

# CLINDAMYCIN-RESISTANT GROUP B *STREPTOCOCCUS*

THREAT LEVEL **CONCERNING**



**13,000**

Estimated  
infections in 2016



**720**

Estimated  
deaths in 2016

Group B *Streptococcus* (GBS) is a type of bacteria that can cause severe illnesses—including bloodstream infections, pneumonia, meningitis, and skin infections—in people of all ages.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Overall, about 31,000 severe GBS infections occurred in 2016, causing 1,700 deaths.
- In adults, GBS causes infections among pregnant women, older adults, and people with certain medical conditions, such as diabetes.
- Mothers can pass GBS to their infants during labor, threatening newborns with sepsis during the first week of life. When indicated, doctors give mothers antibiotics during labor to protect their newborns from GBS disease.
- Resistance to clindamycin limits treatment and prevention options for adults with severe penicillin allergy.

Data represents only invasive infections, including bloodstream infections and meningitis.

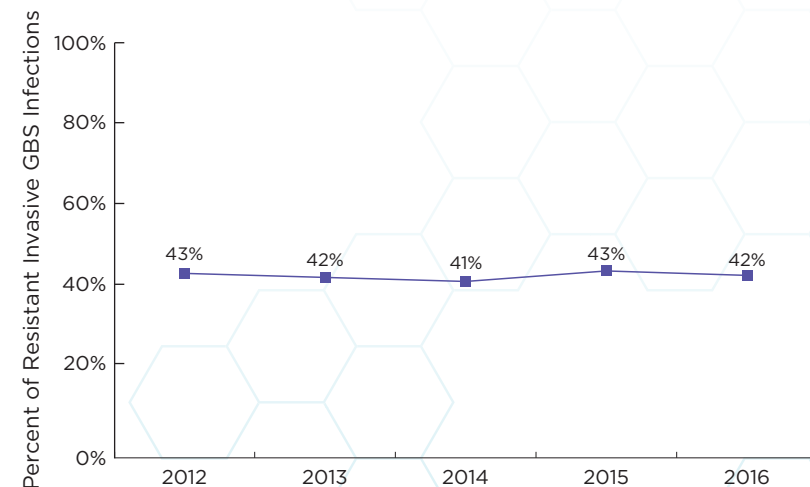


**U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

## INFECTIONS OVER TIME

### CLINDAMYCIN RESISTANCE

Clindamycin-resistant strains have caused more than 40% of GBS infections, limiting prevention and treatment options for people with severe penicillin allergy.



## ANTIBIOTICS CRITICAL FOR GBS

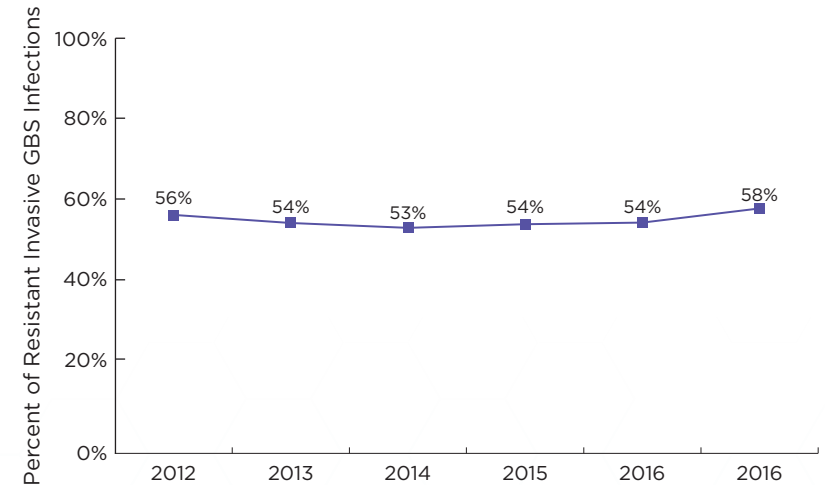
About one in every four pregnant women carry GBS bacteria in their body. Mothers who test positive for GBS during pregnancy can pass GBS to their newborns. Healthcare providers give these mothers penicillin or ampicillin during labor to prevent the spread of GBS to newborns during birth. Clindamycin is recommended when a mother has a severe penicillin allergy. Clindamycin can also be used to treat adult GBS infections if the patient has a severe penicillin allergy.

However, clindamycin-resistant germs cause more than 40% of GBS infections. Resistance to a related antibiotic called erythromycin is even more common—more than 50%. This seriously limits options for GBS disease prevention and treatment. Vaccines are in development for mothers-to-be to prevent GBS disease in their newborns. Until available, improving the way antibiotics are prescribed and taken helps fight the spread and development of antibiotic resistance, and ensures that these life-saving drugs will be available for future generations.

## INFECTIONS OVER TIME

### ERYTHROMYCIN RESISTANCE

Erythromycin-resistant strains have caused more than half of GBS infections.



## ONLINE RESOURCES

### About Clindamycin-resistant Group B *Streptococcus*

[www.cdc.gov/GroupBStrep/Index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/GroupBStrep/Index.html)

### Bact Facts Interactive: Data from Active Bacterial Core Surveillance

[wwwn.cdc.gov/BactFacts/Index.html](http://wwwn.cdc.gov/BactFacts/Index.html)