

A MINUTE OF HEALTH WITH CDC

Antibiotic Overuse

Office-Based Antibiotic Prescribing for Persons Aged <15 Years — United States, 1993–2008

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This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The discovery of antibiotics was one of the greatest medical achievements of the twentieth century. However, overuse of these drugs has led to the development of resistance in bacteria, making antibiotics ineffective in combating them. As a consequence, some infections can result in serious illness and even death. In most cases, a cold, an ear infection, and the flu should not be treated with antibiotics.

If you've been diagnosed with an infectious illness, talk to your health care provider about whether antibiotics will be beneficial and if there are other ways to treat your condition. If an antibiotic *is* prescribed, take it as directed and finish the entire treatment.

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