

The Blue Committee: Topic A Primary Sources

Limiting Antimicrobial Resistance

Here are the primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source #1: Antibiotic Resistance in Farm Animals is Rising

This article discusses the use of antibiotics in the farming industry and how, because of the misuse and overuse by farmers, antimicrobial resistance is rising. This is particularly relevant in lower-income nations, with resistance reaching an all-time high in India and China. It begins to explore solutions to combat the growing antimicrobial resistance in animals, such as exploring policies to regulate antimicrobial usage in animal species like chickens, pigs, and cows.

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/326436.php>

Source #2: 2018 World Antibiotic Awareness Week, World Health Organization

This source showcases the public awareness campaign that was sponsored by the World Health Organization in 2018 to bring light to the issues surrounding antibiotic usage. The overall messages of World Antibiotic Awareness Week were to “think twice. Seek advice” and “misuse of antibiotics puts us all at risk.” The campaign aims to educate medical professionals and the general public on how to properly use antibiotics.

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-antibiotic-awareness-week/world-antibiotic-awareness-week-2018>

Source #3: As Threat of Antibiotic Resistance Mounts, Biotechs and Running Out of Cash and Time

Focusing on the biotechnology industry, this article warns that several companies researching antimicrobial resistance are running low on research funds. Simultaneously, the threat of an antibiotic disease outbreak, as well as rates of resistance, are continuing to grow. This article discusses current issues in the pharmaceutical industry, such as the desire of major companies to put patients on more drawn-out treatment cycles, and how its desire for profit over cure is damaging.

<https://morningconsult.com/2019/09/05/as-threat-of-antibiotic-resistance-mounts-biotechs-are-running-out-of-cash-and-time/>

Source #4: The Antibiotic Resistance Crisis: Part 1- Causes and Threats

This article details the history and development of antibiotic-resistant diseases. It attributes the crisis of antimicrobial resistance to the misuse and overuse of antibiotics, as well as minimal development in new drugs because of regulatory and financial restrictions. It showcases the history of antibiotic usage and details how recently we've been encountering issues of resistance.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4378521/>

Source #5: Antibiotic/Antimicrobial Resistance, Center for Disease Control and Prevention

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention highlights the antimicrobial resistance crisis, both in the United States and abroad, as well as the implications it has for public health. In the United States alone, 2 million people contract antibiotic-resistance infections, and 23,000 die. This source showcases major threats that lead to antimicrobial resistance, as well as how individuals and institutions in the United States are working to protect themselves.

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/>

Source #6: Scientists alone can't solve the antibiotic resistance crisis- we need economists too

This article highlights the economic struggles behind preventing antibiotic resistance, such as the lack of profits in the industry. It mentions the need for incentives towards developing new antibiotics, as well as reducing the general use of these prescriptions. While scientific development and innovation is vital in the development of new antibiotics, economics needs to work in conjunction with it to tackle the unnecessary use of antibiotics.

<https://theconversation.com/scientists-alone-cant-solve-the-antibiotic-resistance-crisis-we-need-economists-too-116086>