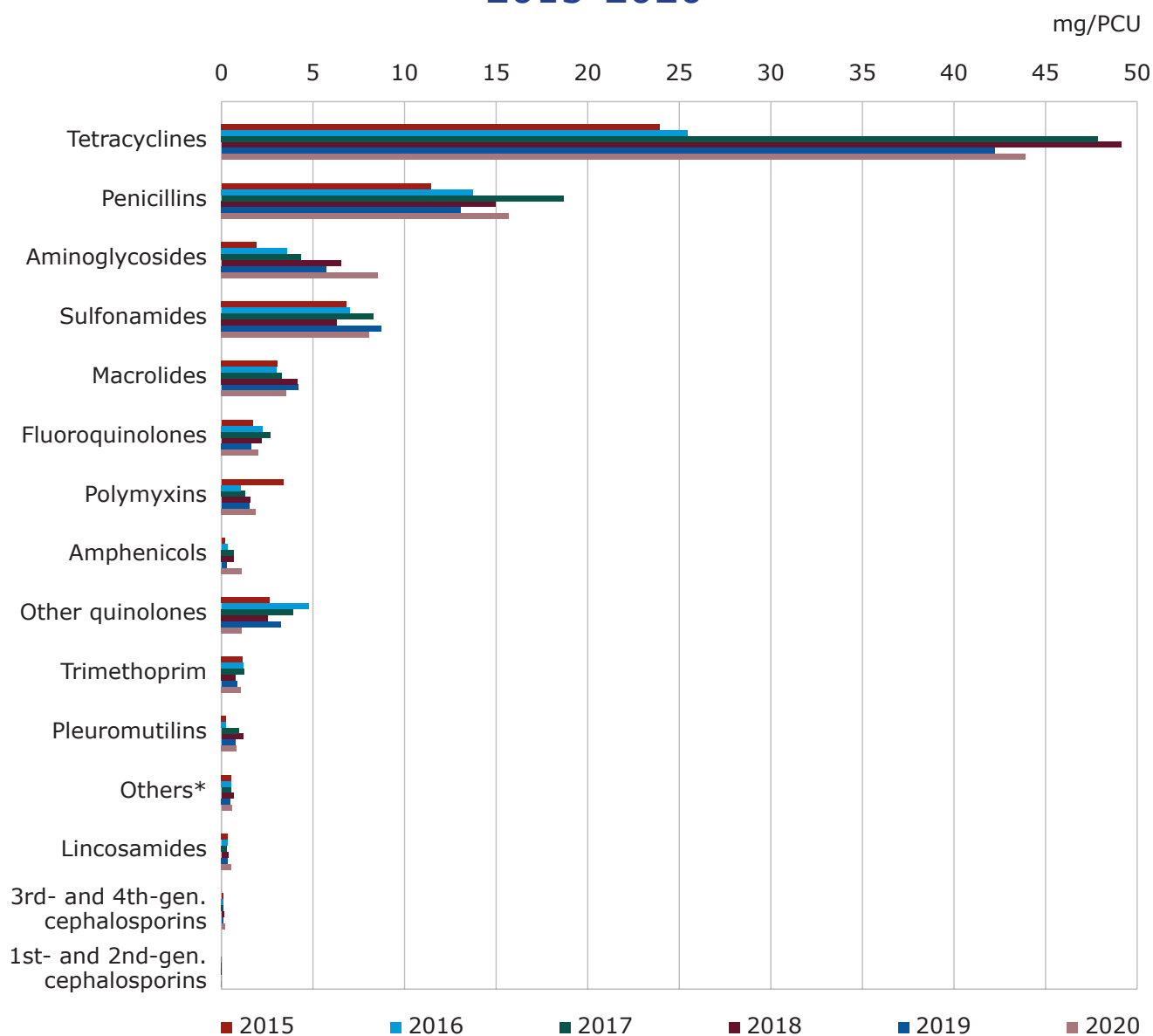




SALES TRENDS (MG/PCU) OF ANTIMICROBIAL VMPs FOR FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS

2015-2020



* The class 'Others' includes sales of novobiocin, rifaximin and spectinomycin (classified as 'Other antibacterials' in the ATCvet system).

Overall annual antimicrobial sales in Greece in 2020 (89.1 mg/PCU) were 55% higher than in 2015 (57.4 mg/PCU), in particular due to increases in sales of tetracyclines, penicillins, aminoglycosides, sulfonamides and amphenicols. As it is generally agreed that it might take at least three to four years to establish a valid baseline for veterinary antimicrobial sales data, this difference should be interpreted with caution. From 2018 (91.2 mg/PCU) to 2019 (83.2 mg/PCU) overall annual sales decreased by 8.8% but increased by 7.1% in 2020 (89.1 mg/PCU).

The increase observed in 2020 is related to the decrease reported in 2019. Due to Brexit on the one hand and restructuring of the market on the other, fewer products were available and sold in 2019. MAHs and wholesalers reacted by broadening their portfolios and placing more VMPs on the market in 2020. Thus, sales covering the 2020 period reflect the replenishment of the market, which continued into the first quarters of 2021. Market adjustment is expected to be finalised during 2021.

In 2020, tetracyclines, penicillins, aminoglycosides and sulfonamides were the highest-selling antimicrobial classes, accounting for 49.3%, 17.6%, 9.6% and 9.1%, respectively, of total sales in Greece. Sales of 1st- and 2nd-generation cephalosporins, 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins, lincosamides, fluoroquinolones, polymyxins and other quinolones accounted for 0.01% (0.01 mg/PCU), 0.2% (0.18 mg/PCU), 0.6% (0.53 mg/PCU), 2.3% (2.03 mg/PCU), 2.1% (1.89 mg/PCU) and 1.2% (1.1 mg/PCU), respectively, of total annual sales in 2020.

Also in 2020, caprine animals accounted for the vast majority of the PCU in Greece (62.4%), the highest proportion among ESVAC participating countries. Based on national statistics, living goats represent approximately 30% of the total living caprinae population. As living goats are not included in the PCU calculation for the ESVAC analysis, this results in an underestimation of the PCU for Greece and, consequently, higher mg/PCU values.

Sales of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins increased by 101.3% from 2015 (0.09 mg/PCU) to 2020 (0.18 mg/PCU) and by 123.3% from 2019 (0.08 mg/PCU) to 2020.

Sales of fluoroquinolones in 2020 (2.03 mg/PCU) increased by 19.4% in comparison to 2015 (1.70 mg/PCU) and 24.8% in comparison to 2019 (1.63 mg/PCU).

Sales of other quinolones hit a low in 2020 (1.1 mg/PCU), 58.2% lower than in 2015 (2.63 mg/PCU) and 66.4% lower than in 2019 (3.27 mg/PCU).

Sales of polymyxins fluctuated during this period, having decreased by 44.1% in 2020 (1.89 mg/PCU) in comparison with 2015 (3.38 mg/PCU), but having increased by 25.4% in comparison with 2019 (1.51 mg/PCU).

Sales of macrolides were 16.4% higher in 2020 (3.55 mg/PCU) than in 2015 (3.05 mg/PCU), but 15.2% lower than in 2019 (4.19 mg/PCU).

An inter-ministerial committee has been established to handle matters related to the 'One Health' approach and implement WHO requirements, focusing on assessment and control of the consumption of antimicrobial agents and antimicrobial resistance in both humans and animals (Decision of the General Secretary of the Ministry of Health Α1β/Γ.Π.:64675/21/09/2018).

