

Two new drug-resistant superbugs added to CDC's list of 'most urgent threats'

Drug-resistant germs and related infections sicken about 3 million people and kill about 48,000 every year in the United States, according to a [new report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The new estimates show that previous figures missed about half of the illnesses and deaths.

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Five germs account for the most urgent threats. Three are long-recognized dangers: *Clostridioides difficile* (C. diff.), drug-resistant gonorrhea, and carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriaceae (CRE), also known as "[nightmare bacteria](#)" because they pose a triple threat. They are resistant to all or nearly all antibiotics; they kill up to half of patients who get bloodstream infections from them; and the bacteria can transfer their antibiotic resistance to other related [bacteria](#), potentially making the other bacteria untreatable.

Two new ones were added to the urgent category since the CDC's [first report](#) in 2013: a deadly [superbug yeast](#) that has alarmed health officials around the world; and a family of bacteria that has developed resistance to nearly all antibiotics.

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Overuse of antibiotics is a likely reason for the dramatic rise in resistant infections, the report said. [Nearly a third](#) of antibiotics prescribed in doctors' offices, emergency rooms and hospital-based clinics in the United States are not needed.

Read full, original post: [Deadly superbugs pose greater threat than previously estimated](#)