From 2018 to 2019, a 13.6% decrease in antimicrobial VMPs sales (mg/PCU) was observed in Luxembourg and from 2019 to 2020 a modest reduction of 0.1% was noted. In 2020, the highest-selling antimicrobial classes — tetracyclines, penicillins, aminoglycosides and sulfonamides — accounted for 39.3%, 22.7%, 10.4% and 10.1%, respectively, of total sales.

Since 2017, no sales of other quinolones were reported.

* The class ‘Others’ includes sales of the following sub-classes: Imidazole derivatives (metronidazole), Nitrofuran derivatives (furazolidone) and Other antibacterials (bacitracin, rifaximin and spectinomycin). Of note is that some of the sales could be for non-food-producing animals.

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Tetracyclines are the class with the highest sales for all of the study years, with sales peaking in 2013 followed by a downward trend until 2020. There was an overall drop of 30% in sales of this class from 2012 to 2020. Although the reasons for the lower sales are not yet established, a sustained downward trend in sales has been observed.

Compared to 2012 levels, overall sales of antimicrobial VMPs (in mg/PCU) had declined by 32.9% by 2020. The fall from 2012 to 2020 is mainly accounted for by a reduction in sales of tetracyclines, penicillins and sulfonamides. However, the data must be interpreted with caution as Luxembourg is a small country with a small animal population where sales may fluctuate due to external reasons.

In 2012, sales (mg/PCU) of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins accounted for 1.6% (0.68 mg/PCU) of total sales, while in 2020 this figure was 1.8% (0.52 mg/PCU).

Sales of fluoroquinolones fluctuated during the study years, from 0.66 mg/PCU in 2012 to 0.85 mg/PCU in 2020, when they accounted for 2.9% of total sales.

No sales of other quinolones have been reported since 2017.

Sales of polymyxins peaked at 3.1 mg/PCU in 2013. A gradual decline has been observed since, with the lowest sales figures of 0.37 mg/PCU coming in 2020.