What is antibiotic-resistant bacteria?

Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria no longer respond to the drugs designed to kill them. Anytime antibiotics are used, they can cause antibiotic resistance.

- Bacteria, not the body, become resistant to the antibiotics designed to kill them.
- When bacteria become resistant, antibiotics cannot fight them, and the bacteria multiply.
- Some resistant bacteria can be harder to treat and can spread to other people.

Each year in the U.S., at least 2 million people get infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria. At least 23,000 people die as a result.

To learn more about antibiotic prescribing and use, visit [www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use).