical Specialties	20.5	230
Emergency Medicine	15.0	462
Dermatology	8.1	719
Obstetrics/Gynecology	7.0	187
Other	26.0	125
All Providers	272.3	299

Citation: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Outpatient antibiotic prescriptions — United States, 2012. Available via the internet: http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/community/pdfs/annual-reportsummary_2012.pdf

Table 2. Top oral antibiotic classes and agents prescribed—United States, 2012.

	# antibiotic prescriptions (millions)	Antibiotic prescriptions per 1000 persons, rate
Antibiotic class		
Penicillins	59.6	190
Macrolides	57.1	182
Cephalosporins	36.2	115
Quinolones	32.7	104
B-lactams, increased activity	21.8	69
Tetracycline	21.8	69
Antibiotic agent		
Azithromycin	53.0	169
Amoxicillin	51.9	165
Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid	21.8	69
Ciprofloxacin	21.4	68
Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole	20.9	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

- 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.
- 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.

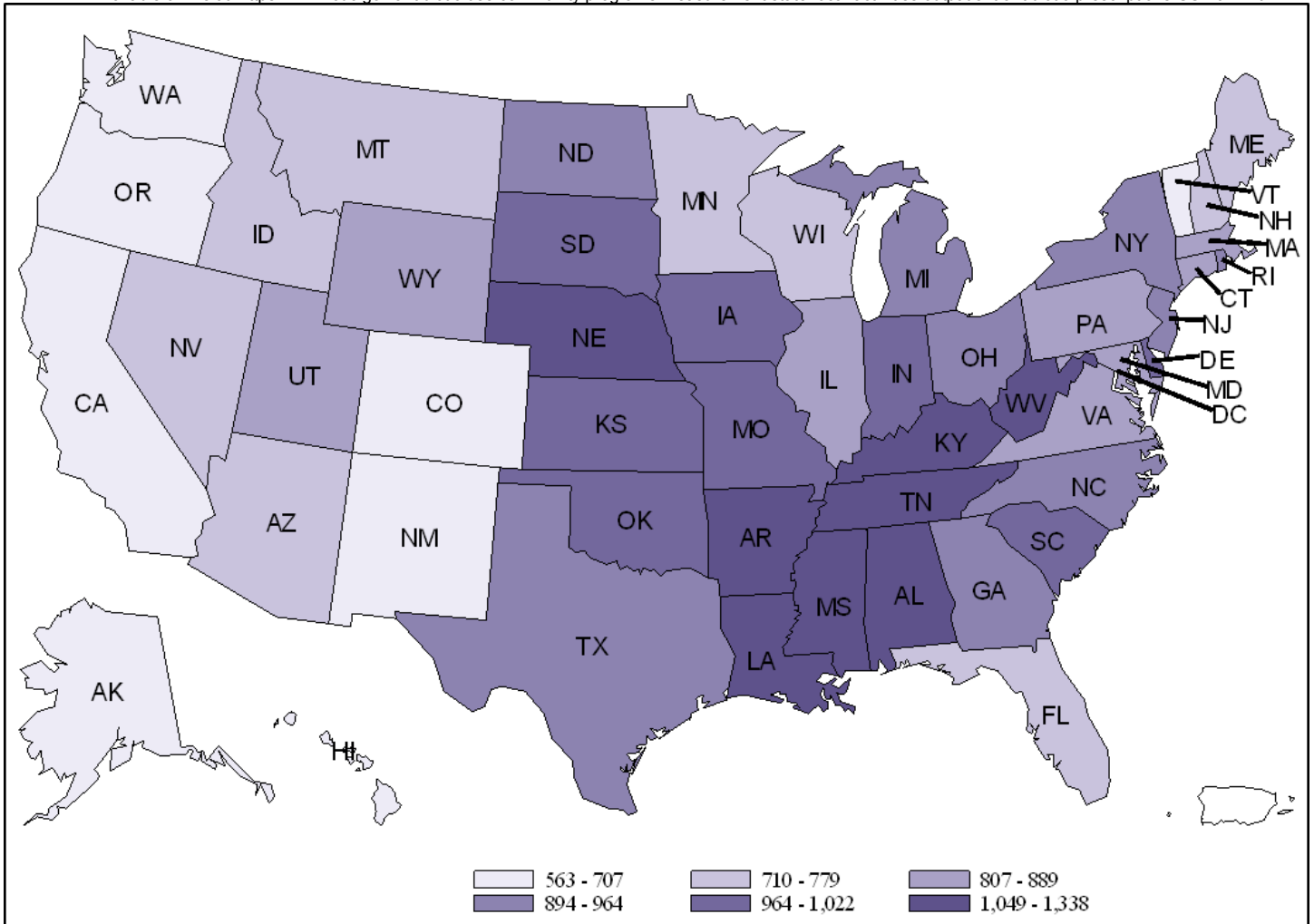


Figure 1. Antibiotic prescriptions per 1000 persons by state (sextiles) for all ages — United States, 2012.



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