

Minimum Structural Requirements for Successful  
Prevention and Control of Healthcare-Associated  
Infections

# HEALTH AND ECONOMIC BURDEN OF HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN THE EUROPEAN REGION

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World Health Organization



27 August 2021



Alessandro Cassini

# NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST TO DISCLOSE



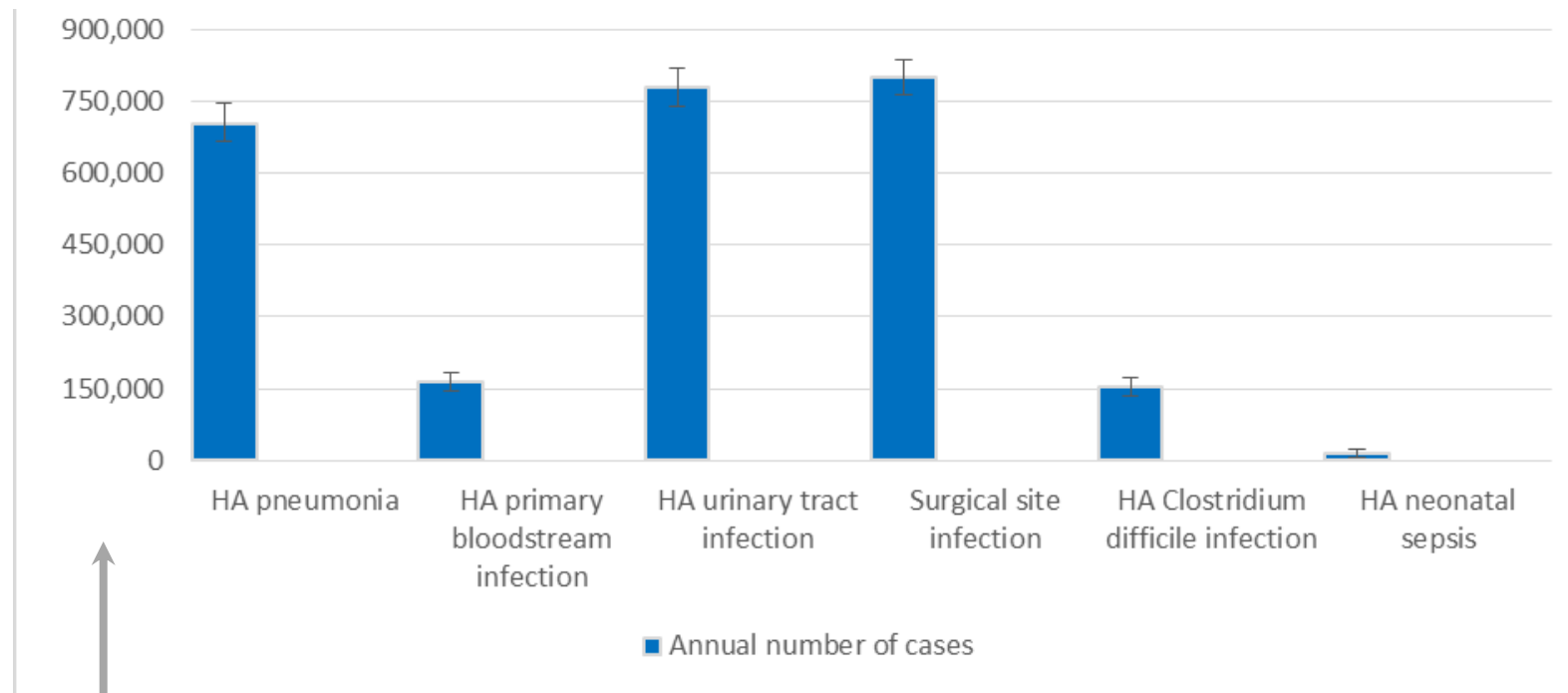
27 August 2021



# Healthcare-associated infections, antimicrobial resistance: overlapping, but not identical



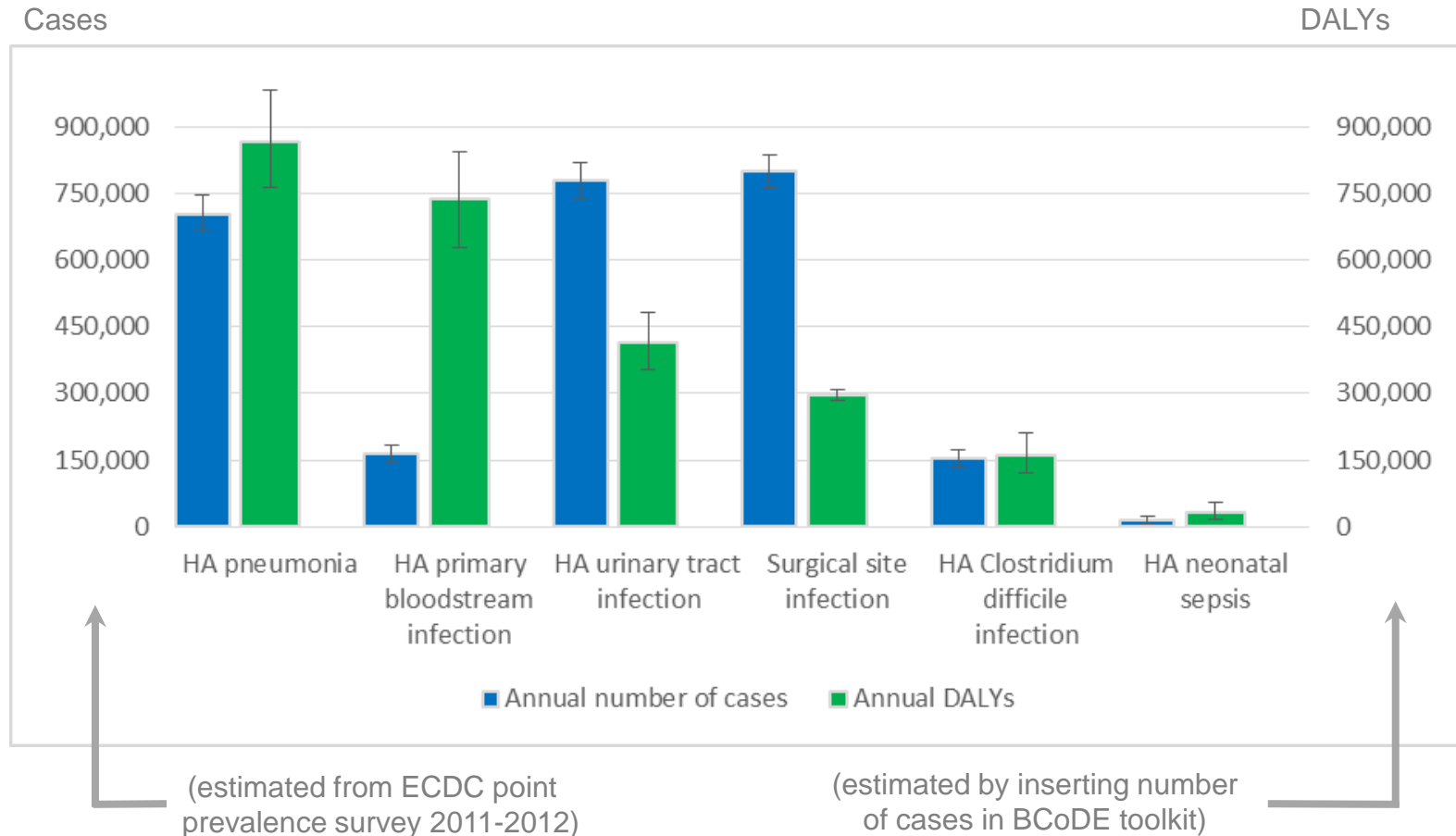
- Age-group and sex prevalent number of HAIs from the PPS was converted into annual incidence rates applying the Rhamme and Sudderth formula
- 2.6 million annual number of cases of HAIs estimated in the EU/EEA (95% UI: 1,624,140 - 4,084,550)



(estimated from ECDC point prevalence survey 2011-2012)

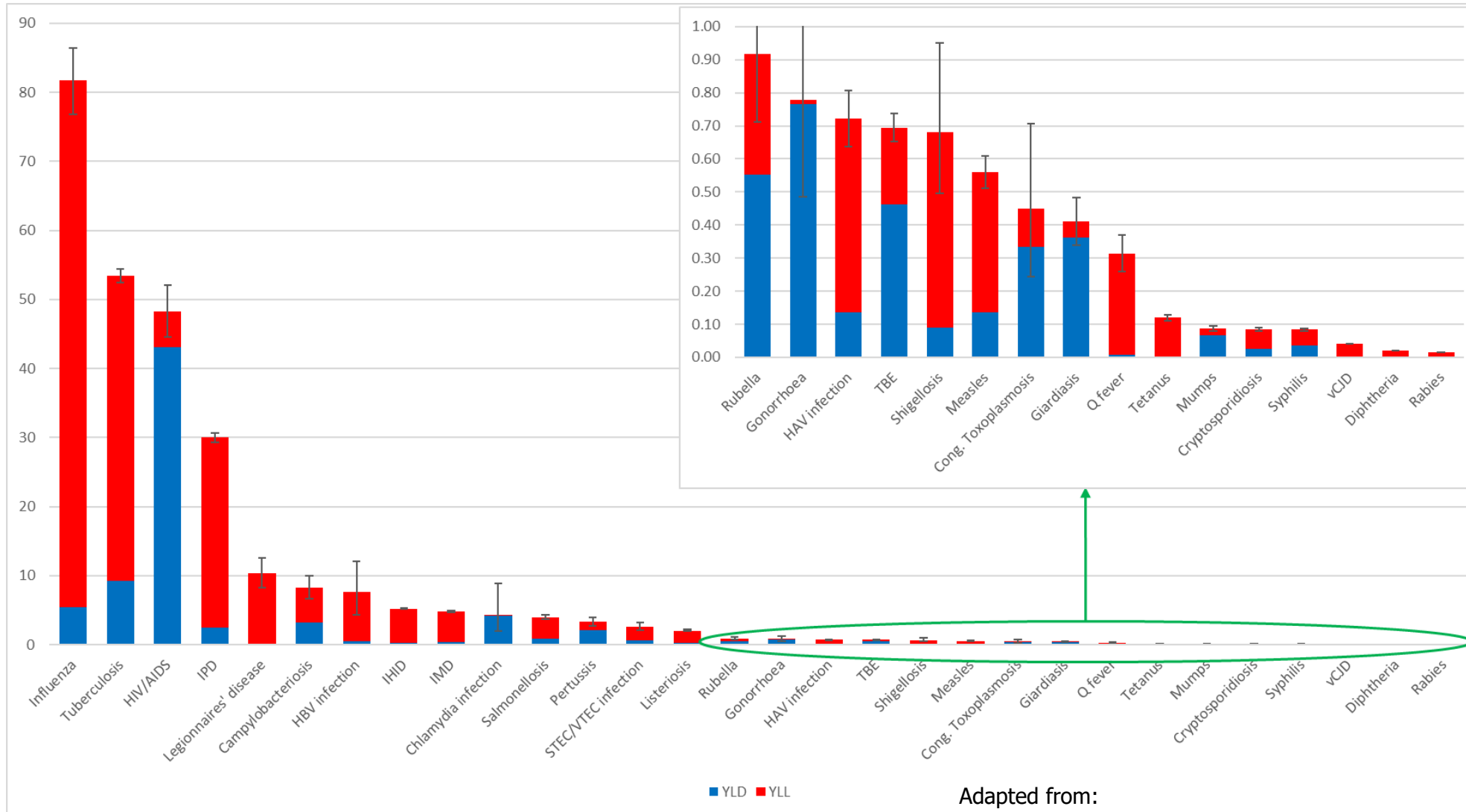
Adapted from Cassini A and Plachouras D et al. PLoS Med 2016;13(10):e1002150

- 2.6 million annual number of cases of HAIs are associated with more than 91,000 deaths (76,000 to 108,000)
- Incidence and prevalence do not provide the full picture



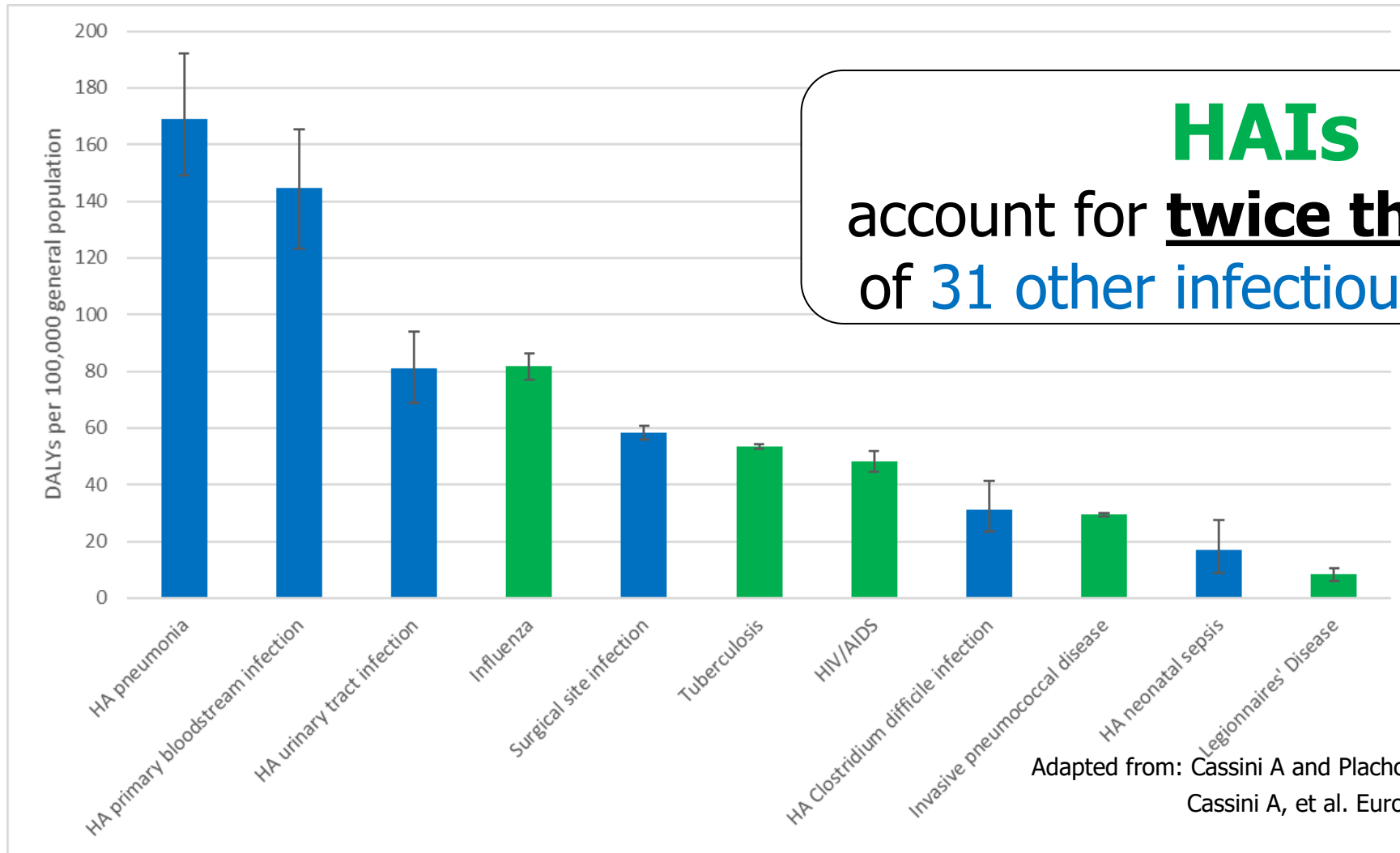
Adapted from Cassini A and Plachouras D et al. PLoS Med 2016;13(10):e1002150

# BCoDE 2009-2013 – DALYs per 100,000



Adapted from:  
Cassini A, et al. Eurosurveillance 2018;23(16):pii=17-00454

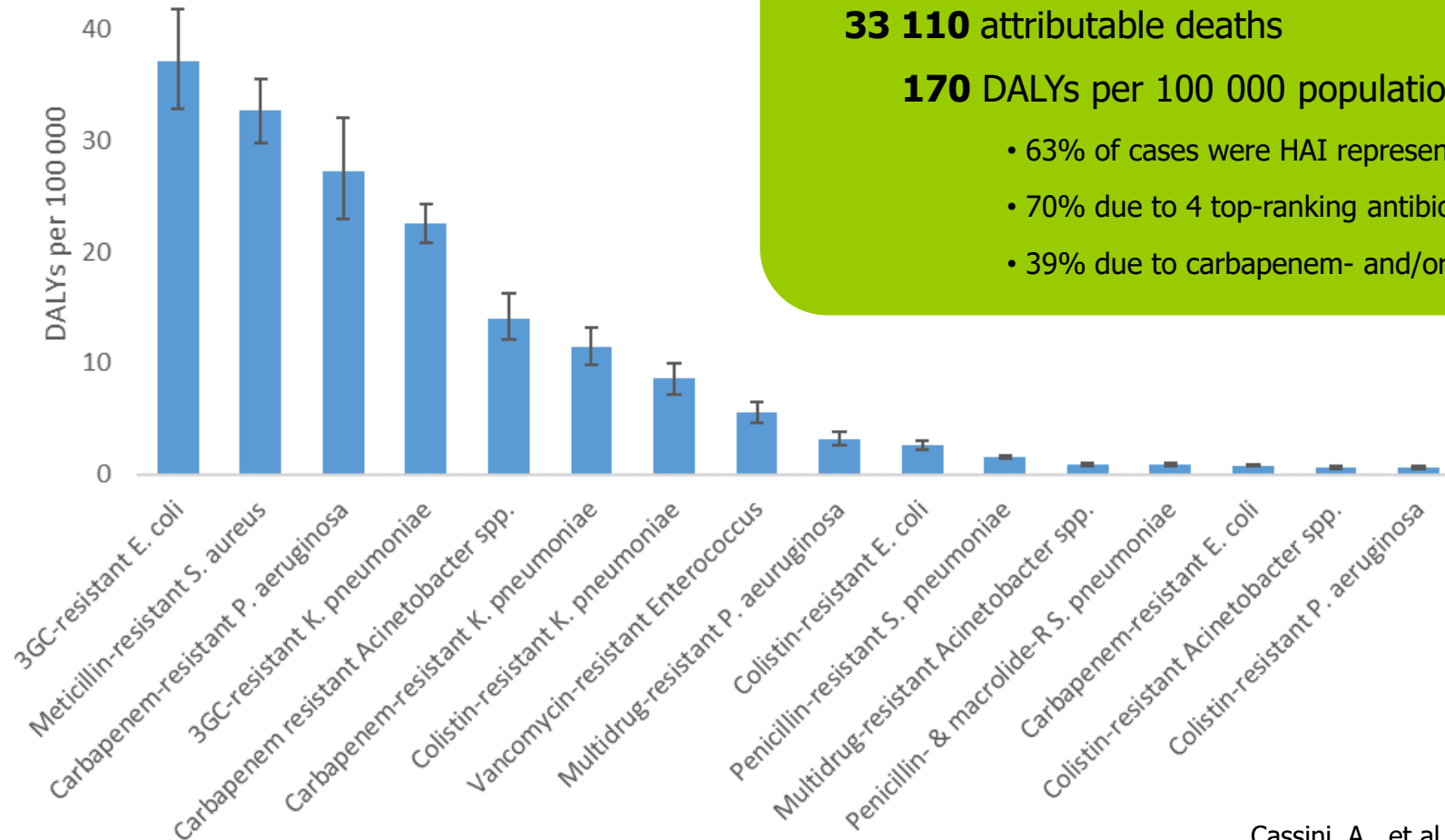
# Comparing the burden of HAIs with other infectious diseases



**HAIs**  
 account for **twice the burden**  
 of **31 other infectious diseases**

Adapted from: Cassini A and Plachouras D et al. PLoS Med 2016;13(10):e1002111  
 Cassini A, et al. Euro Surveill. 2018;23(16):pii=17-00454

# Estimated burden of infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria, EU/EEA, 2015



**671 689** infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria

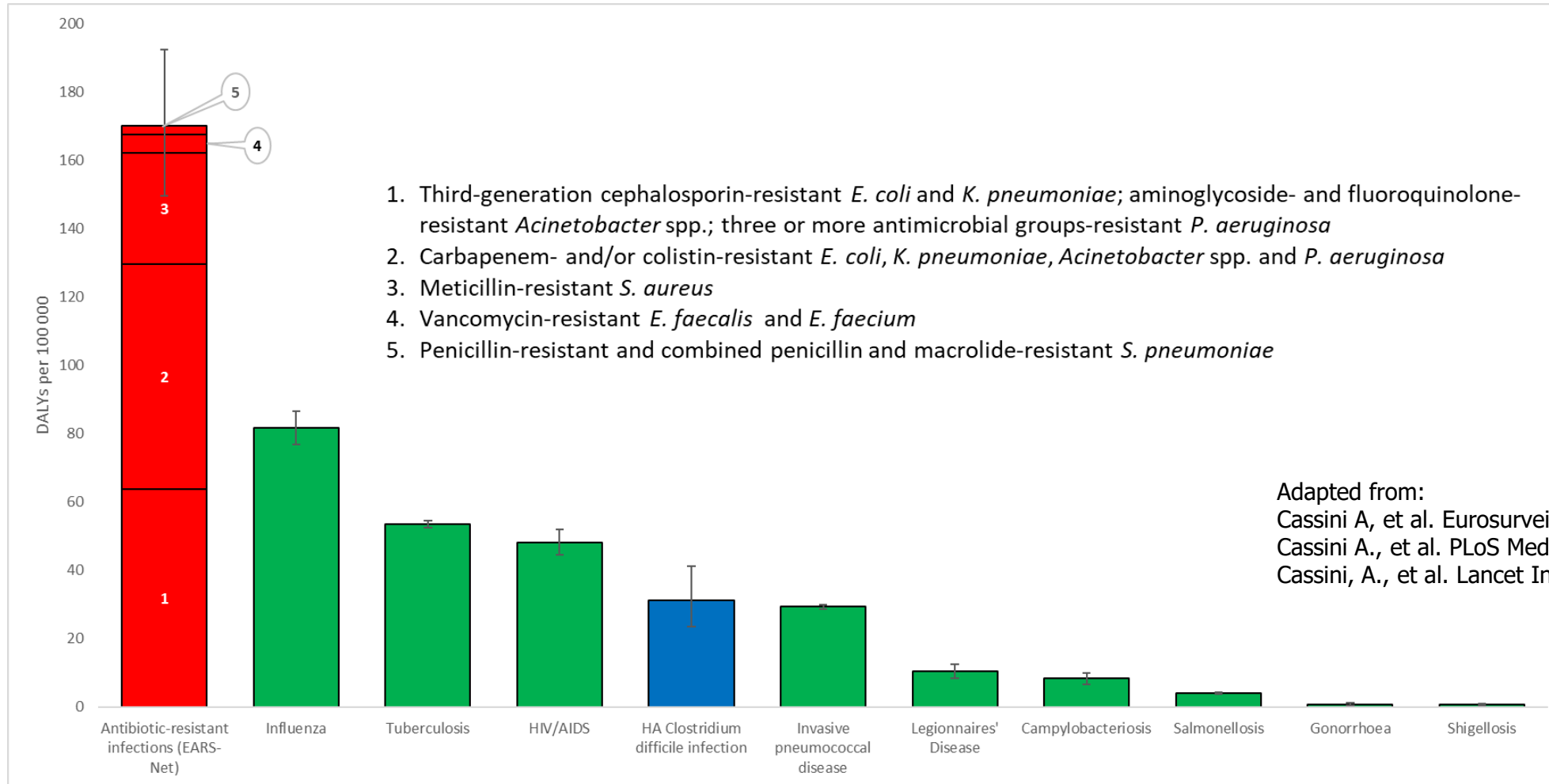
**33 110** attributable deaths

**170** DALYs per 100 000 population

- 63% of cases were HAI representing 75% of total burden (DALYs)
- 70% due to 4 top-ranking antibiotic-resistant bacteria
- 39% due to carbapenem- and/or colistin resistance



# Burden of AMR is comparable to the combined burden of influenza, TB & HIV/AIDS



Adapted from:  
 Cassini A, et al. Eurosurveillance 2018;23(16):pii=17-00454  
 Cassini A., et al. PLoS Med 2016;13(10): e1002150.  
 Cassini, A., et al. Lancet Infect Dis. 2019 Feb;19(2):129-130.

# 33000 deaths

Each year, 33000 people die from an infection due to bacteria resistant to antibiotics. This is comparable to the total number of passengers of more than 100 medium-sized airplanes.



The burden of infections with bacteria resistant to antibiotics on the European population is comparable to that of influenza, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS combined.



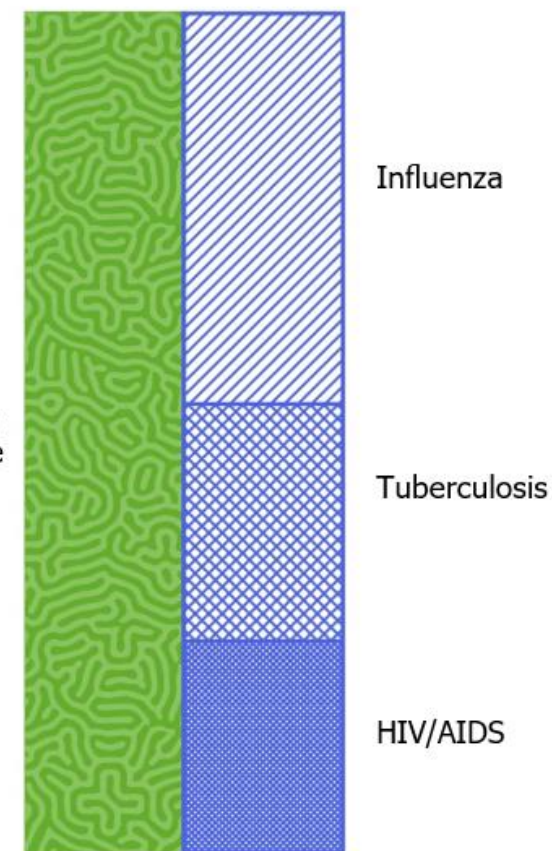
**75%**  
Healthcare-associated infections

75% of the burden of bacteria resistant to antibiotics in Europe is due to healthcare-associated infections. This could be minimised through adequate infection prevention and control measures, as well as antibiotic stewardship in healthcare settings.

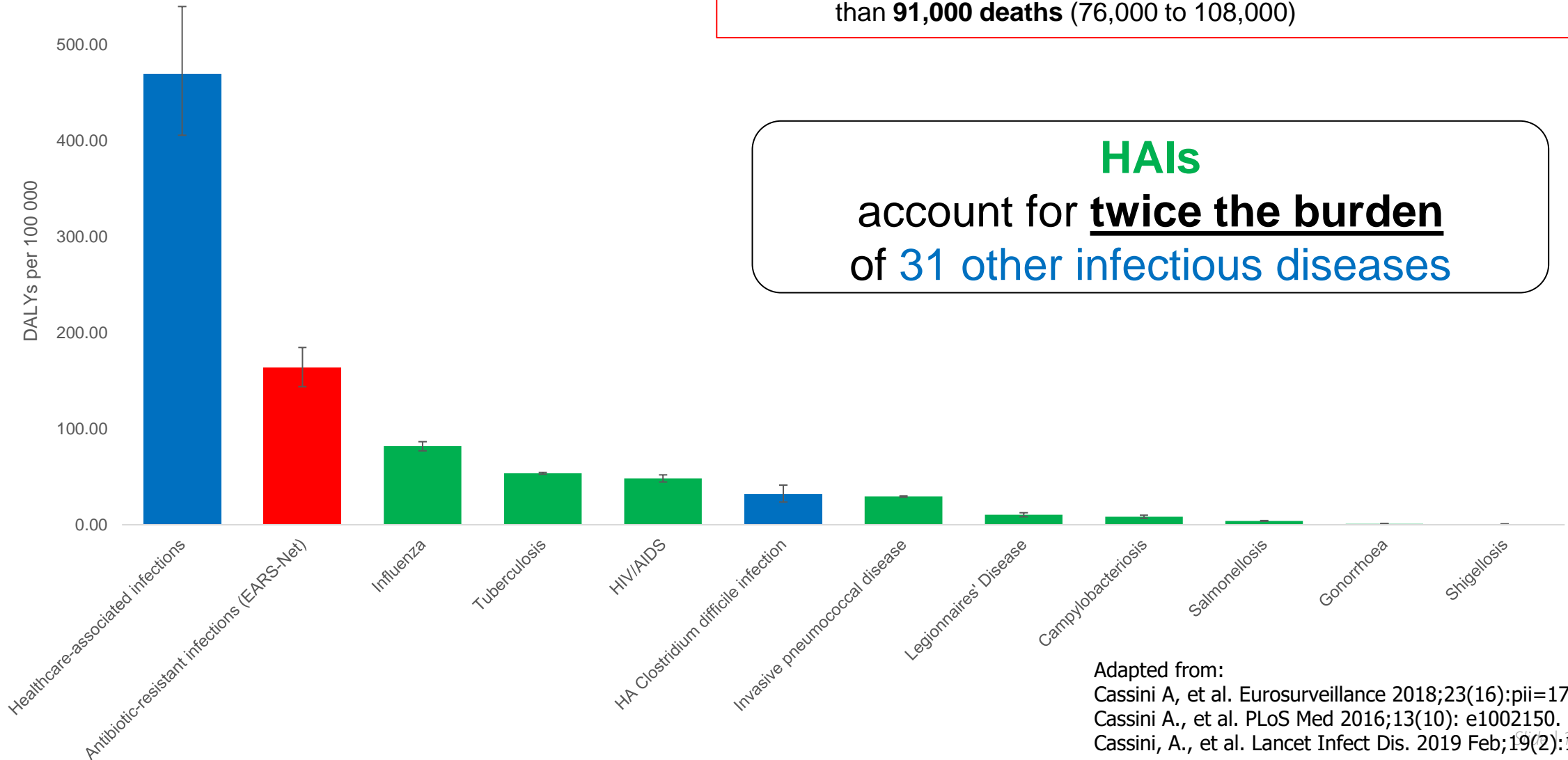


## Last-line antibiotics

39% of the burden is caused by infections with bacteria resistant to last-line antibiotics such as carbapenems and colistin - the last treatment option available.



# Burden of HAIs



2.6 million annual number of cases of HAIs are associated with more than **91,000 deaths** (76,000 to 108,000)

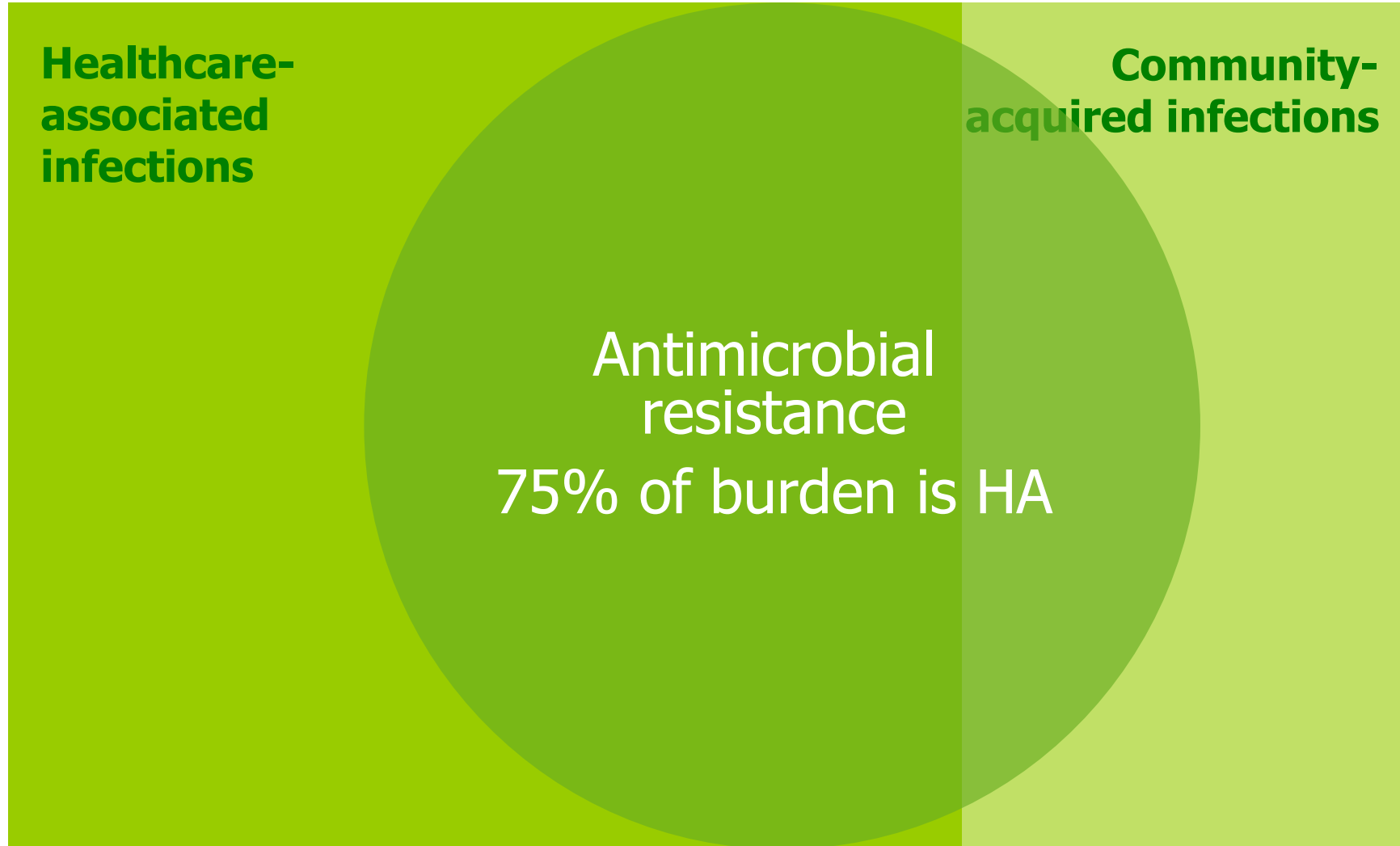
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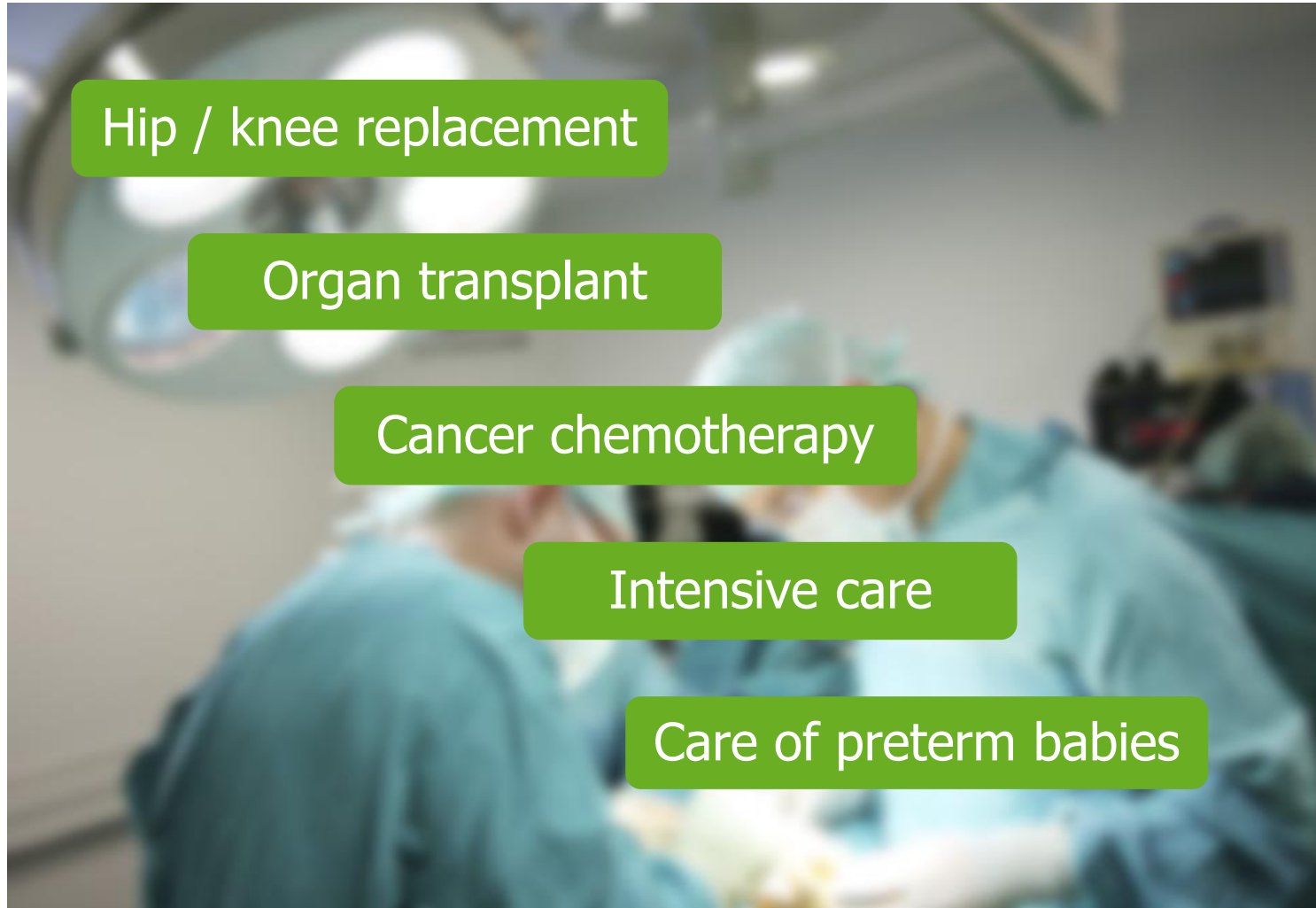
# Healthcare-associated infections, antimicrobial resistance: Overlapping, but not identical



# In terms of burden, HAIs have a bigger impact than community infections and AMR is mostly HA



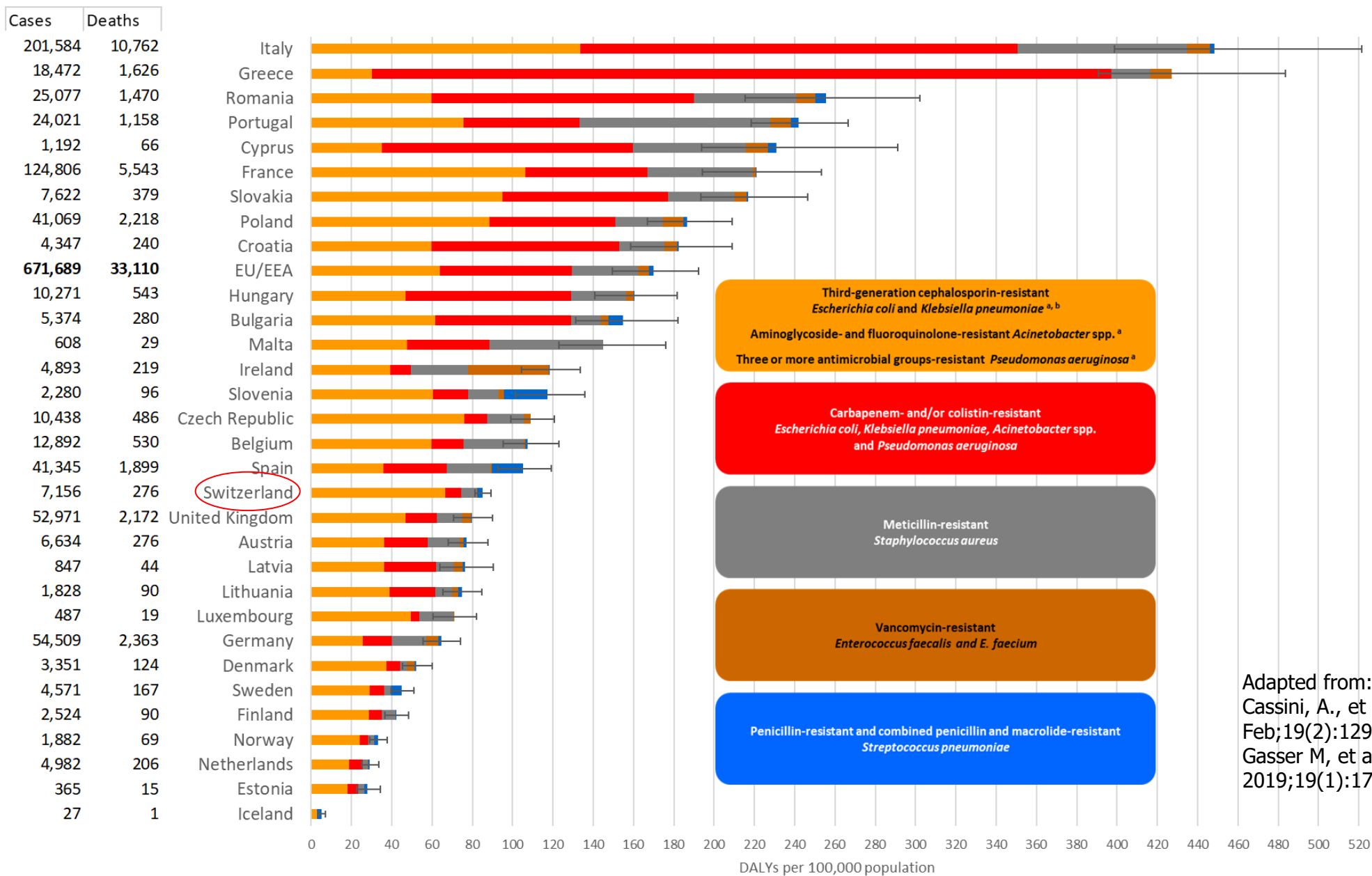
# Modern medicine: increasingly difficult without effective antibiotics



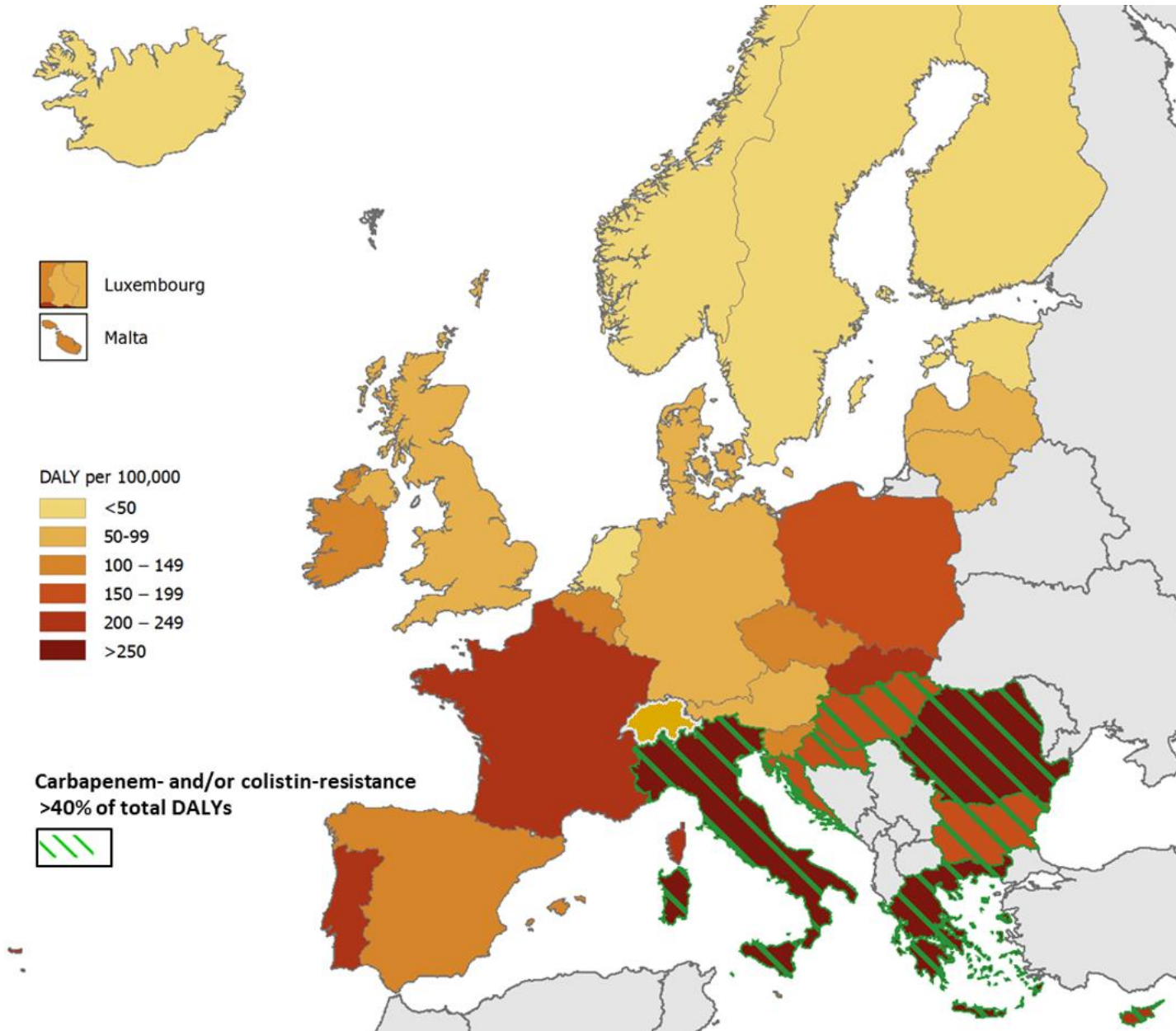
Limited options for treatment

Increased length of hospital stays

Increased patient morbidity and mortality



Adapted from:  
 Cassini, A., et al. Lancet Infect Dis. 2019  
 Feb;19(2):129-130.  
 Gasser M, et al. Lancet Infect Dis.  
 2019;19(1):17-8.

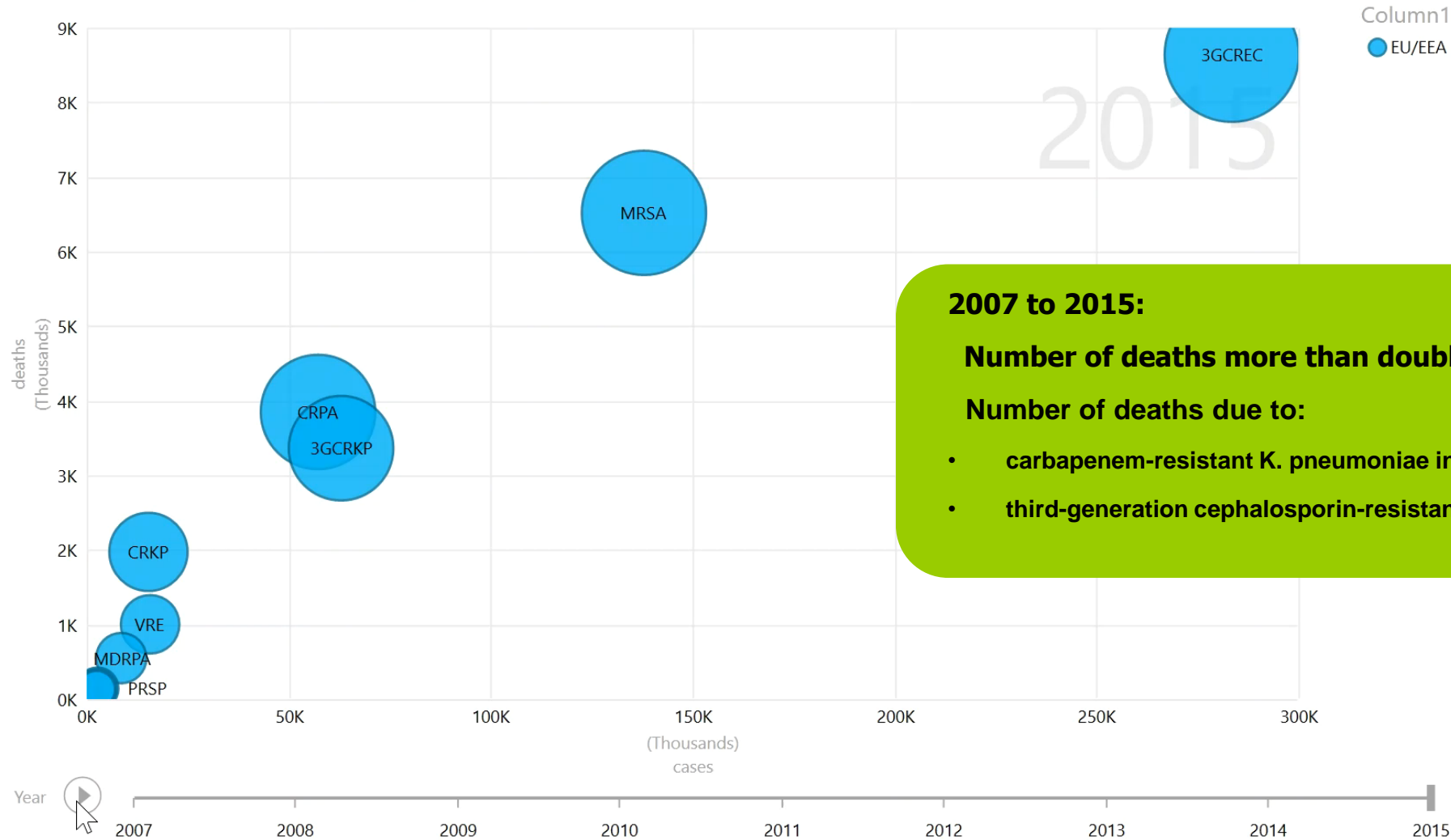


Adapted from:  
Cassini, A., et al. Lancet Infect Dis. 2019 Feb;19(2):129-130.  
Gasser M, et al. Lancet Infect Dis. 2019;19(1):17-8.



# Burden of infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria,

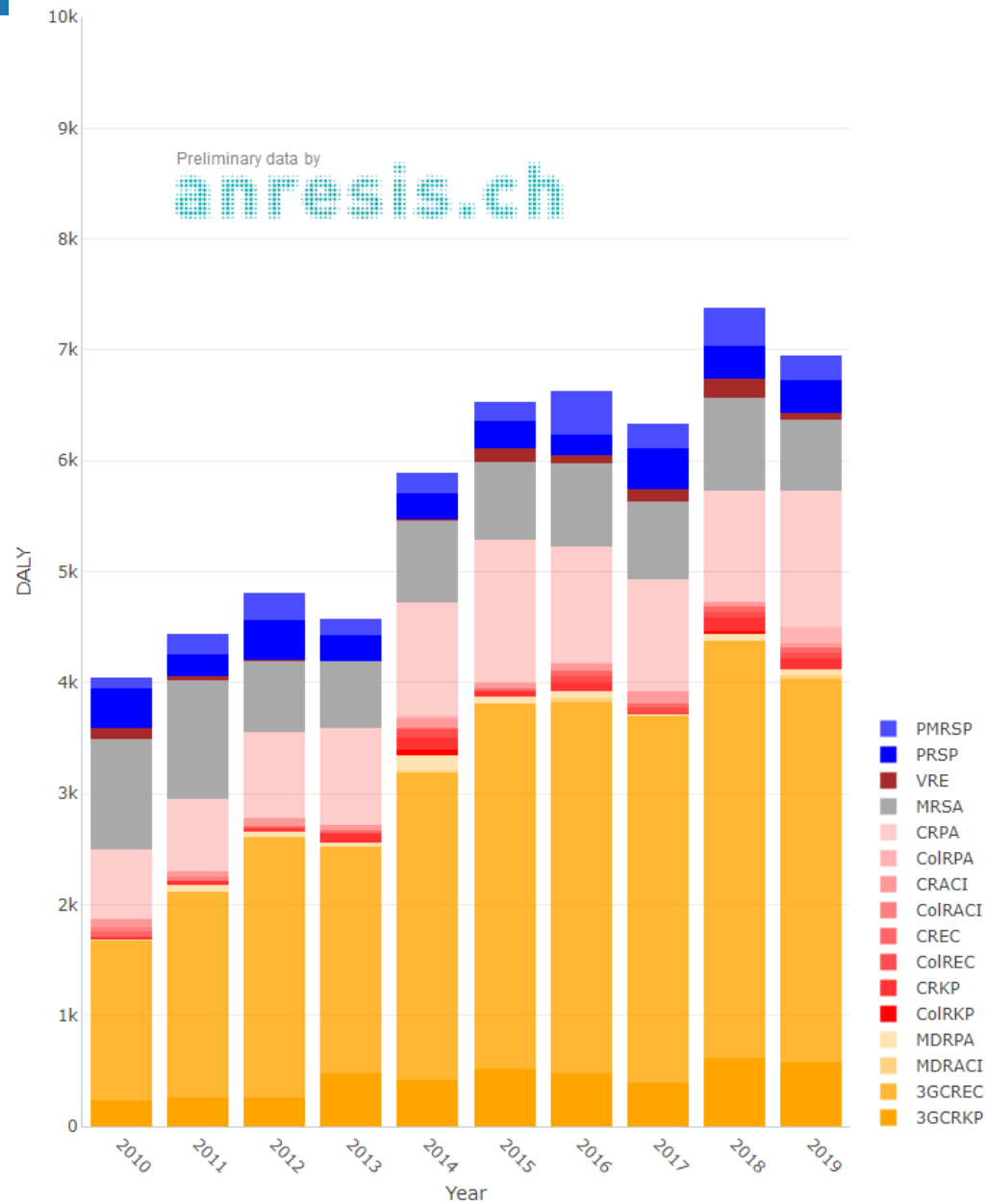
cases, deaths, and DALYs by Infection, and Column1



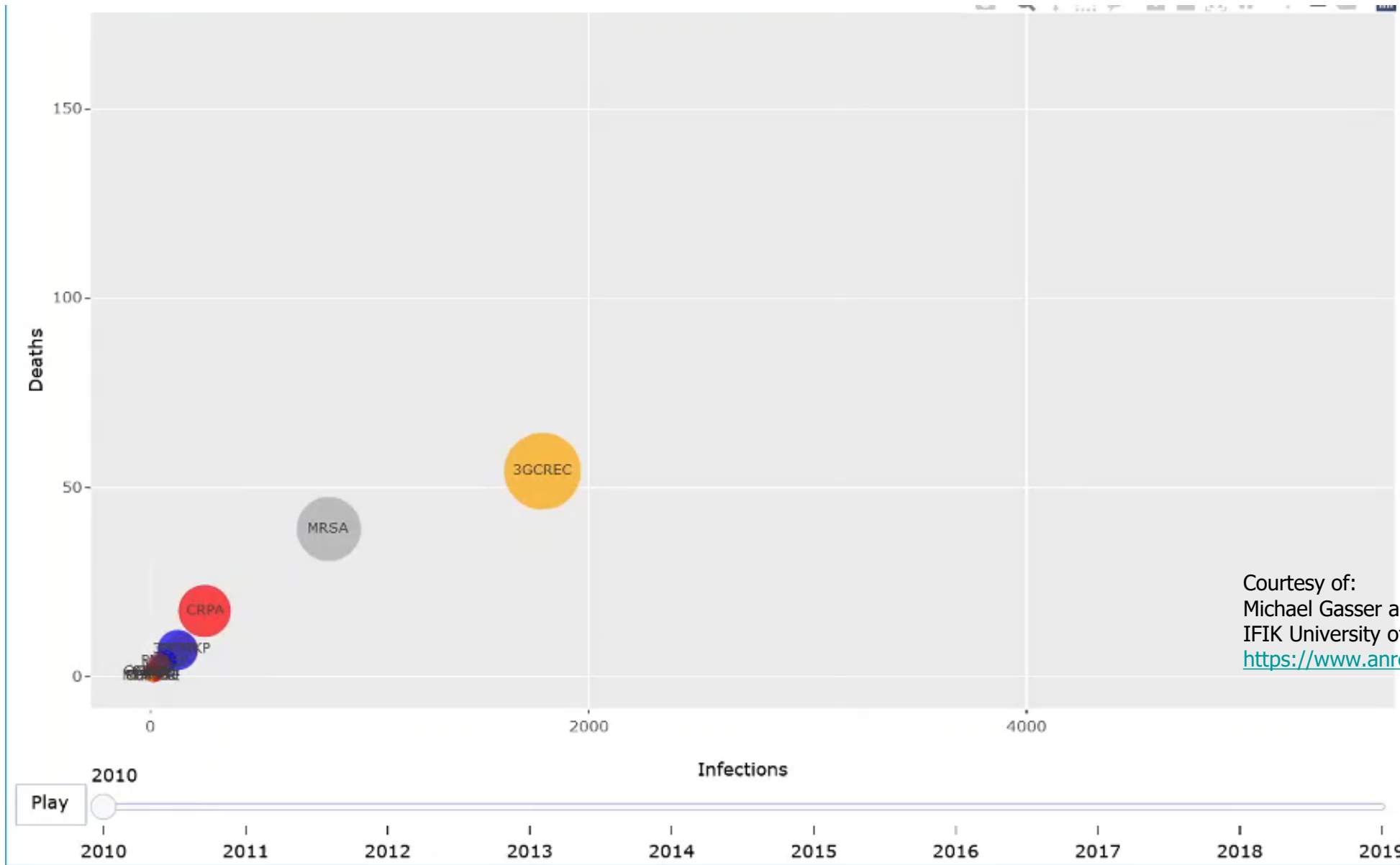
**2007 to 2015:**  
**Number of deaths more than doubled**  
**Number of deaths due to:**

- carbapenem-resistant *K. pneumoniae* increased six-fold
- third-generation cephalosporin-resistant *E. coli* increased four-fold

Adapted from:  
 Cassini, A., et al. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2019 Feb;19(2):129-130.



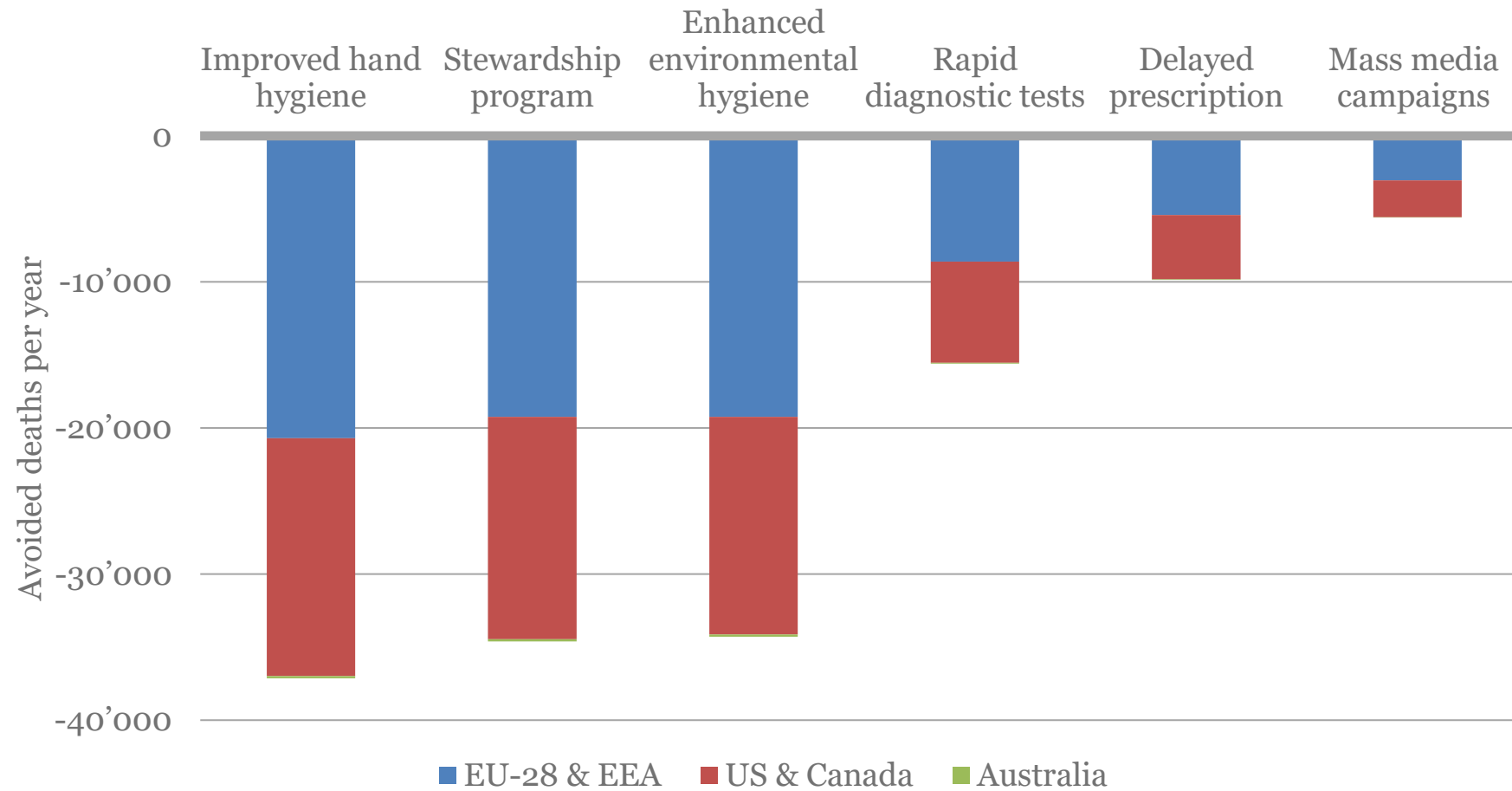
Courtesy of:  
 Michael Gasser and Andreas Kronenberg,  
 IFIK University of Bern



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Michael Gasser and Andreas Kronenberg,  
IFIK University of Bern  
<https://www.anresis.ch/#BoD>



# Public Health Policies to Tackle AMR Save Lives...

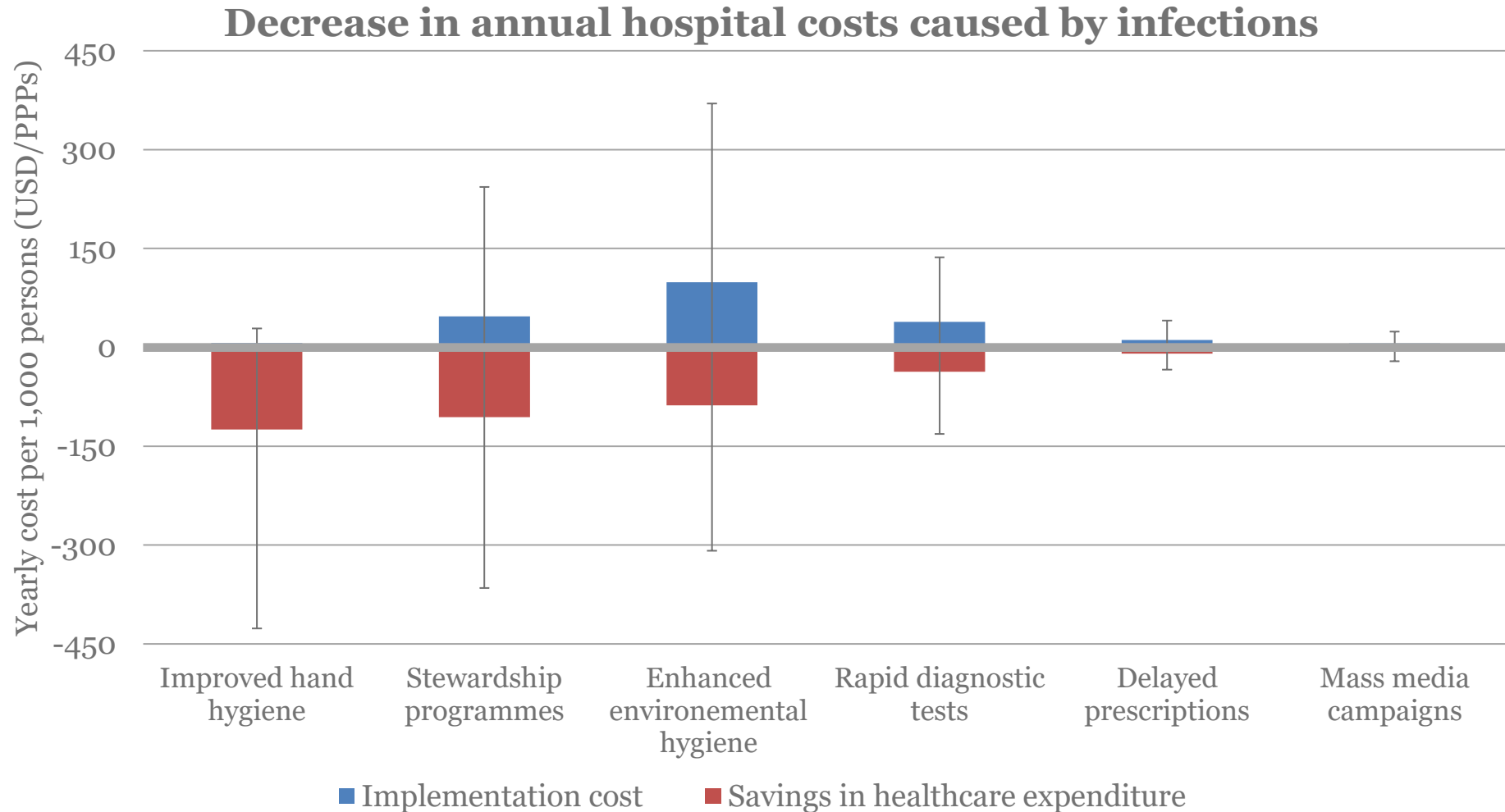


Courtesy of Michele Cecchini, OECD ([Michele.CECCHINI@oecd.org](mailto:Michele.CECCHINI@oecd.org))

Source: OECD. Stemming the Superbug Tide: just a few dollars more. 2018. [oe.cd/amr-2018](http://oe.cd/amr-2018)



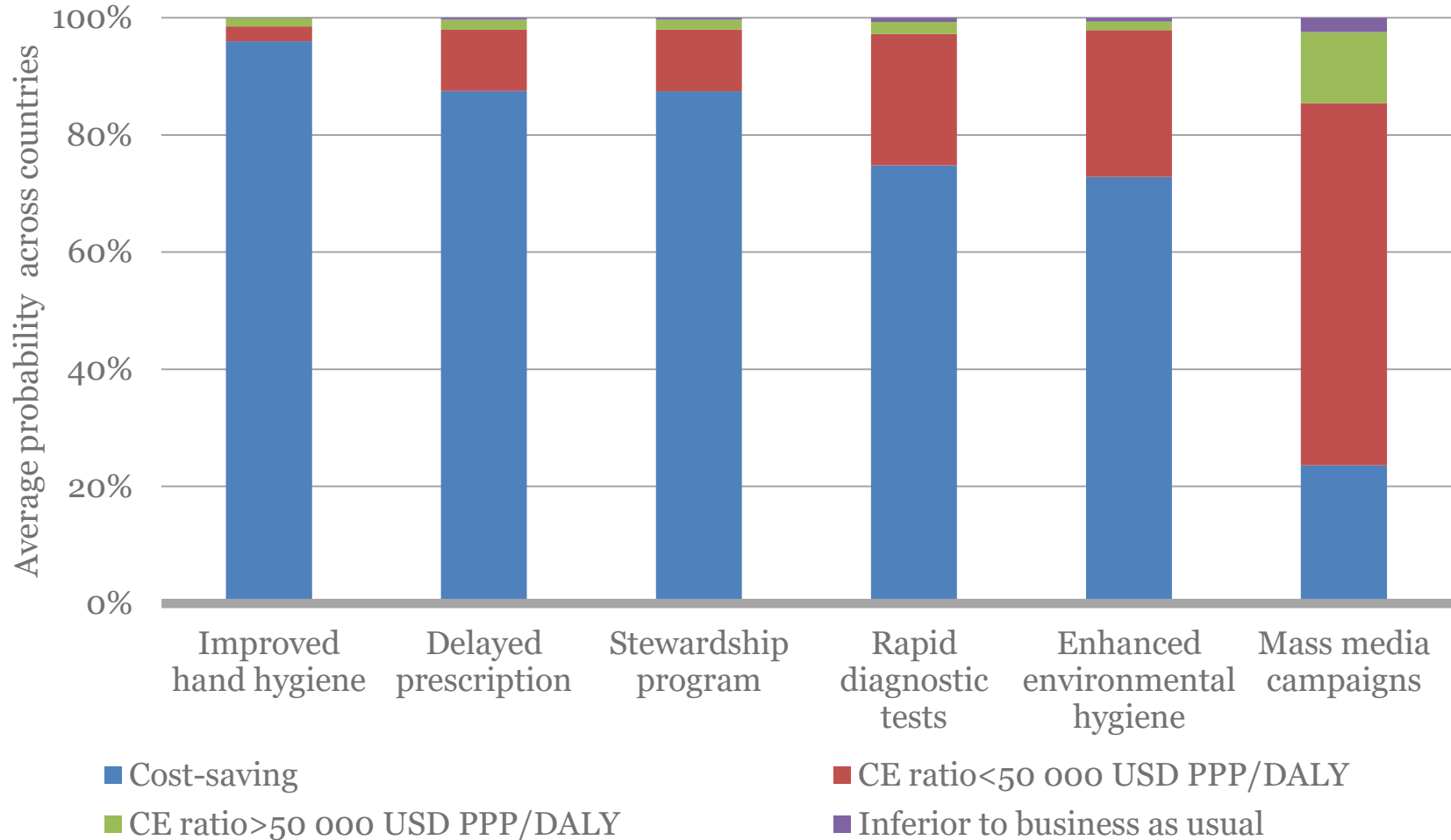
# ... And Decrease Healthcare Expenditure



Note: columns show the median value across 33 OECD and EU countries; whiskers show min and max values



# Tackling AMR is a Very Good Investment for OECD and EU Countries



Courtesy of Michele Cecchini, OECD ([Michele.CECCHINI@oecd.org](mailto:Michele.CECCHINI@oecd.org))

Source: OECD. Stemming the Superbug Tide: just a few dollars more. 2018. [oe.cd/amr-2018](https://www.oecd.org/amr-2018)



OECD Health Policy Studies

**Stemming the Superbug Tide**

JUST A FEW DOLLARS MORE



"Although some policies require major investments and involve complex implementation, a number of policies such as **hygiene interventions** can be effectively implemented in resource-constrained settings."

"The first intervention would be to improve hygiene in healthcare facilities, including promotion of **hand hygiene** and better **hospital hygiene**."

# Thank you

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