



BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

655 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4

Tel 604.707.2443
Fax 604.707.2441

www.bccdc.ca

Antimicrobial Resistance Trends in the Province of British Columbia

2014

Prepared by the
Do Bugs Need Drugs? Program

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Executive Summary

This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) trends in the province of British Columbia (BC). A summary of the results is presented below:

Gram Positive Organisms

- The proportion of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates that were methicillin resistant (MRSA) ranged from 16.1% to 30.5% from 2007 to 2014 according to BC Biomedical data, 12.4% to 19.3% on the Island (LifeLabs) and 20.1% to 27.7% in the Mainland (LifeLabs). In 2014, rates of resistance to clindamycin, erythromycin, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) among MRSA isolates were 36.6%, 82.8% and 1.3%, respectively (BC Biomedical data). Tetracycline resistance estimates among MRSA isolates were lower on the Island (5.1%) compared to the Mainland (11.2%) in 2014 according to LifeLabs data.
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* isolates have demonstrated a stable rate of resistance to all antibiotics tested since 2007 according to BC Biomedical data, with Mainland data (LifeLabs) showing similar trends and Island data (LifeLabs) with lower rates. In 2014, 35.2%, 18.7%, 17.1% of all tested isolates demonstrated non-susceptibility against erythromycin, penicillin, and clindamycin according to BC Biomedical data.
- From 2007 to 2010, non-susceptibility rates to erythromycin and clindamycin decreased in *Streptococcus pyogenes* isolates; however, as of 2014, non-susceptibility rates had increased to 12.3% and 11.8%, respectively. LifeLabs data from Mainland show a similar increasing trend to both antibiotics tested (erythromycin: $p < 0.01$; clindamycin: $p < 0.01$). As of 2014, *S. pyogenes* isolates remain highly susceptible to penicillin and cephalothin but fully resistant to TMP-SMX and ciprofloxacin according to BC Biomedical data.
- In 2014, *Enterococcus spp.* isolates remained highly susceptible to ampicillin (96.8%) and nitrofurantoin (99.1%) according to BC Biomedical data, with LifeLabs data showing similar rates. However, one quarter of all isolates tested were non-susceptible to ciprofloxacin in 2014, a rate that has been stable since 2007. A small percent of all *Enterococcus spp.* isolates (1.2%) were identified as vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) in 2013 according to BC Biomedical data.

Gram Negative Organisms

- In 2014, the proportion of *Escherichia coli* non-susceptible to ampicillin, ciprofloxacin, and gentamicin showed a slight increasing trend and is reported to be at 49.8%, 23.8% and 9.1%, respectively (ampicillin: $p < 0.01$; ciprofloxacin: $p < 0.01$; gentamicin: $p < 0.01$ according to BC Biomedical data). These resistance rates increase with age, being highest in those aged 70 years or older. *E. coli* isolates have demonstrated moderate levels of resistance to TMP-SMX with 24.0% of isolates demonstrating resistance in 2014, a rate that has decreased over the time period between 2007 and 2014 ($p < 0.01$). Nitrofurantoin remains a highly effective empiric treatment for uncomplicated urinary infections caused by *E. coli* with approximately 97.9% of isolates exhibiting susceptibility to this drug class. This trend is reassuring as *E. coli* is the chief causative organism for cases of uncomplicated UTI infections.
- Data from 2014 suggest that ciprofloxacin and gentamicin resistance in *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolates remains low at 5.2% and 2.6%, respectively according to BC Biomedical data, with LifeLabs data showing similar rates in both Mainland and Island populations. Non-susceptibility to nitrofurantoin shows a slight decreasing trend across all data sources yet remains high in 2014 at 42.7% (BC Biomedical, $p < 0.01$). Additionally, resistance to TMP-SMX for *K. pneumoniae* appears to be decreasing from 12.8% in 2008 to 10.1% in 2014 ($p < 0.01$) with similar rates observed in LifeLabs data.
- In 2014, 17.8% of *Proteus mirabilis* isolates were non-susceptible to ciprofloxacin according to BC Biomedical data, with similar rates observed on the Mainland (22.0%), but lower rates observed on the Island (7.0%). Non-susceptibility to gentamicin has stabilized during the time period between 2007 to 2014 and remains low at 7.4% in 2014. Additionally, the proportion of isolates non-susceptible to ampicillin has also stabilized and is reported at 30.7%, 16.8%, and 26.2% for BC Biomedical, LifeLabs-Island and LifeLabs-Mainland, respectively.
- The proportion of **SPICE** organisms non-susceptible to ciprofloxacin, gentamicin, and TMP-SMX have stabilized during the period 2008-2014 and remains low at 6.3%, 3.8% and 8.7% on the Mainland with similar rates observed on the Island (ciprofloxacin: $p = 0.298$ gentamicin: $p = 0.596$; TMP-SMX: $p = 0.195$).
- In 2014, 13.1% of *E. coli* isolates, 4.9% of *P. mirabilis* isolates, and 4.2% of *K. pneumoniae* isolates exhibited an **extended-spectrum β -lactamase-like (ESBL) phenotype**. Approximately half of all ESBL-like isolates (*E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *P. mirabilis*) demonstrated non-susceptibility to at least two of the quinolones, aminoglycosides and TMP-SMX, while approximately 20.0% of isolates demonstrated non-susceptibility to antimicrobials in all three classes.
- A significant increase is observed in the proportion of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolates that are non-susceptible to piperacillin between 2007 to 2014 and is reported at 2.5% in 2014 (piperacillin: $p < 0.01$ (BC

Biomedical). Ceftazidime shows a similar trend and reported at 2.2% in 2014. Non-susceptibility to gentamicin and tobramycin remains low in 2014 at a rate of 3.3 % and 0.8%, respectively, while the proportion of isolates non-susceptible to ciprofloxacin is higher at a rate of 9.0% in 2013 (BC Biomedical).

- In 2014, the proportion of ***Salmonella Enteritidis*** isolates non-susceptible to tetracycline, ampicillin, and chloramphenicol remains low at 1.6%, 5.5% and 0.8%, respectively. The proportion of ***Salmonella Heidelberg*** isolates that are non-susceptible to amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, ceftriaxone, ampicillin, and tetracycline has decreased since the peaks in 2012 and is reported to be at 36.4%, 36.4%, 45.5%, and 18.2%, respectively.
- The percent of ***Haemophilus influenzae*** isolates resistant to ampicillin has remained between 14.3 and 23.5% from 2007 to 2014 and is reported to be at 23.5% in 2014 (BC Biomedical).
- In 2014, the rate of non-susceptibility to erythromycin in ***Campylobacter*** remains low at 5.4% on the Island and 3.3% on the Mainland according to LifeLabs data. However, non-susceptibility rates to ciprofloxacin fluctuates substantially between 25.4% and 43.2% on the Island and between 36.9% and 50.1% during the time period 2008 to 2013 (Island: $p=0.432$; Mainland: $p=0.059$). The non-susceptibility rate to tetracycline fluctuates around 35% on both the Mainland and on the Island and is reported to be 37.0% on the Island and 52.7% on the Mainland in 2014.
- An overall decreasing trend is observed for isolates with elevated MICs to cefixime, azithromycin, and ceftriaxone in ***Neisseria gonorrhoeae*** isolates when compared to data from 2011. In 2014, 0.0% and 0.4% of isolates showed decreased susceptibility to cefixime and ceftriaxone, respectively; while 22.4% showed resistance to ciprofloxacin.
- In 2014, 5.0% of ***Neisseria meningitidis*** isolates showed resistance to ciprofloxacin. The proportion of isolates demonstrating non-susceptibility to penicillin decreased as compared to 2012 and is reported to be at 35.0% in 2014.

Other Organisms

- Rates of poly-drug resistance in patients infected with ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis*** (MTB) remains low at less than 1.0% of patients. However, rate of multi-drug resistance has increased and reported at 2.2% which is the highest rate since 2005. In 2014, 9.9% of patients were infected with MTB exhibited resistance to one drug.

Data Sources

LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services (including BC Biomedical Laboratories)
BC Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory
Canadian Bacterial Surveillance Network
Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
ATC	Anatomical Therapeutic Classification
BC	British Columbia
BCAMM	British Columbia Association of Medical Microbiologists
BCCDC	British Columbia Centre for Disease Control
BCPHMRL	British Columbia Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory
CA-MRSA	Community-Associated Methicillin-Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
CANWARD	Canadian Ward Surveillance Study
CBSN	Canadian Bacterial Surveillance Network
CIPARS	Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance
CLSI	Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute
CNISP	Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program
CRE	Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
D-test	Double Disk Diffusion Test
ESBL	Extended-Spectrum β -lactamase
GAS	Group A Streptococcus
HA-MRSA	Hospital-Associated Methicillin-Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
iPHIS	Integrated Public Health Information System
MIC	Minimum Inhibitory Concentration
MRSA	Methicillin-Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
MSSA	Methicillin-Susceptible <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
NML	National Microbiology Laboratory
MTB	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>
PHAC	Public Health Agency of Canada
SPICE	<i>Serratia</i> spp., <i>Providencia</i> spp., <i>Morganella</i> spp., <i>Citrobacter</i> spp., and <i>Enterobacter</i> spp. are collectively referred to as the SPICE organisms
TMP-SMX	Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection
VRE	Vancomycin-Resistant <i>Enterococcus</i>
WHO	World Health Organization

Introduction

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a serious threat to public health globally (1). Bacterial strains that develop or acquire resistance to one or more first-line antimicrobials pose numerous challenges to healthcare including: increased patient morbidity and mortality, increased drug costs, prolonged illness duration, and more expensive disease control measures (2). These antimicrobial resistant strains arise, in part, as a result of antimicrobial use that selects for resistant organisms (2). Inappropriate antimicrobial use, therefore, contributes unnecessarily to the rise in resistance. As AMR genes or plasmids can be readily transmitted between bacterial species via horizontal gene transfer (HGT), surveillance of AMR trends is critical for the rapid detection of new isolates and continuous monitoring of disease prevalence (2). This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of antibacterial resistance trends for clinically relevant Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria in the community in the province of British Columbia (BC), for all years where data are available, as part of the Do Bugs Need Drugs? (DBND) program evaluation. The DBND program is a community education program for health care professionals and the public geared towards decreasing antibiotic overuse and misuse and limiting the spread of resistant organisms. DBND has been funded since its inception in BC (2005) by the Medical Beneficiary & Pharmaceutical Services Division, BC Ministry of Health. Although this report has been updated annually since 2006, data presented in this report differ from previous years due to additional information regarding changes in testing methods or number of isolates tested. The most current report should be considered the most accurate.

Methods

Data were provided by various provincial and national collaborators in either anonymized line-listed or aggregate form. The line-listed data from LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services (LifeLabs) has been included since 2013 in addition to line-listed data provided by BC Biomedical Laboratories (now part of LifeLabs). LifeLabs is a community-based laboratory network, provides services to Vancouver Island and the rest of the Mainland whereas BC Biomedical has a concentration of services in the Fraser Health Authority region. Data from the Mainland and the Island are presented separately to provide a geographical comparison of non-susceptibility rates. Where data from both geographical areas show similar trends, an overall statement regarding the data was provided. It should be noted, that LifeLabs and BC Biomedical use different susceptibility testing methodologies which may affect the estimates presented in the report. Testing methodologies will be standardized across both LifeLabs and BC Biomedical Laboratories in the future. Please see Appendix B for more information.

Data analysis

Data were analyzed using SPSS 14.0 for Windows. Microsoft Excel 2007 was used in the creation of all figures and tables. Where appropriate, the trend of non-susceptibility over time was tested for significance using the two-sided non-parametric Spearman Rank test. Please note that for BC Biomedical Laboratories (BC Biomedical) data, the trend over time was tested for significance between 2007 and 2014 and between 2008 and 2014 for LifeLabs data. All available years were included in the analysis. The significance level for this report was set at $p < 0.05$.

Important Notes

- Antimicrobial resistance refers to the organism's ability to survive in the presence of one or more antimicrobial agents. Organisms are tested for susceptibility to antimicrobial agents in the laboratory using the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) breakpoints, as set out by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines(3). The MIC breakpoint is the lowest concentration of the drug that will inhibit growth of the bacteria (3).
- In the event that the proportion of isolates reaching the intermediate MIC breakpoint threshold is greater than 3%, intermediate and resistant isolates are presented separately. Unless otherwise indicated, all other data combine both resistant and intermediate isolates, and are referred to as the percent of isolates non-susceptible to the specified antimicrobial.
- Organism-antibiotic combinations were selected based on data availability and empiric therapy guidelines as set out in the *Bugs and Drugs* antimicrobial and infectious disease reference manual. Where applicable, indicators from the WHO's Antimicrobial Resistance Global Surveillance report, the UK's Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy report, and DANMAP 2012 were used in reference (1;46;55).
- All resistance and non-susceptibility trends are reported on a per isolate basis with the exception of carbapenem-resistant organisms (CPOs) and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* which are reported on a per patient basis.

- As resistance rates differed substantially between organisms, scale bars (vertical axes) on figures are not consistent between organisms. Caution should be exercised when interpreting and comparing figures across organisms.

Gram-positive Organisms

1.1. *Staphylococcus aureus*

Staphylococcus aureus is a Gram positive organism that most commonly causes skin and soft tissue infections, but can also cause disease in other organ systems (e.g. pneumonia, sepsis) (4). Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) strains are the most prevalent and most clinically important form of antimicrobial resistance among the staphylococci. The existence of MRSA was first reported in 1964 in the United States and the United Kingdom, and nosocomial outbreaks were becoming common by the late 1970s (5). The first major report of MRSA in BC was an outbreak in a Vancouver teaching hospital in 1981 (5). Although MRSA infections were traditionally only acquired in the hospital setting, community-associated MRSA (CA-MRSA) strains have become prevalent both in hospitals and in the community (6). Hospital-associated MRSA (HA-MRSA) infections are typically resistant to multiple classes of antimicrobials in addition to β -lactam antimicrobials. Methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* (MSSA) reported here, represents all strains of *S. aureus* that are susceptible to the β -lactam class of antibiotics at a community level.

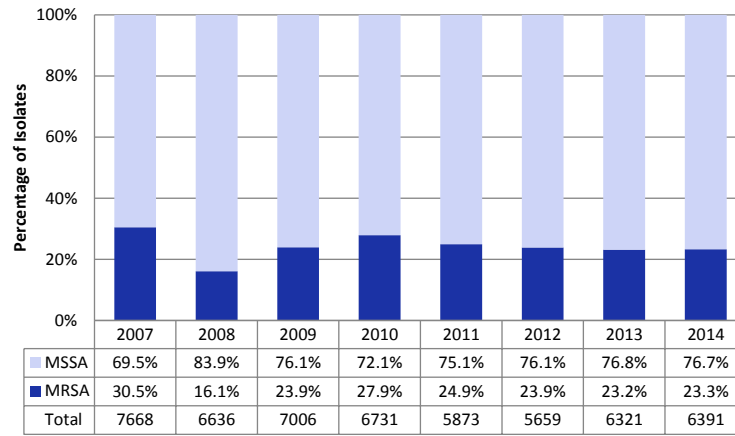
Data from BC Biomedical Laboratories indicate a higher proportion of MRSA among *S. aureus* isolates as compared to data from LifeLabs (both Mainland and Island). Vancouver Island is found to have the lowest rate of MRSA isolates at 12.4% in 2014 while the rate for BC Biomedical Laboratories and the Mainland showed similar rates (**Figure 1**).

BC Biomedical Laboratories data show that among MRSA isolates, resistance to erythromycin, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) significantly declined from 2007 to 2014 (erythromycin: $p < 0.01$; TMP-SMX: $p < 0.01$, tetracycline: $p < 0.01$), while clindamycin resistance stayed fairly stable ($p = 0.87$) (**Figure 2**). In 2014, more than 95% of MRSA isolates continue to be susceptible to vancomycin and mupirocin (data not shown). Similarly, according to LifeLabs data, the non-susceptibility rates to erythromycin have significantly decreased on both Island ($p < 0.01$) and Mainland ($p < 0.01$) from 2008 to 2014. Also, the resistance rates to TMP-SMX and tetracycline remain stable on Island (TMP-SMX: $p = 0.83$ and tetracycline: $p = 0.52$) while they show a significantly increasing trend on Mainland (TMP-SMX: $p < 0.01$ and tetracycline: $p < 0.01$) (**Figure 2**). The resistance rates to clindamycin fluctuate on both Island and Mainland (**Figure 2**).

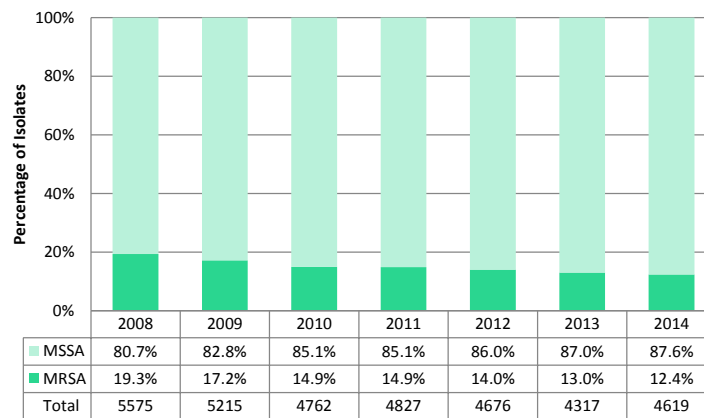
Among MSSA isolates, BC Biomedical data show that resistance to erythromycin, TMP-SMX and clindamycin decreased during this period, reaching 20.3%, 0.4% and 14.3% respectively in 2014 (erythromycin: $p < 0.05$ TMP-SMX: $p < 0.01$, clindamycin: $p < 0.01$) (**Figure 2**). Differences in resistance to clindamycin between BC Biomedical and LifeLabs data may be due to differences in testing methodology between the laboratories; LifeLabs utilizes a more sensitive approach (e.g. PCR confirmation for indeterminate results).

In 2014, 99.8% of MSSA isolates are susceptible to cephalothin and all MSSA isolates were susceptible to vancomycin (data not shown). LifeLabs data show that the non-susceptibility rates to erythromycin significantly declined since 2008 for both Island ($p < 0.05$) and Mainland ($p < 0.01$). However, there are no significant trends observed for TMP-SMX, tetracycline, and clindamycin (**Figure 2**).

BC Biomedical



LifeLabs- Island



LifeLabs- Mainland

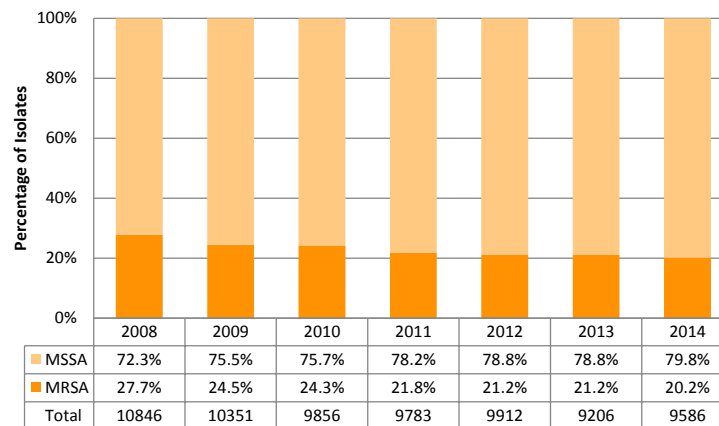
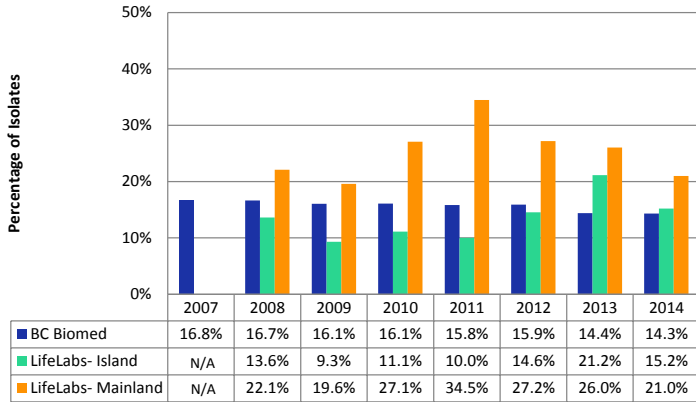
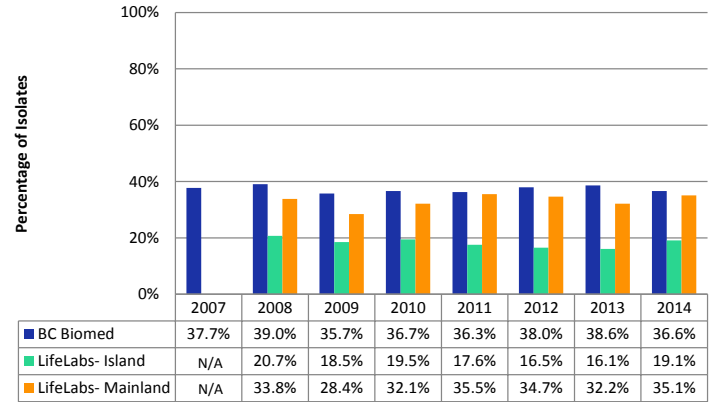


Figure 1- Proportion of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates methicillin-sensitive (MSSA) and methicillin-resistant (MRSA) (2007-2014)
Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs (Island and Mainland)

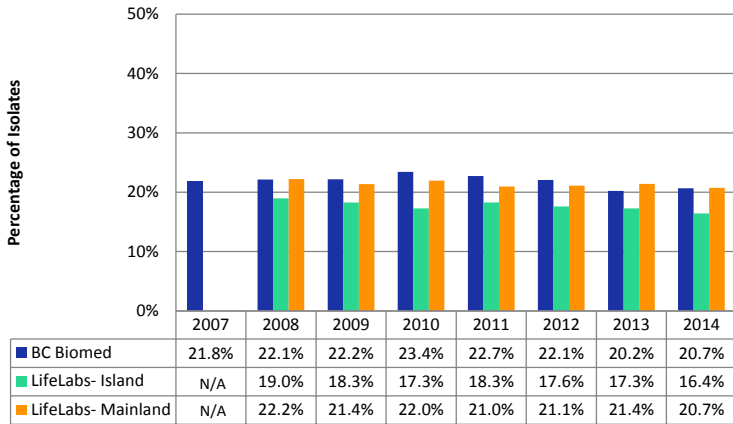
MSSA Clindamycin



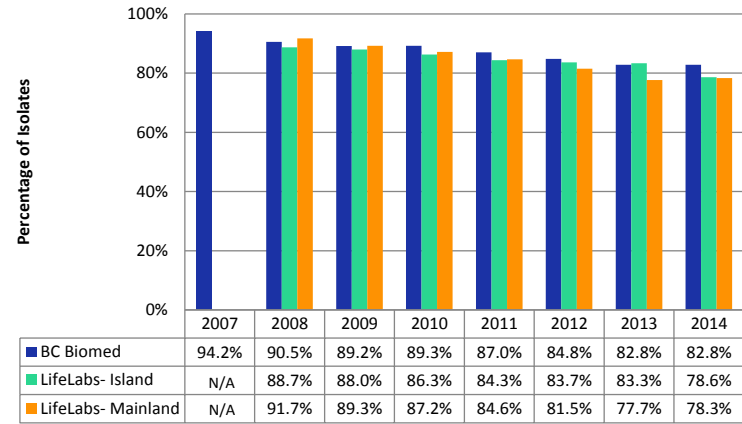
MRSA Clindamycin



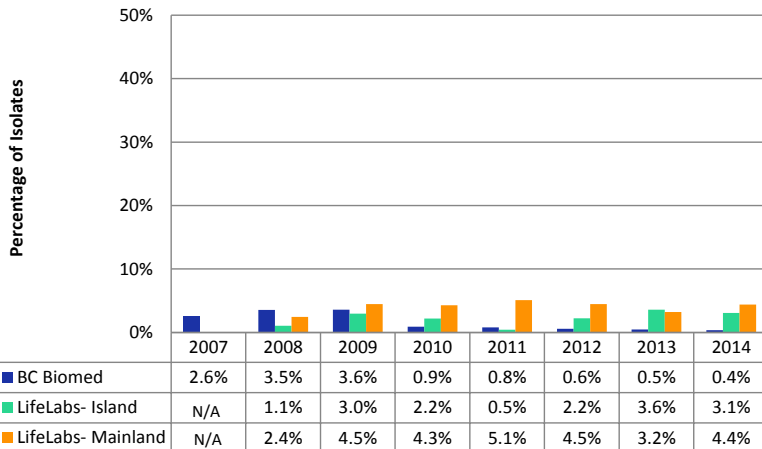
Erythromycin



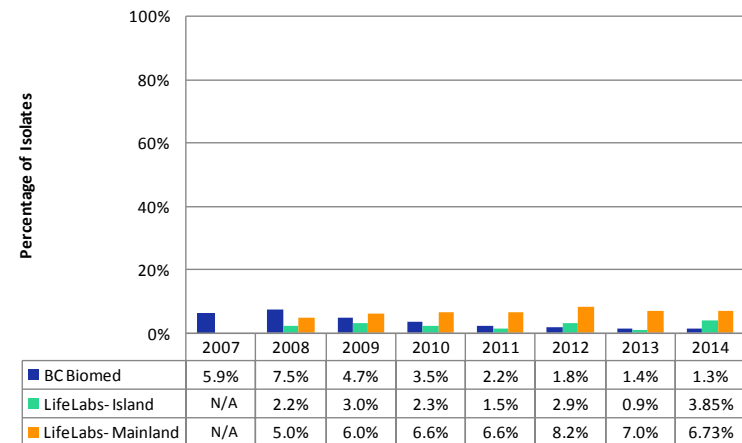
Erythromycin



TMP-SMX

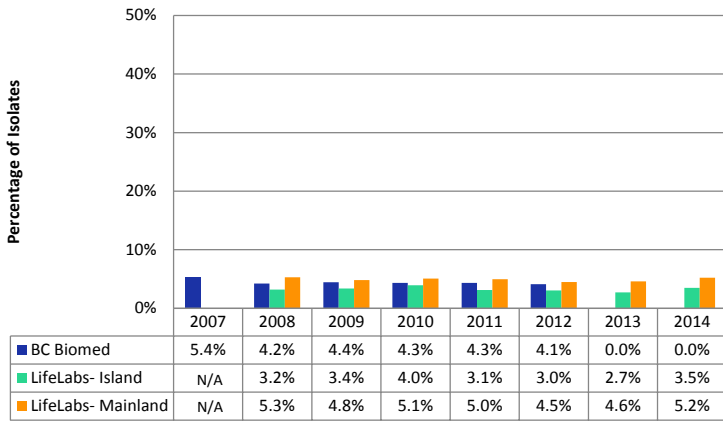


TMP-SMX



MSSA

Tetracycline



MRSA

Tetracycline

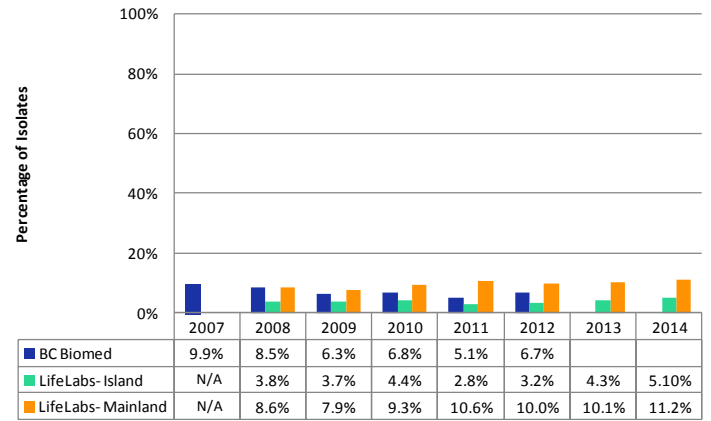


Figure 2- Proportion of MSSA and MRSA isolates non-susceptible to clindamycin, erythromycin, TMP-SMX, and tetracycline (2007-2014).

Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs (Island and Mainland)

Please note: Resistance data to tetracycline was not available for BC Biomedical Laboratories since 2013.

1.2. *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumococcus) is the leading cause of community-acquired pneumonia (CAP), but is also commonly found to be the predominant cause in acute otitis media, bacteraemia, and meningitis (7). All diseases associated with pneumococcal infection follow colonization of the mucosal surface of the upper respiratory tract. Although colonization at this site is asymptomatic, further spread of pneumococci into sections of the airway that are typically sterile will trigger the inflammatory response which results in disease (7). The major virulence factor of pneumococcus is its polysaccharide capsule, of which 91 serotypes differing both structurally and antigenically, has been identified thus far. Competition exists, not only amongst the various pneumococcal strains, but also among the 700 other microbial species estimated to reside within the human pharynx (7). This highly populated microbial environment presents an excellent opportunity for *S. pneumoniae* to take up exogenous DNA from closely related oral streptococcal species and co-colonizing pneumococci thus increasing its overall fitness (7). First-line treatment for pneumococcal infections typically includes β -lactams, macrolides, and tetracycline (see Bugs & Drugs 2012 edition for the full list of recommended therapies). However, uptake of genes by *S. pneumoniae* that encode altered penicillin-binding proteins has contributed to the resistance of β -lactams which severely impacts the effective treatment of pneumococcal infections (7). The first *S. pneumoniae* isolate described to be non-susceptible to penicillin was identified in Australia in 1967. Resistance to penicillin emerged and spread rapidly to other parts of the world in the 1990s and was associated with increased antibiotic consumption (8). The first case of a penicillin-resistant isolate in BC was reported in 1993 (9). Since the advent of antibiotics, outbreaks of invasive *S. pneumoniae* have been relatively rare. However, during the period 2005-2009, an epidemic of invasive pneumococcal disease caused by *S. pneumoniae* serotype 5 was observed in Canada, with 33% of cases (343 cases) reported in British Columbia (9). A heptavalent pneumococcal vaccine (PCV7) was introduced in BC since 2003 and covers 80% of serotypes causing invasive disease in children younger than five (10). However, in 2010, the PCV-7 was replaced with the PCV-13, which provides greater protection against additional serotypes (11)

According to BC Biomedical Laboratories data, 18.7% of *S. pneumoniae* are non-susceptible to penicillin in 2014, the majority of which show intermediate resistance (**Figure 3**). The proportion of *S. pneumoniae* non-susceptible to erythromycin has remained stable around 30% from 2007 to 2014 ($p=0.43$) and is at 35.2% in 2014 (**Figure 3**). Similarly, non-susceptibility towards TMP-SMX has appeared to remain stable at approximately 20% of isolates from 2007 to 2014 ($p=0.56$). Tetracycline non-susceptibility has exhibited a similar trend, with non-susceptibility rates fluctuating between 15% and 20% from 2007 to 2013 ($p=0.38$), which is no longer tested by BC Biomedical starting 2014 (**Figure 3**). Levofloxacin non-susceptibility has remained less than 5% of isolates since 2007 and currently sits at 4.2% (data not shown). All isolates are fully resistant to cefixime in 2014 (data not shown).

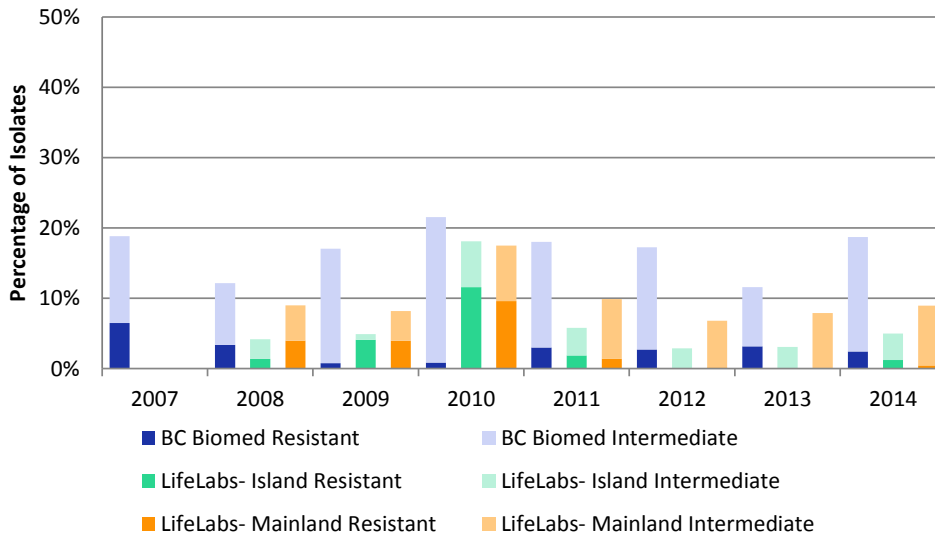
LifeLabs data suggest that higher non-susceptibility rates across most of the tested antibiotics exist on the Mainland when compared to Vancouver Island among *S. pneumoniae* isolates. Analyses for resistance against penicillin are restricted to oral-penicillin susceptibility results for non-meningitis *S. pneumoniae* isolates. According to LifeLabs data, non-susceptibility to penicillin has fluctuated between 6.46% and 17.7% from 2008 to 2014 and was at a rate of 5.2% on Island and 9.0% on Mainland in 2014, which is lower than the BC Biomedical rate (18.7%) (**Figure 3**). In 2014, non-susceptibility data to TMP-SMX are 10.9% for Mainland isolates and 7.8% for Island isolates, which is much lower than BC Biomedical data (20.6%) (**Figure 3**). The rate of erythromycin non-susceptibility in 2014 is higher among isolates from the Mainland (26.4%) when compared to isolates from the Island (16.5%) with the rate from the Mainland closely mirroring the trend observed from BC Biomedical (**Figure 3**). The rate of tetracycline non-susceptibility has been substantially lower on the Island compared to the Mainland since 2008. In 2014, the rate of tetracycline non-susceptibility is 16.8% for the Mainland and 6.6% for Island (**Figure 3**).

In addition to the data collected from BC Biomedical and LifeLabs, hospital based data from Canadian Bacterial Surveillance Network (CBSN) were analyzed. CBSN data are collected from one or two hospital in BC, and the difference in the site of data collection may result in discrepancy between trends. Data from CBSN suggest a general increase in the percent of isolates non-susceptible to erythromycin, clindamycin, and ciprofloxacin between 1994 and 2014 (erythromycin: $p<0.01$, clindamycin: $p<0.05$ and ciprofloxacin: $p<0.05$), a trend not observed in the BC Biomedical data (**Figure 4**). Due to changes in methodology of testing (changes in MIC breakpoints), only resistance data was used for analysis of *S. pneumoniae* to tetracycline which is at a rate of 3.8% in 2014.

Penicillin non-susceptibility has fluctuated quite drastically between less than 5% to more than 20% for the period of 1994 to 2014 ($p=0.489$). From 2009 to 2011, it appeared as though the rate of isolates non-susceptible to penicillin was decreasing from 20.0% to 8.2%; however, non-susceptibility rapidly increased again in 2012 and 2013. In 2014, the non-susceptibility to penicillin decreased again and is reported to be at 7.7% (**Figure 4**). TMP-SMX non-susceptibility had remained stable, just above 20.0%, from 2007 to 2011 but decreased by more than 10% starting in

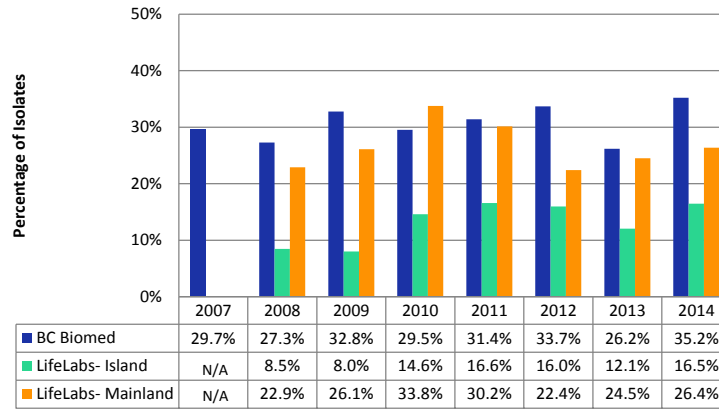
2012 and is currently 11.5% in 2014 ($p=0.960$) (**Figure 4**). Ceftriaxone non-susceptibility has remained low since the peak noted in 2010 (10.6%) and 100% of *S. pneumoniae* isolates are susceptible to ceftriaxone in 2014 (**Figure 4**). In addition, 100% of *S. pneumoniae* isolates remain sensitive to moxifloxacin and levofloxacin in 2014 (**Figure 4**).

Penicillin

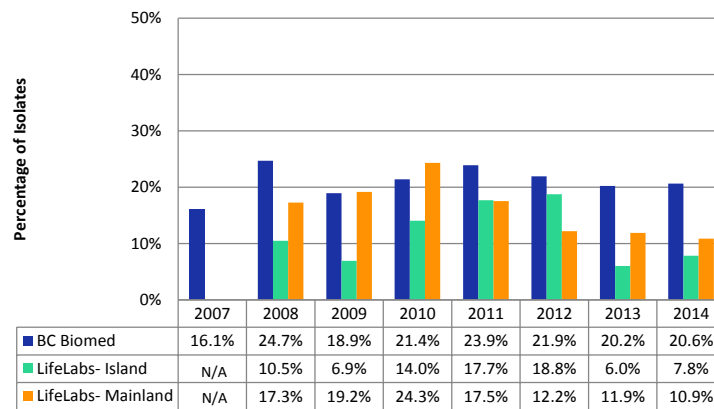


Data Source	Susceptibility	Year							
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
BC Biomed	I ^a .	12.3%	8.8%	16.3%	20.7%	15.0%	14.5%	8.4%	16.3%
	R ^b .	6.5%	3.4%	0.8%	0.9%	3.0%	2.7%	3.2%	2.4%
LifeLabs- Island	I	N/A	2.8%	0.8%	6.5%	3.9%	2.9%	3.1%	3.8%
	R	N/A	1.4%	4.1%	11.6%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
LifeLabs- Mainland	I	N/A	5.0%	4.2%	7.9%	8.5%	6.6%	7.9%	8.5%
	R	N/A	8.5%	4.0%	9.6%	1.4%	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%

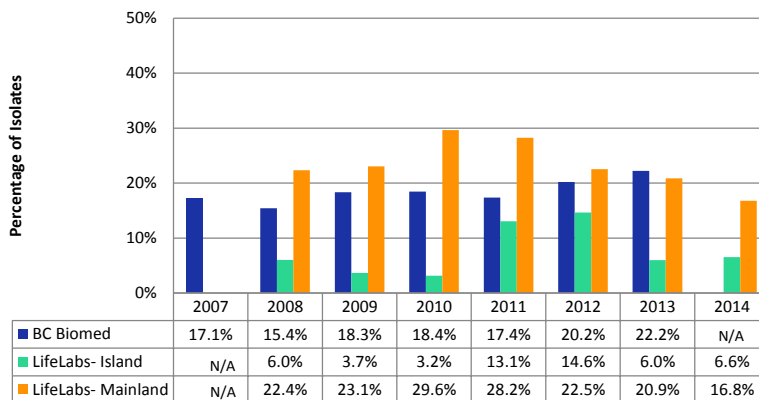
Erythromycin



TMP-SMX



Tetracycline



Clindamycin

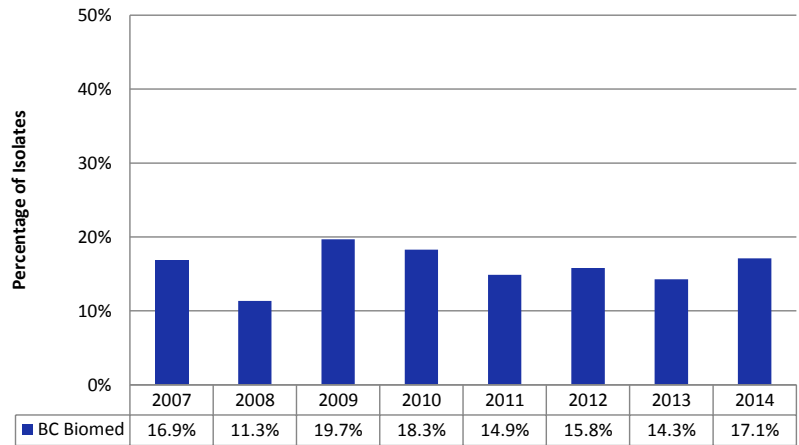


Figure 3- Proportion of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* isolates non-susceptible to penicillin, TMP-SMX, erythromycin, tetracycline, and clindamycin (2007-2014)

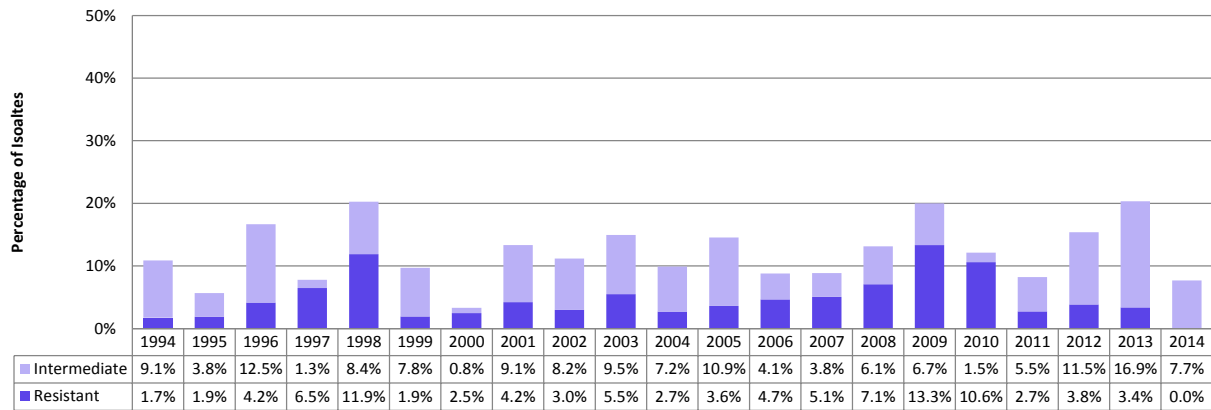
Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services

^aI= Isolates classified as having intermediate resistance based on MIC breakpoints and CLSI guidelines

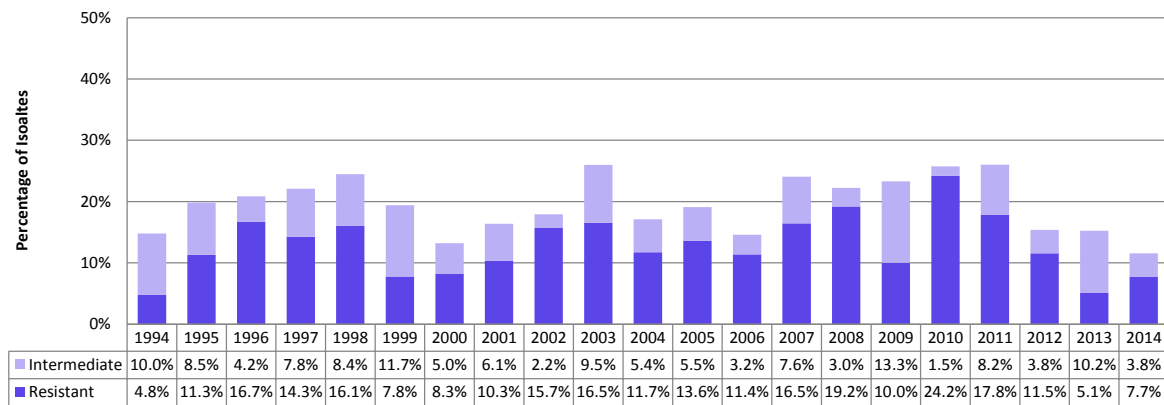
^bR= Isolates classified as resistant based on MIC breakpoints and CLSI guidelines

Please note: LifeLabs data for resistance to clindamycin was limited (n<30); hence, data were not included in the analysis.

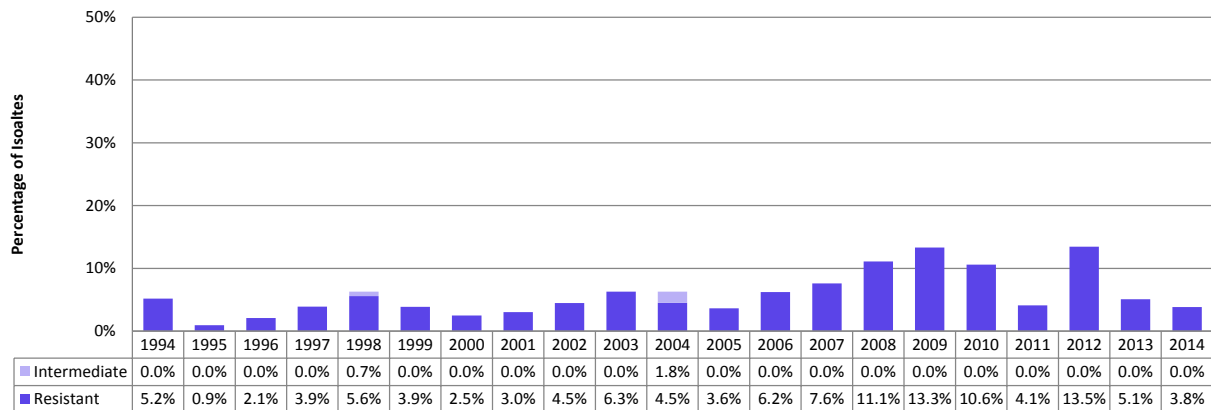
Penicillin



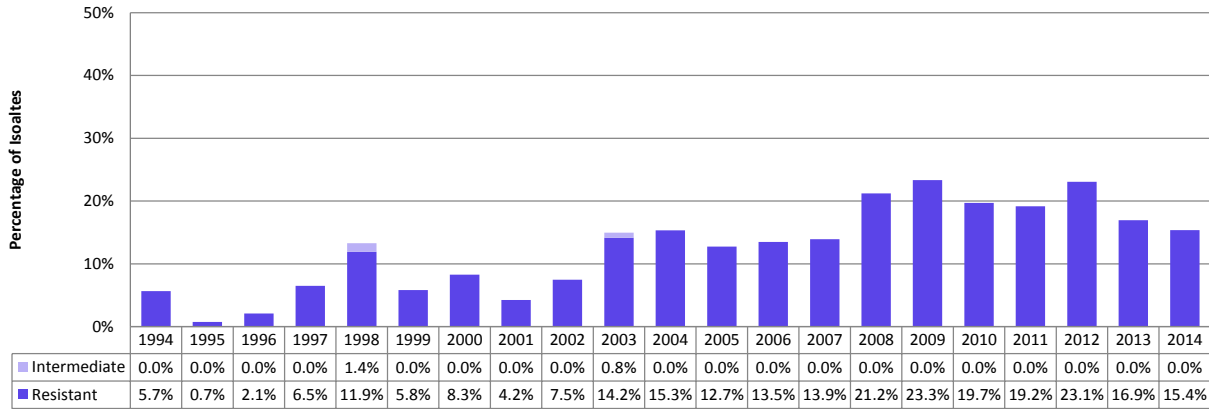
TMP-SMX



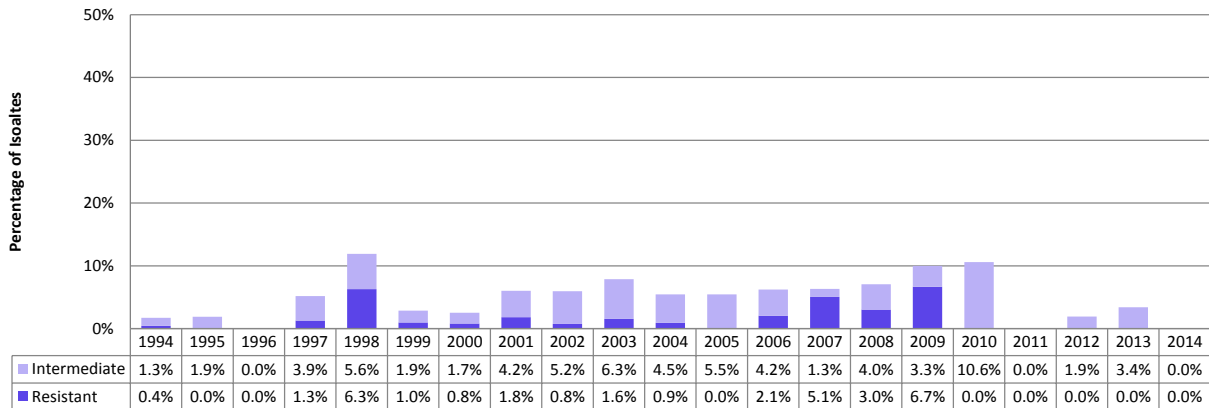
Clindamycin



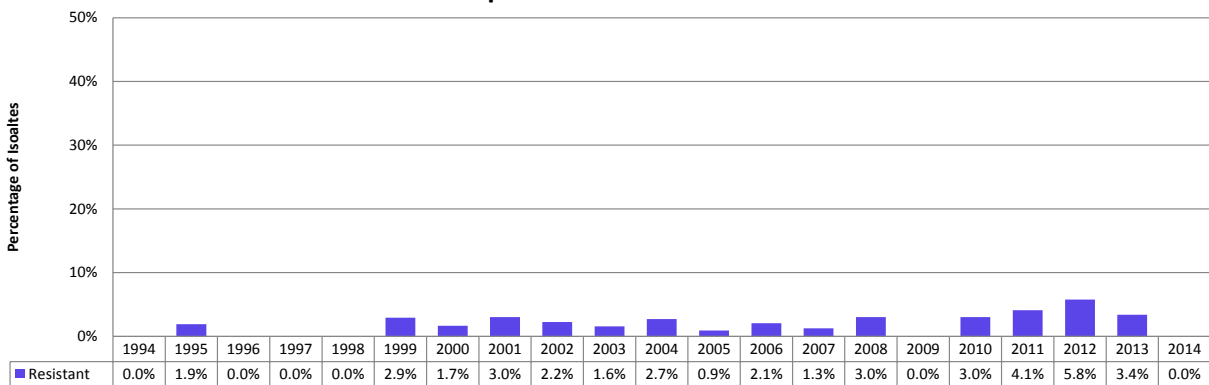
Erythromycin



Ceftriaxone (non-meningitis breakpoint)



Ciprofloxacin



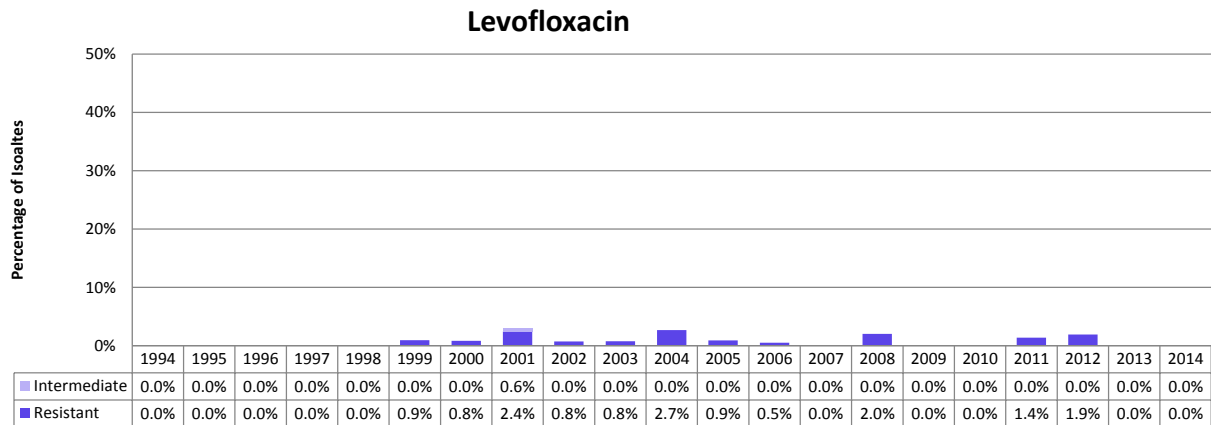
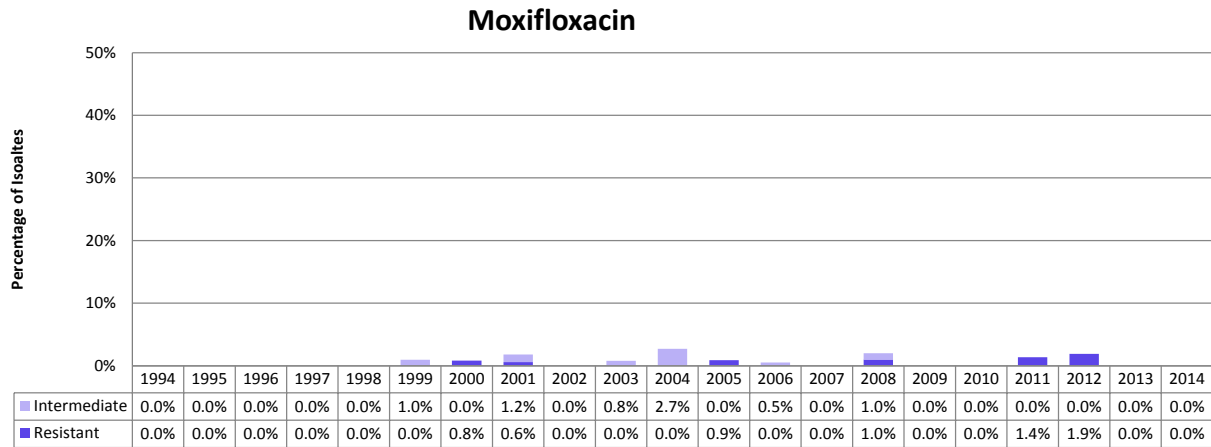
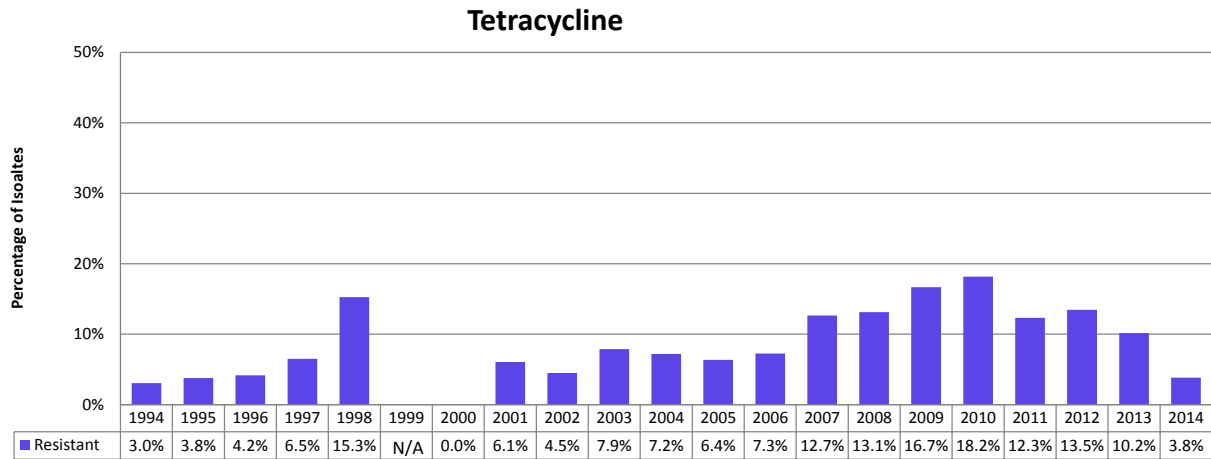


Figure 4- Proportion of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* isolates from BC hospitals non-susceptible to penicillin, TMP-SMX, clindamycin, erythromycin, ceftriaxone, ciprofloxacin, tetracycline, moxifloxacin, and levofloxacin (1994-2014).
Source: CBSN

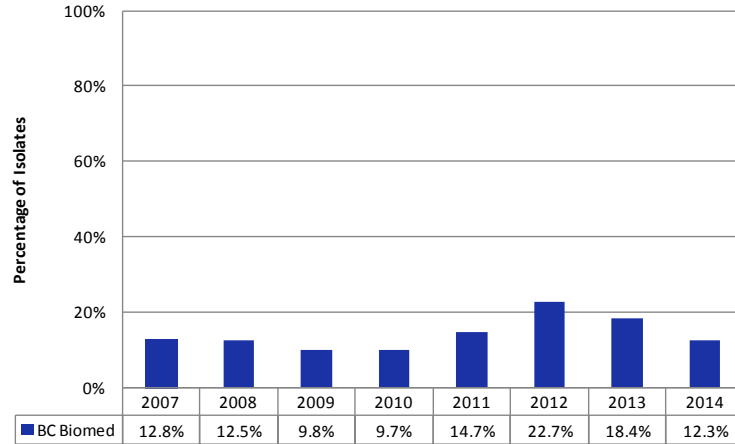
1.3. *Streptococcus pyogenes*

Streptococcus pyogenes, also known as β -hemolytic Group A Streptococci (GAS), typically presents as a relatively mild, non-invasive throat infection (“Strep throat”), but can also cause more serious invasive infections including necrotizing fasciitis and toxic shock syndrome (12). Recommended therapies for GAS infections include penicillin, clindamycin, azithromycin, clarithromycin, and cephalexin (13). Erythromycin-resistant isolates of *S. pyogenes* were first documented in the United Kingdom during the 1950s, consequently, erythromycin is no longer a recommended empiric therapy following BC provincial guidelines.

Two main mechanisms of resistance against macrolides (e.g. azithromycin, clarithromycin, erythromycin) are utilized by *S. pyogenes*. The first mechanism is the methylation of bacterial ribosome by a protein (encoded by *erm*), which reduces the affinity of the antimicrobial drug for the ribosome (14). This is referred to as the MLS_B phenotype (14). Another mechanism contributing to the macrolide resistance involves an efflux pump specific for macrolides coded by the *mefA* gene, which pumps macrolides out of the cell thus reducing the antimicrobial effect (14). The presence of this efflux system in a macrolide resistant strain is referred to as the M phenotype (14). There are variations in the types of M/*emm* in GAS (12). Until the mid 2000s, M1 was the most prevalent M type, however, from 2006-2009, Western Canada observed the emergence of M/*emm* 59 type GAS (12).

BC Biomedical Laboratories data include both invasive and non-invasive GAS isolates for all years available. All isolates remain susceptible to penicillin, amoxicillin-clavulanate, and cephalothin as of 2014 (data not shown). The percent of isolates non-susceptible to erythromycin had appeared to be decreasing from 2007 to 2010 but has since increased peaking at 22.7% non-susceptibility in 2012 ($p < 0.01$) but decreased again and is reported at 12.3% in 2014 (**Figure 5**). Non-susceptibility rates to clindamycin show a similar trend to erythromycin non-susceptibility for all years (2007-2014), peaking at a non-susceptibility rate of 22.3% in 2012 ($p < 0.05$) and gradually decreased to 11.8% in 2014 (**Figure 5**). The non-susceptibility rate to clindamycin observed in BC is slightly higher than national rates as reported by the CANWARD study which showed 7.1% non-susceptibility (15). The difference may be attributed to the difference in source of isolates, as isolates tested in the CANWARD study are hospital-based. All isolates were fully susceptible to penicillin and cephalothin, but fully resistant to ciprofloxacin and TMP-SMX in 2014 (data not shown) (15).

Erythromycin



Clindamycin

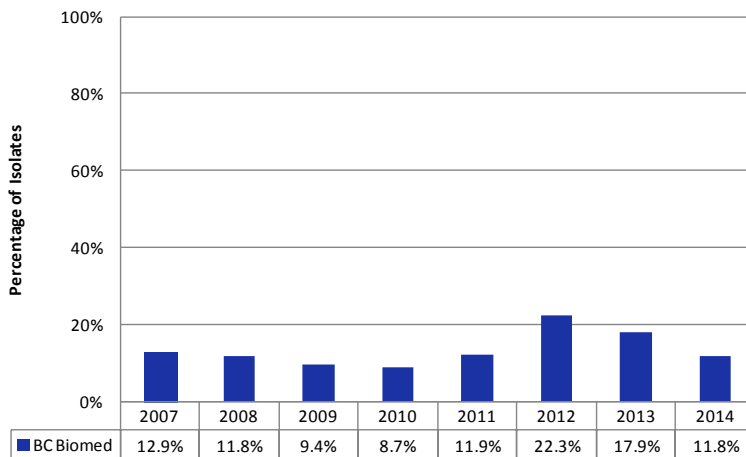


Figure 5- Proportion of *Streptococcus pyogenes* isolates non-susceptible to erythromycin and with inducible clindamycin non-susceptibility (as determined by the D-test in the presence of erythromycin) (2007-2014)

Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories

Please note: LifeLabs does not routinely test for susceptibility in GAS isolates; data was not included in the analysis for this report.

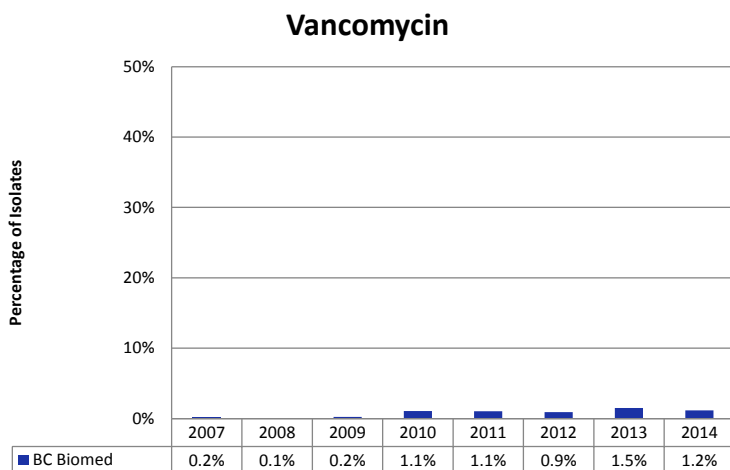
1.4. *Enterococcus* spp.

A prominent nosocomial pathogen, enterococci, specifically *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Enterococcus faecium*, are normal enteric flora bacteria that may cause urinary tract infections (UTIs), intra-abdominal infections, and bacteremia. Most enterococcus strains are intrinsically resistant to macrolides, lincosamides, TMP-SMX, and β -lactams including cephalosporins and some penicillins (16).

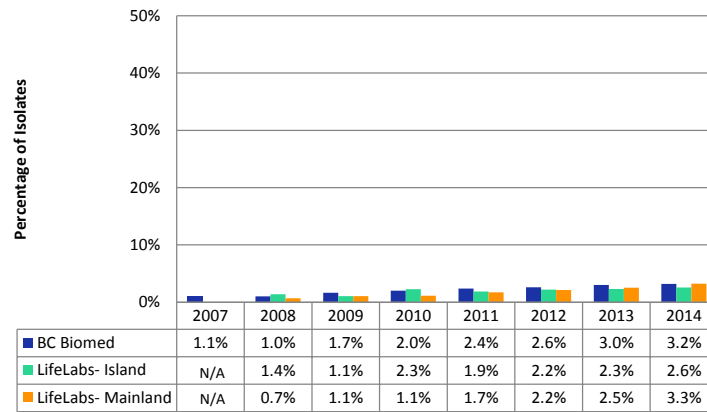
Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* (VRE) typically present as nosocomial infections often affecting patients that are immunocompromised, previously treated with antibiotics for an extensive period, have undergone surgical procedures, and those with medical devices such as a urinary catheter (17). Transmission of VRE can occur by direct person to person contact or contact with contaminated surfaces such as hands of care-givers during hospitalization and toilet seats (17). The Public Health Agency of Canada collects data on VREs in acute-care hospitals through the Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) (17). The first case of VRE was reported in Canada in the early 1990s, with the first outbreak of VRE occurring in an Ontario hospital in 1995 (18). Surveillance data generated from CNISP shows that although the rate remains low, a significant increase in nosocomial VRE infections since 2008 exists, mainly affecting the older population with previous hospitalization (17).

Resistance in *Enterococcus* spp. isolates to ampicillin shows an increasing trend during the period 2007 to 2014 and are reported to be at 3.2% (BC Biomedical, $p < 0.01$), 2.5% (LifeLabs-Island, $p < 0.01$) and 3.3% (LifeLabs-Mainland, $p < 0.01$) in 2014 (**Figure 6**). According to BC Biomedical Laboratories data, non-susceptibility to nitrofurantoin stayed fairly stable ($p = 0.23$), and a significant increase in non-susceptibility to vancomycin resistance was observed from 2007 up to 2014 ($p < 0.01$) (**Figure 6**). However, the proportion of *Enterococcus* spp. isolates resistant to vancomycin remained under 2% since 2007 and is reported to be at 1.2% in 2014 (**Figure 6**).

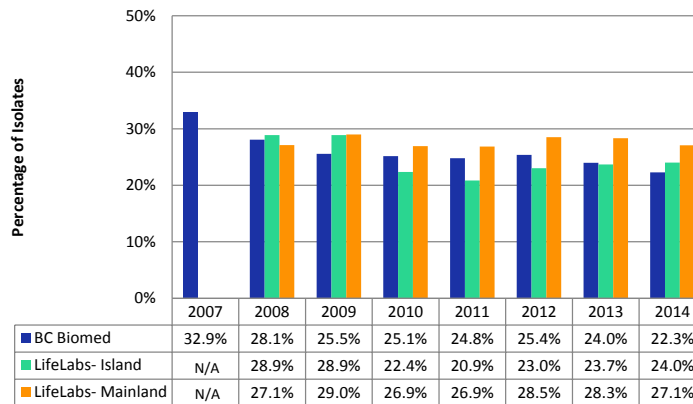
Ciprofloxacin non-susceptibility shows a declining trend from 2007 to 2014 according to the data from BC Biomedical and LifeLabs, with approximately one quarter of isolates exhibiting non-susceptibility to in 2014 (24.0% for LifeLabs Island, 27.1% for LifeLabs Mainland, and 22.3% for BC Biomedical isolates). A decreasing trend was observed from 2007 to 2014 within BC Biomedical data ($p < 0.01$) (**Figure 6**). When resistance to ciprofloxacin of urinary *Enterococcus* isolates is broken down into ten-year age groups, an increase in the proportion of isolates resistant to ciprofloxacin is observed among older individuals, particularly those aged 70 and older (**Figure 7**). A similar trend is observed in the data from BC Biomedical Laboratories for *E. coli* isolates (**Figure 9**). The higher rates of resistance among older adults may be explained by the greater lifetime cumulative exposure to ciprofloxacin and other antibiotics resulting in a greater selection for resistance (19).



Ampicillin



Ciprofloxacin



Nitrofurantoin

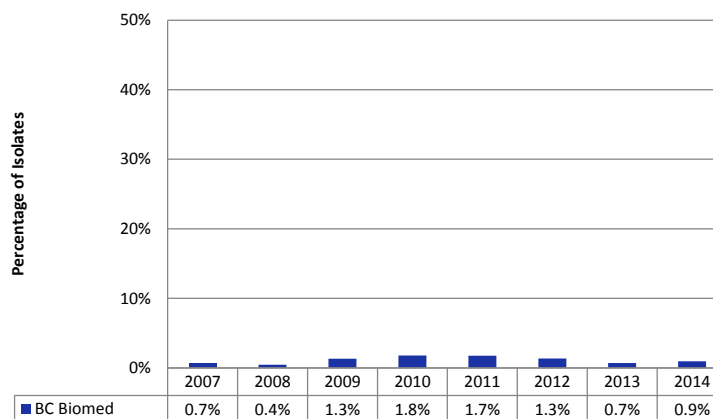


Figure 6- Proportion of *Enterococcus* spp. isolates non-susceptible to vancomycin, ampicillin, nitrofurantoin, and ciprofloxacin (2007-2014)

Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services

Please note: LifeLabs data for resistance to cefotaxime was limited (data provided for 2008 and 2009 only); hence, data was not included in the analysis. Also, due to differences in testing methodologies between BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs, nitrofurantoin non-susceptibility results were limited to BC Biomedical Sciences data.

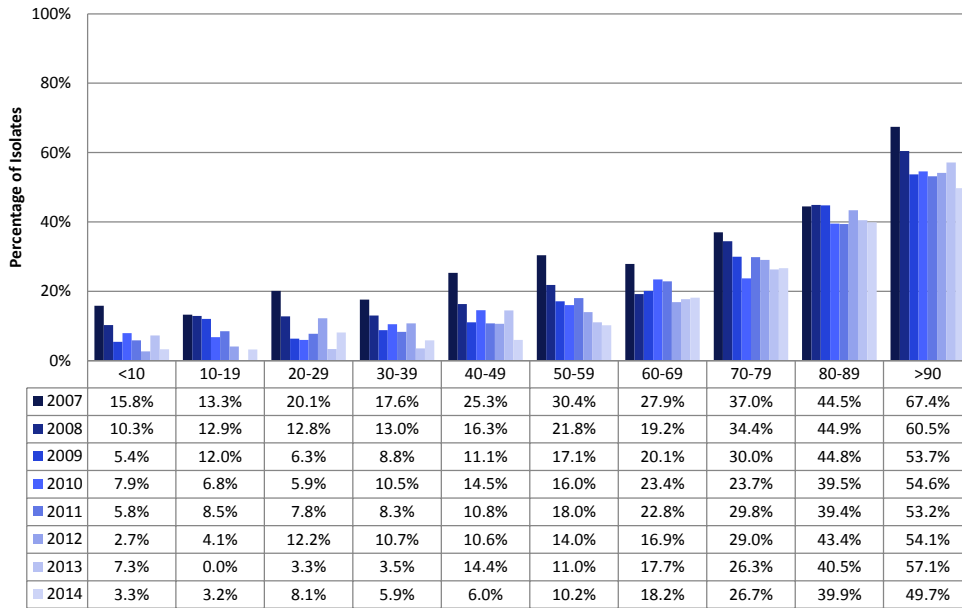


Figure 7 - Proportion of *Enterococcus* spp. urinary isolates non-susceptible to ciprofloxacin by age of patient (2007-2014)
Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories

Gram-negative Organisms

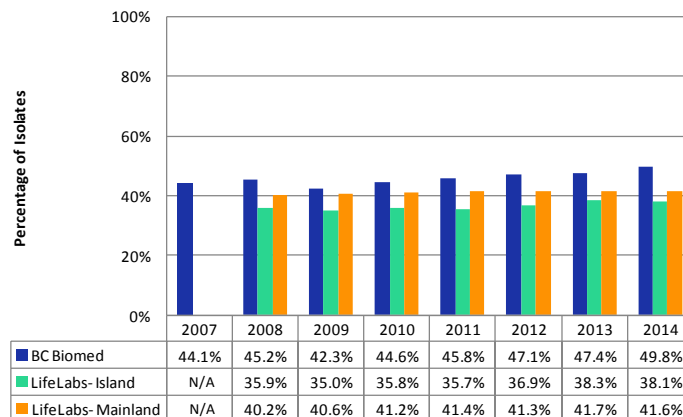
1.5. *Escherichia coli*

Escherichia coli typically exist as a commensal bacteria colonizing the gastrointestinal tract of human, rarely causing disease other than in immunocompromised individuals or when the barriers between gastrointestinal epithelial cells is disrupted (20). However, there now exists several strains of *E.coli* that have acquired specific virulence factors that allow them to colonize new niches causing a variety of disease including enteric/diarrhoeal disease, urinary tract infections (approximately 85-90%), and sepsis/meningitis (21;20). A wide genetic diversity exists in pathogenic *E.coli* due to the possession of a variety of specialized virulence genes encoded on pathogenicity islands (mobile genetic elements) which is acquired via HGT (22;20). Antibiotic therapy for *E. coli* varies depending on the infection; however, therapy generally includes fluoroquinolones, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, and cephalosporins, for which resistance is rapidly rising (20).

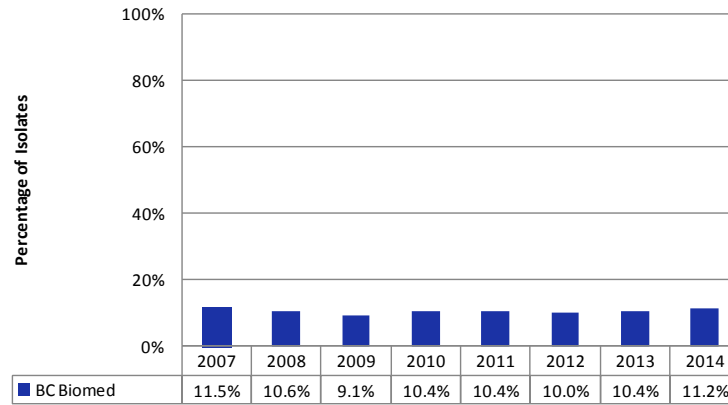
According to Biomedical data, the proportion of *E. coli* isolates non-susceptible to ampicillin, ciprofloxacin, and gentamicin significantly increased between the years 2007 and 2014 (ampicillin: $p < 0.01$; ciprofloxacin: $p < 0.01$; gentamicin: $p < 0.01$). However, the proportion changes in these non-susceptibility rates remained relatively low. The non-susceptibility to ampicillin increased approximately 5% since 2007, with 49.8% of isolates showing non-susceptibility in 2014 according to BC Biomedical data (**Figure 8**). The resistance rate of *E.coli* isolates to ciprofloxacin and gentamicin have increased less than 2% since 2007, which were reported to be 23.8% and 9.1%, respectively, in 2014 (**Figure 8**). On the other hand, nitrofurantoin and TMP-SMX showed a decreasing trend in non-susceptibility since 2007 (nitrofurantoin: $p < 0.01$; TMP-SMX: $p < 0.01$), while the non-susceptibility rate remained relatively stable for cefotaxime ($p = 0.40$). The non-susceptibility rate to nitrofurantoin was reported to be at 2.1% in 2014, and approximately one-quarter of isolates (24.0% in 2014) were non-susceptible to TMP-SMX from 2007 to 2014 (**Figure 8**). Also, non-susceptibility rates to cefotaxime fluctuated around 10% and was reported at 11.2% in 2014 (**Figure 8**). LifeLabs data show similar rates and trends as the BC Biomedical data; they showed significantly increasing trends of non-susceptibility to ampicillin and gentamicin between 2008 and 2014 (ampicillin: $p < 0.01$ and gentamicin: $p < 0.01$) (**Figure 8**). For ciprofloxacin, data from Island exhibited a decreasing trend ($p < 0.01$) while data from Mainland showed an increasing trend ($p < 0.01$). The non-susceptible rates to nitrofurantoin from LifeLabs data have increased since 2008 ($p < 0.01$) and have remained fairly stable for TMP-SMX (**Figure 8**).

When resistance to ciprofloxacin of urinary *E. coli* isolates is broken down by ten-year age groups, the proportion of resistance increases with increasing patient age, particularly after age 50 (**Figure 9**). This is similar to the trend observed in *Enterococcus* isolates (**Figure 7**), and could be explained by the general tendency for greater cumulative lifetime exposure to ciprofloxacin and other antibiotics among older adults, and greater selection for resistance (19). An American study by Sanchez *et al.* found that resistance to ciprofloxacin increased at a faster rate over a ten year period for geriatric outpatients when compared with non-geriatric adults (23). The increasing likelihood of UTIs in the geriatric population was attributed to changing physiology, while increases in the number and duration of antibiotic therapy prescriptions in this population likely lead to selective pressures for resistant *E. coli* strains (23).

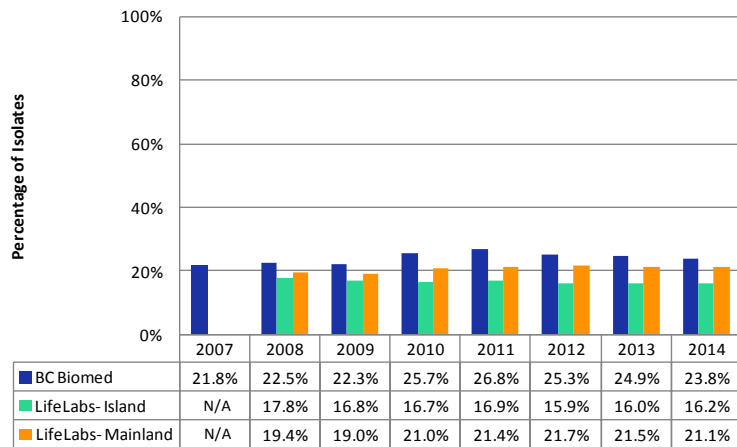
Ampicillin



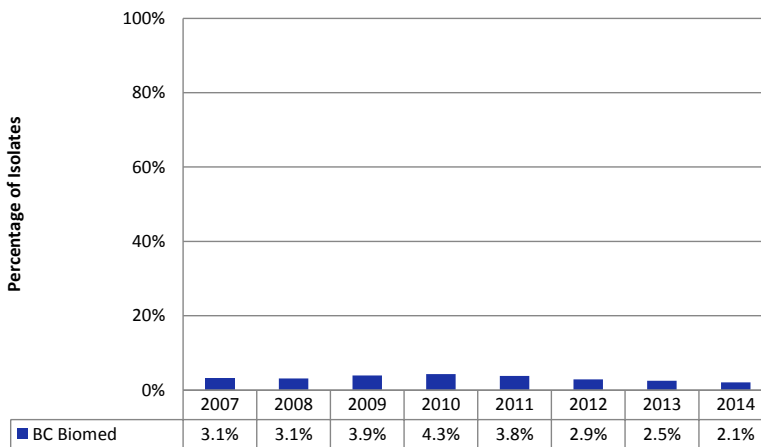
Cefotaxime



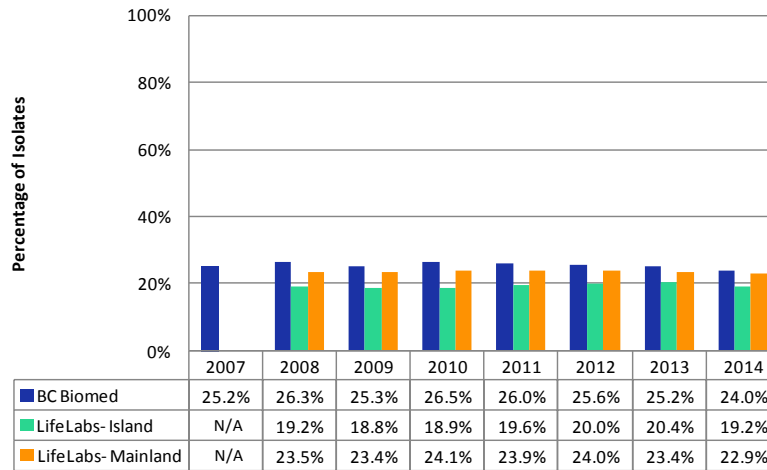
Ciprofloxacin



Nitrofurantoin



TMP-SMX



Gentamicin

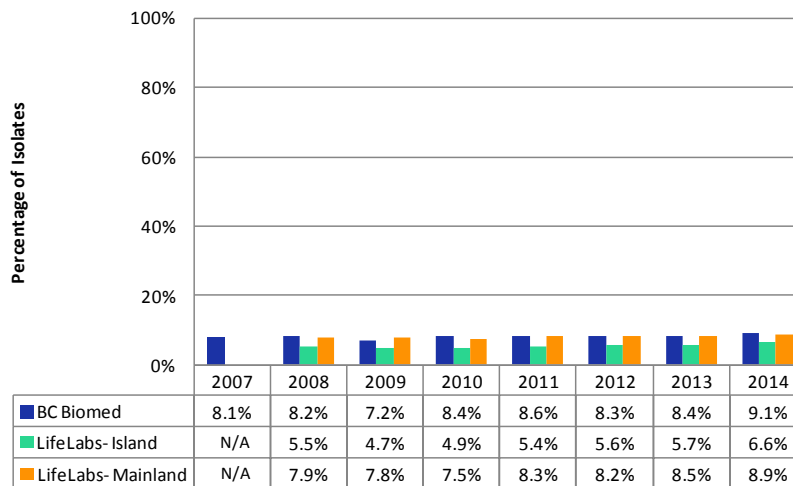


Figure 8- Proportion of *Escherichia coli* isolates non-susceptible to ampicillin, cefotaxime, ciprofloxacin, nitrofurantoin, TMP-SMX and gentamicin (2007-2014).

Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services

Please note: LifeLabs data for resistance to cefotaxime was limited (data provided for 2008 and 2009 only); hence, data was not included in the analysis. Also, due to differences in testing methodologies between BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs, nitrofurantoin non-susceptibility results were limited to BC Biomedical Sciences data.

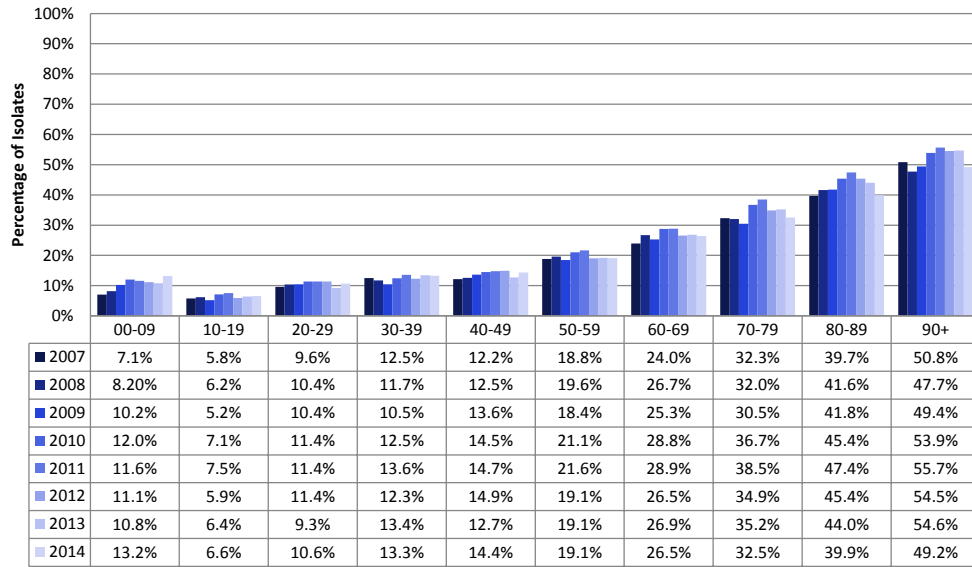


Figure 9- Proportion of *Escherichia coli* urinary isolates non-susceptible to ciprofloxacin by age of patient (2007-2014)
Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories

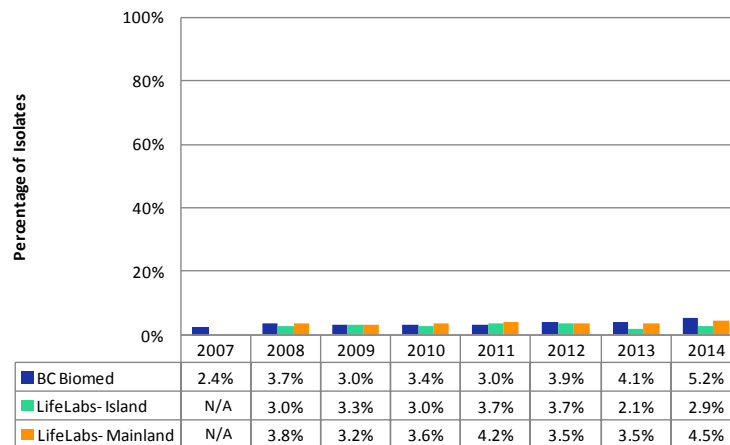
1.6. *Klebsiella pneumoniae*

Klebsiella pneumoniae is a gram-negative bacteria commonly found in both the environment (soil, water ... etc) and on the mucosal surface of mammals including humans. Although *K. pneumoniae* is widely known to be the cause of community-acquired pneumonia, the vast majority occurs as nosocomial infections, presenting primarily as an opportunistic infection targeting patients that are immunocompromised during hospitalization. Studies have shown that the degree of *K. pneumoniae* colonization is found to be directly proportional to the length of hospitalization, and the nosocomial colonization is significantly associated with the use of antibiotics (particularly multiple antibiotics or use of broad-spectrum antibiotics) rather than factors associated with delivery of care during hospitalization (24). The urinary tract is a common site of infection in *K. pneumoniae*, contributing to 6-17% of all nosocomial UTI cases. Moreover, *K. pneumoniae* is also a cause of Gram-negative bacteraemia, second only to *E. coli*, and is the most frequently identified carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (please refer to section 1.8 for more information on carbapenemase-producing organisms) (24).

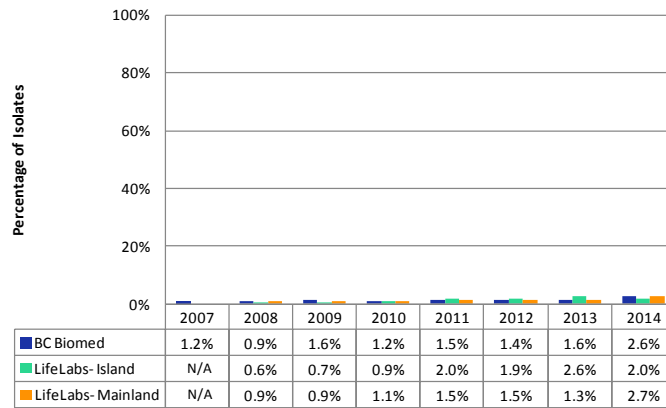
BC Biomedical data show an increasing trend in non-susceptibility rates in *K. pneumoniae* isolates to ciprofloxacin, yet the rate remains low and is reported to be 5.2% in 2014 ($p < 0.01$) (Figure 10). Slightly lower rates are observed in LifeLabs data both on the Island (2.9%) and the Mainland (4.5%) in 2014 with non-significant trends from 2008 to 2014 (Mainland: $p = 0.162$; Island: $p = 0.438$) (Figure 10). The non-susceptibility rates to ciprofloxacin from BC Biomedical and LifeLabs data are slightly lower than the rate of non-susceptibility reported nationally in the CANWARD study in 2013 (6.5%) (15).

A significantly increasing trend ($p < 0.01$) in the non-susceptibility to gentamicin is observed in both data sources, yet remains low at a rate of 2.6% (BC Biomedical), 2.0% (LifeLabs-Island), and 2.7% (LifeLabs- Mainland) in 2014 (Figure 10). These rates are similar to that reported nationally in the CANWARD study (3.0%) (15). In contrast, non-susceptibility rates to nitrofurantoin show a significant decreasing trend for BC Biomed data ($p < 0.01$) and it is reported at 42.7% in 2014 (Figure 10). The proportion of *K. pneumoniae* isolates non-susceptible to TMP-SMX has continued to decrease from 12.0% in 2008 to 10.1% in 2014 according to BC Biomedical data ($p < 0.01$) (Figure 10). However, the rate of *K. pneumoniae* isolates non-susceptible to TMP-SMX has been increasing on Mainland ($p < 0.01$), and there is no significant trend observed on Island ($p = 0.444$).

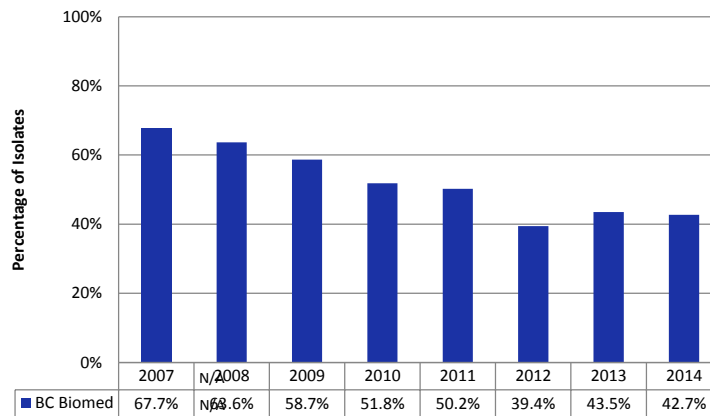
Ciprofloxacin



Gentamicin



Nitrofurantoin



TMP-SMX

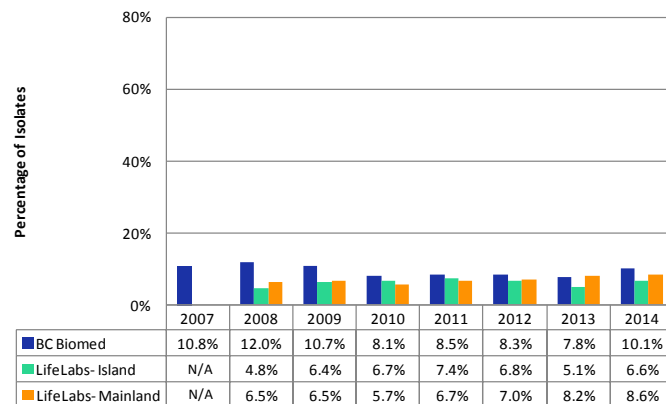


Figure 10- Proportion of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolates non-susceptible to ciprofloxacin, gentamicin, nitrofurantoin, and TMP-SMX (2007-2014)

Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services

Please note: Due to differences in testing methodologies between BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs, nitrofurantoin non-susceptibility results were limited to BC Biomedical Sciences data.

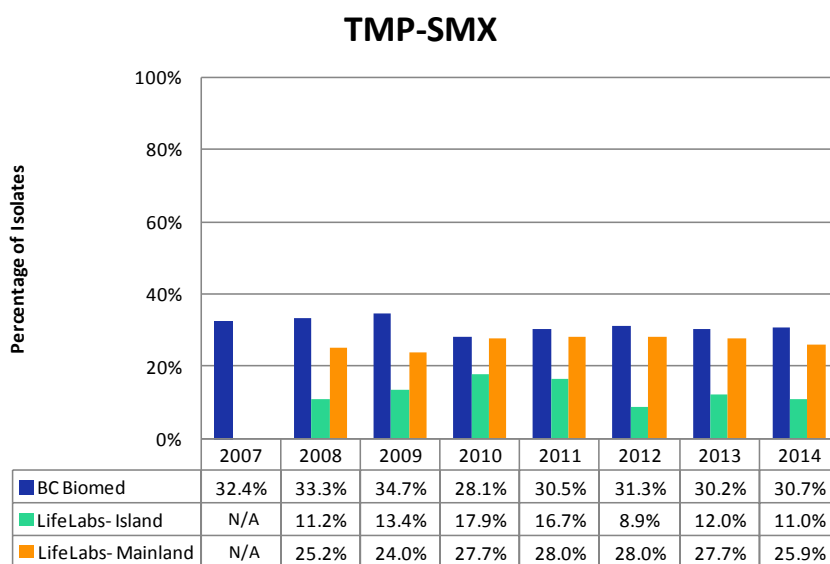
1.7. *Proteus mirabilis*

Proteus mirabilis is an enteric bacterium that causes approximately 2% of UTIs (21). In the past, TMP-SMX was the first-line treatment for UTIs; however, use of fluoroquinolones (e.g. ciprofloxacin) and aminoglycosides (e.g. gentamicin) has become more common over the years (13;25). In Canada, the percent of *P. mirabilis* isolates producing ESBLs is considerably less than other countries (26).

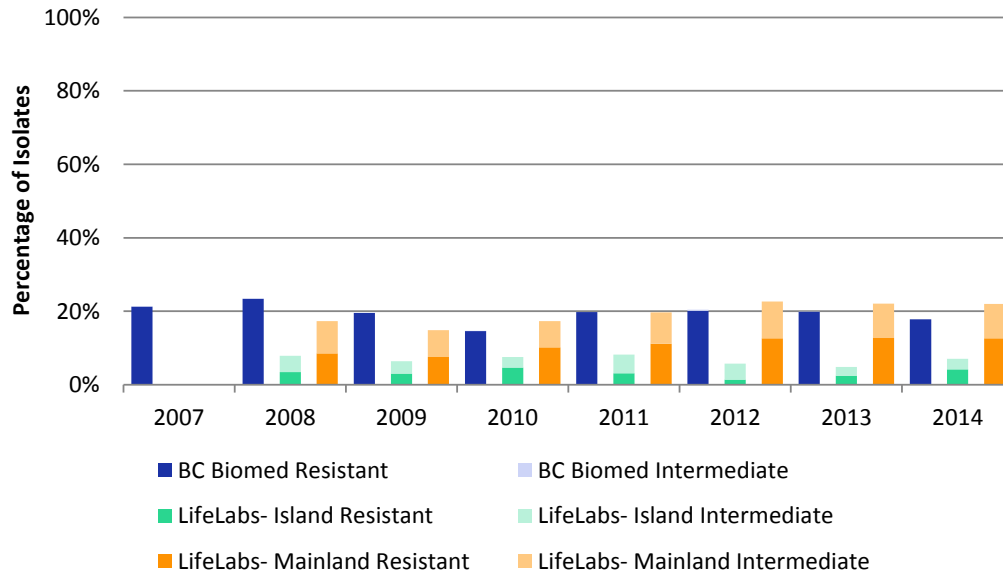
According to BC Biomedical data, the percent of isolates non-susceptible to ampicillin has remained relatively stable since 2007 and is reported at 30.7% in 2014 (ampicillin: $p=0.17$) (**Figure 11**). The rate of *P. mirabilis* isolates resistant to gentamicin has been relatively stable with slight increase from 5.6% in 2007 to 7.4% in 2014 ($p<0.05$). In contrast, the percent of *P. mirabilis* isolates resistant to TMP-SMX has fluctuated around 30% with a slight decrease from 32.4% in 2007 to 30.7% in 2014 ($p<0.05$) (**Figure 11**). Similarly, non-susceptibility rates to ciprofloxacin show a decreasing trend from 2007 and is reported to be at 17.8% in 2014 ($p<0.05$) (**Figure 11**).

LifeLabs data show stabilizing trends in non-susceptibility patterns to gentamicin and ampicillin since 2007 and are reported to be at 5.9% (Island), 5.8% (Mainland) and 16.8% (Island), 26.2% (Mainland), respectively, in 2014 (**Figure 11**). Resistance rates to ciprofloxacin remain relatively stable on the Island and is reported to be at 7.0% in 2014 while an increasing trend exists on the Mainland from 17.3% in 2008 to 22.0% in 2014 (Island: $p=0.236$; Mainland: $p<0.01$) (**Figure 11**). Similar to trends seen in ciprofloxacin, non-susceptibility to TMP-SMX has increased non-significantly, and it is recorded at 25.9% in 2014 on the Mainland, while a non-significant decreasing trend is observed on the Island and is reported to be at 11.0% in 2014 (Mainland: $p=0.15$; Island: $p=0.087$) (**Figure 11**).

Nationally, hospital isolates as reported by the CANWARD study in 2013, appear to have lower non-susceptibility to TMP-SMX (23.0%) and ciprofloxacin (13.1%) when compared with community isolates from BC Biomedical data and LifeLabs data for the Mainland (**Figure 11**) (15). In contrast, the CANWARD study reported 3.2% of hospital isolates nationally to be non-susceptible to gentamicin, which is lower than rates observed in BC (**Figure 11**) (15). All isolates are considered inherently resistant to nitrofurantoin (data not shown).

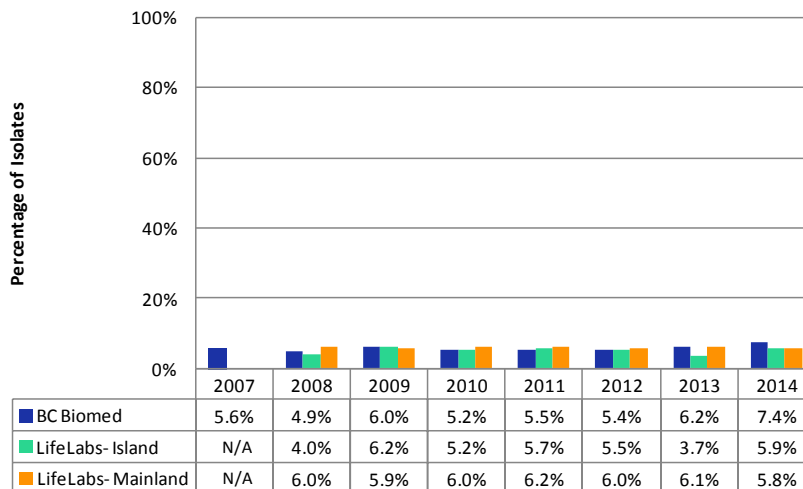


Ciprofloxacin



		Year							
Data Source	Susceptibility	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
BC Biomed	I ^a	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%
	R ^b	21.2%	23.4%	19.5%	14.6%	19.8%	20.1%	19.8%	17.8%
LifeLabs- Island	I	N/A	4.4%	3.4%	2.9%	5.1%	4.4%	2.4%	2.9%
	R	N/A	3.4%	3.0%	4.7%	3.1%	1.4%	2.4%	4.1%
LifeLabs- Mainland	I	N/A	8.8%	7.3%	7.2%	8.5%	10.0%	9.3%	9.3%
	R	N/A	8.5%	7.6%	10.1%	11.1%	12.6%	12.8%	12.7%

Gentamicin



Ampicillin

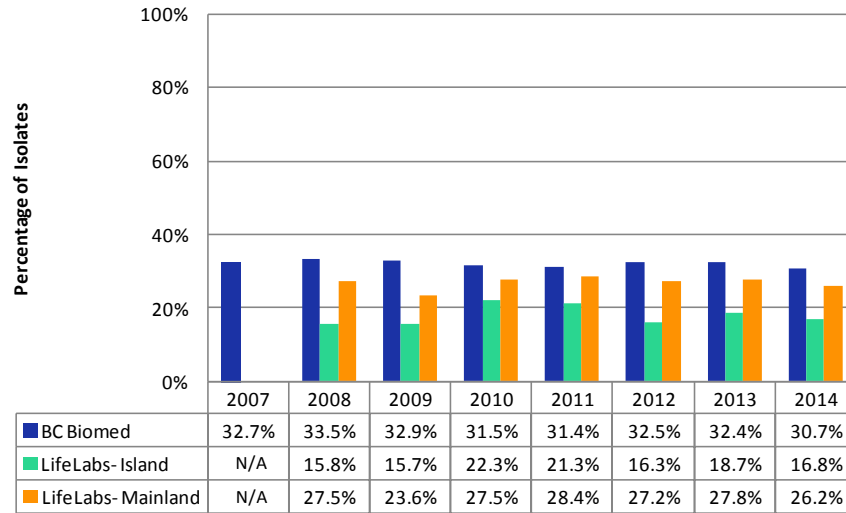


Figure 11- Proportion of *Proteus mirabilis* isolates non-susceptible to ciprofloxacin, TMP-SMX, gentamicin, and ampicillin (2007-2014)

Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services

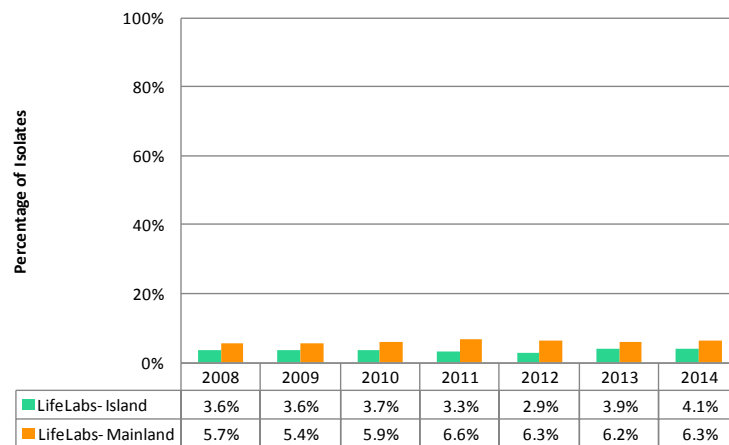
^aI= Isolates classified as having intermediate resistance based on MIC breakpoints and CLSI guidelines

^bR= Isolates classified as resistant based on MIC breakpoints and CLSI guidelines

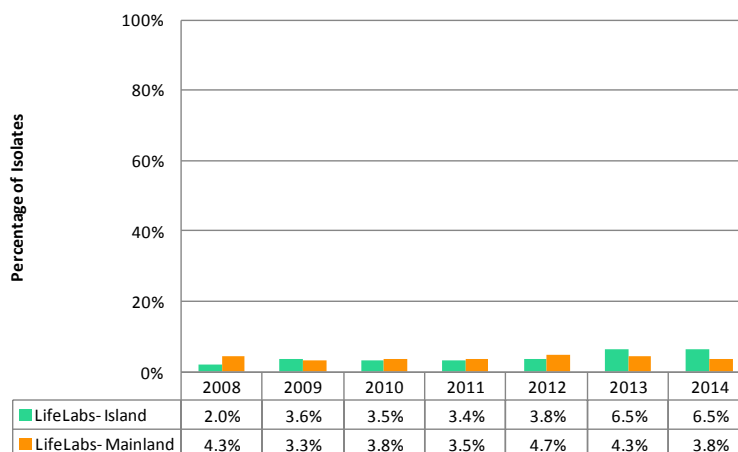
1.8. *Serratia*, *Providencia*, *Morganella*, *Citrobacter*, and *Enterobacter* spp.

Serratia spp., *Providencia* spp., *Morganella* spp., *Citrobacter* spp., and *Enterobacter* spp. are collectively referred to as the SPICE organisms or ‘ESCPM’ group (27). Most SPICE organisms are opportunistic nosocomial pathogens that commonly cause urinary tract or respiratory infections and have the ability to produce inducible β -lactamases (28;29). The percent of SPICE organism isolates non-susceptible to the tested antimicrobials have remained relatively low during the testing period from 2007 to 2014 (i.e., less than 11%), with the exception of nitrofurantoin (**Figure 12**). Non-susceptibility to nitrofurantoin remains high across all years since 2008 and was reported to be at 66.0% on the Island and 72.3% on the Mainland in 2014 (**Figure 12**). SPICE organisms remain highly susceptible to ciprofloxacin and gentamicin with less than 7% of isolates exhibiting non-susceptibility (**Figure 12**).

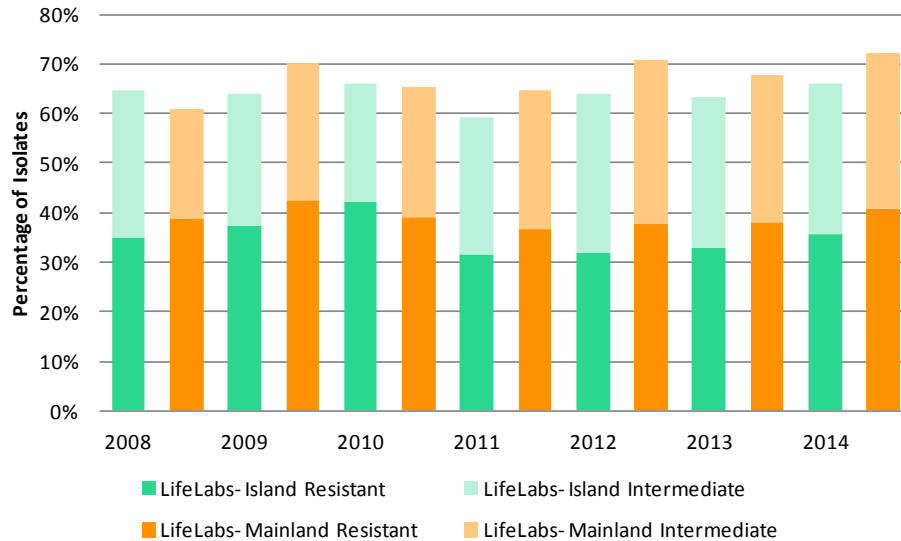
Ciprofloxacin



Gentamicin



Nitrofurantoin



Data Source	Susceptibility	Year						
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
LifeLabs- Island	I ^a	29.7%	26.6%	23.8%	27.7%	32.0%	30.7%	30.4%
	R ^b	35.0%	37.4%	42.1%	31.5%	31.9%	32.8%	35.7%
LifeLabs- Mainland	I	22.3%	27.8%	26.4%	28.1%	33.2%	29.8%	31.6%
	R	38.7%	42.4%	39.0%	36.6%	37.6%	37.9%	40.7%

TMP-SMX

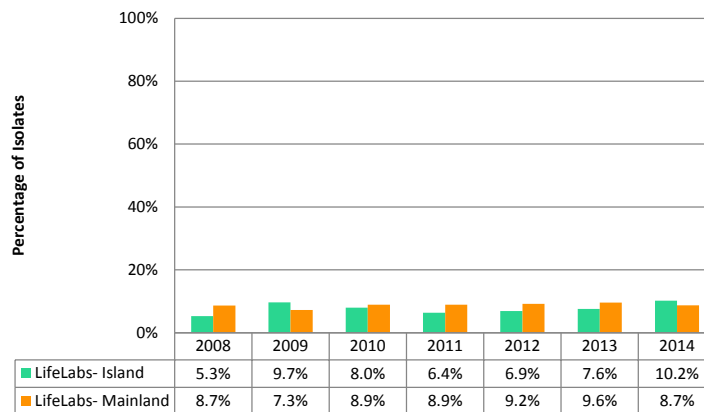


Figure 12- Proportion of SPICE (*Serratia* spp., *Providencia* spp., *Morganella* spp., *Citrobacter* spp., and *Enterobacter* spp.) isolates non-susceptible to ciprofloxacin, nitrofurantoin, gentamicin, and TMP-SMX (2008-2014)

Source: LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services

^aI= Isolates classified as having intermediate resistance based on MIC breakpoints and CLSI guidelines

^bR= Isolates classified as resistant based on MIC breakpoints and CLSI guidelines

1.9. **Extended spectrum β -lactamase producing Enterobacteriaceae**

Extended spectrum β -lactamases (ESBLs) are enzymes often associated with bacteria within the *Enterobacteriaceae* family that hydrolyze antibiotics belonging to the penicillin and cephalosporin classes (30). Laboratories detect the presence of ESBLs by evaluating the organism's phenotypic resistance patterns to different antibiotics (31). An ESBL-producing organism must demonstrate resistance to a third generation cephalosporin (e.g. cefotaxime, ceftriaxone or ceftazidime) but not cephamycins (e.g. ceftiofex) or carbapenems (e.g. imipenem, meropenem or ertapenem) (31). In addition, it must also demonstrate a change in susceptibility to third generation cephalosporin in the presence of a β -lactamase inhibitor (e.g. clavulanic acid, tazobactam or sulbactam) (31).

ESBL-producing organisms were first described in 1983, and have since been a major cause of hospital-acquired infections. Although a variety of bacteria have been found to produce ESBLs, they are most often identified in *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Escherichia coli* (32). Genes encoding ESBL are usually located on large plasmids containing resistance genes to many other antibiotics such as aminoglycosides, trimethoprim, sulphonamides, tetracycline, and chloramphenicol; thus, accumulation of multiple resistance genes due to the plasmid-mediated transmission of ESBL genes result in strains that are multi-resistant to a variety of antibiotics limiting the choice of effective therapy (32). In Canada, the first case of ESBL-producing *E.coli* strains occurred in Ontario in 2000 (33).

The CLSI does not recommend confirming ESBLs and consequently, BC Biomedical Laboratories does not directly confirm potential ESBL isolates. BC Biomedical Laboratories refers to isolates exhibiting cephalosporin resistance as broad-spectrum beta-lactamase producers. Consequently, data from BC Biomedical Laboratories were used to estimate extended spectrum β -lactamase-like (ESBL-like) producers, determined through resistance to third generation cephalosporins (e.g. ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, ceftazidime, or cefixime). This method is likely to overestimate the proportion of isolates that are ESBL-like producers. Although data from BC Biomedical Laboratories would represent an overestimation of true ESBL numbers, the data are still useful as they will include all possible ESBL-producing *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *P. mirabilis* isolates. Thus, it is still meaningful to represent the data in this report in order to use this denominator to identify multi-drug resistance patterns associated with *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *P. mirabilis* isolates with phenotype compatible with ESBLs, and to monitor for any changing trends.

In BC, laboratory testing for ESBL-producing *E. coli* and *K. pneumoniae* is done routinely by phenotypic methods. BCAMM reports estimates of ESBL-producing *E. coli* and *K. pneumoniae* observed in all community laboratories, and 23 health organizations' hospital laboratories across BC (34). The results are presented for both community and hospital settings, in order to reflect the potential differences in prevalence within the respective settings.

Data from BC Biomedical Laboratories suggest that the majority of ESBL-like isolates were *E. coli*, while *K. pneumoniae* and *P. mirabilis* made up similar but substantially lower proportions of all ESBL-like isolates in 2014 (**Figure 14**). Approximately 13.1% of *E. coli* isolates exhibit an ESBL-like phenotype, a rate which has gradually increased over the past six years ($p=0.01$) (**Figure 14**). The percent of *K. pneumoniae* and *P. mirabilis* isolates demonstrating an ESBL-like phenotype decreased significantly from 8.5% in 2007 to 4.2% and from 12.5% to 4.9% in 2014 respectively (*K. pneumoniae*: $p=0.037$ and *P. mirabilis*: $p<0.01$) (**Figure 14**).

Data for *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *P. mirabilis* isolates with phenotypes compatible with ESBLs were analyzed for their resistance to quinolones (e.g. ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin), aminoglycosides (e.g. gentamicin, amikacin, tobramycin) and TMP-SMX, as well as combinations of these drugs (i.e. 2 classes or all 3 classes) (**Figure 15**).

Non-susceptibility rates for ESBL-like *E. coli* isolates have remained relatively stable over the past seven years for quinolones, aminoglycoside and TMP-SMX. In 2014, 70.8% of ESBL-like *E. coli* isolates were non-susceptible to quinolones; a non-significant increase of nearly 4% from 2007 to 2014 ($p=0.23$) (**Figure 15**). Aminoglycoside and TMP-SMX non-susceptibility rates were estimated at 30.0% and 49.6%, respectively for ESBL-like *E. coli* isolates in 2014 (**Figure 15**).

Non-susceptibility to quinolones in ESBL-like *K. pneumoniae* isolates showed an upward trend from 2007 to 2014 ($p<0.01$) (**Figure 15**). Similarly, a strong positive trend was also observed for aminoglycosides non-susceptibility with nearly a four-fold increase in the non-susceptibility rate from 2007 to 2014 and is reported to be 36.3% in 2014 ($p<0.01$) (**Figure 15**). In 2014, non-susceptibility rates to TMP-SMX for ESBL-like *K. pneumoniae* isolates remained high at 71.1% ($p=0.46$) (**Figure 15**).

The non-susceptibility rate of *P. mirabilis* isolates to quinolones exhibited a significant decreasing trend from 53.2% in 2007 to 31.4% in 2014 ($p=0.021$) (**Figure 15**). Similarly, the resistant rates of *P. mirabilis* isolates with an ESBL-like phenotype toward TMP-SMX showed a decreasing trend from 65.32% in 2007 to 37.2% in 2014 ($p=0.021$) (**Figure 15**). Contrastingly, aminoglycoside non-susceptibility has increased approximately five-fold since 2007 to 37.2% of ESBL-like *P. mirabilis* isolates in 2014 ($p<0.01$) (**Figure 15**).

When looking at multi-drug non-susceptibility, the proportion of ESBL-like *E. coli* and *P. mirabilis* isolates non-susceptible to more than one class of antimicrobial has remained relatively stable from 2007 to 2014, while the proportion of ESBL-like *K. pneumoniae* isolates non-susceptible to two or more classes appears to be increasing (*E. coli*: $p=0.23$; *P. mirabilis*: $p=0.037$; *K. pneumoniae*: $p<0.01$) (**Figure 15**). The proportion of ESBL-like *P. mirabilis* isolates that are non-susceptible to all three classes of antibiotics (i.e. aminoglycosides, quinolones and TMP-SMX) has increased more than 10-fold from 1.7% in 2007 to 25.6% in 2014 ($p<0.01$) (**Figure 15**). Contrastingly, the proportion of ESBL-like *E. coli* isolates that are non-susceptible to all three classes of antibiotics has decreased from 24.9% in 2007 to 16.9% in 2014 ($p<0.01$) (**Figure 15**).

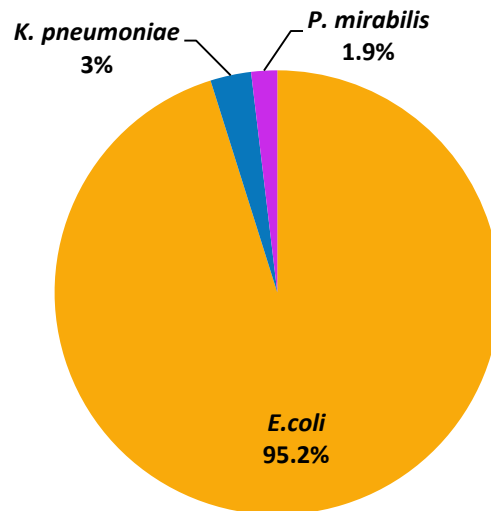


Figure 13- Distribution of ESBL- like phenotypes in *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Proteus mirabilis* (2014)
Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories

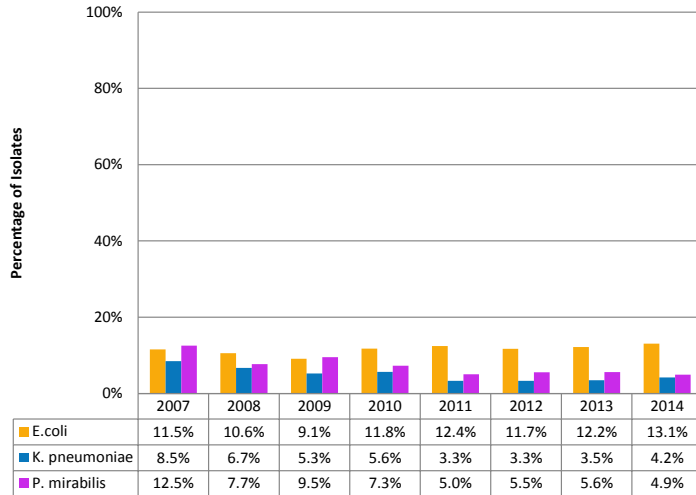
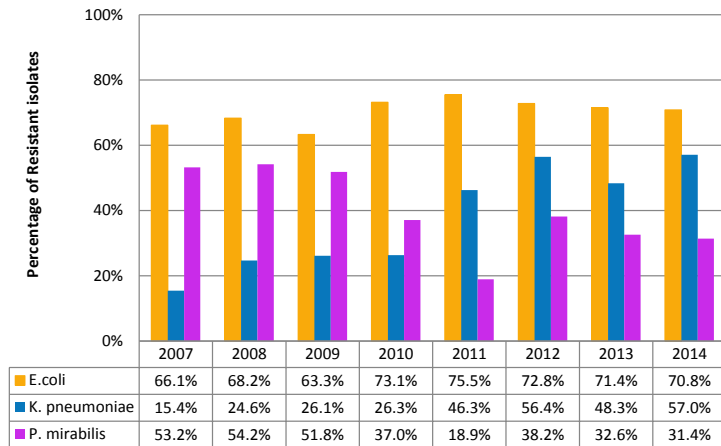
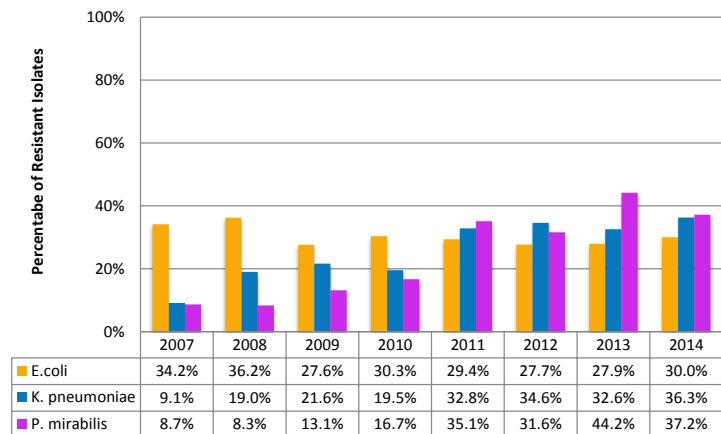


Figure 14- Proportion of *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Proteus mirabilis* isolates demonstrating ESBL-compatible phenotype (2007-2014)
Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories

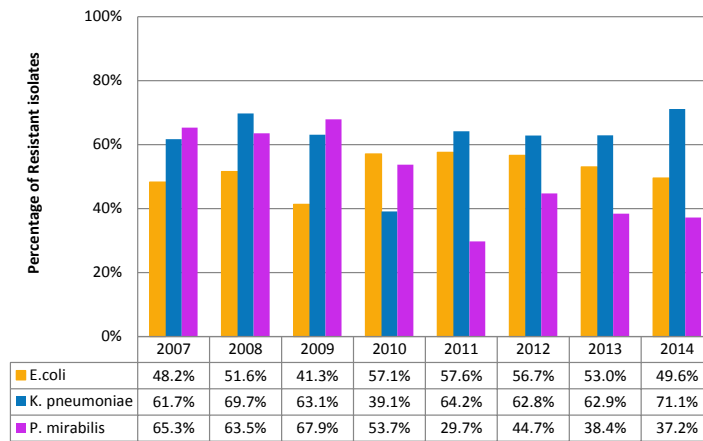
Quinolones



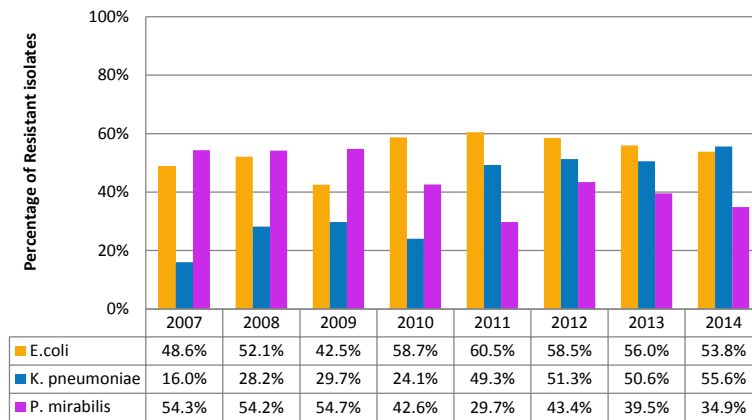
Aminoglycoside



TMP-SMX



Two or more of Quinolones, Aminoglycosides, TMP-SMX



All of Quinolones, Aminoglycosides, TMP-SMX

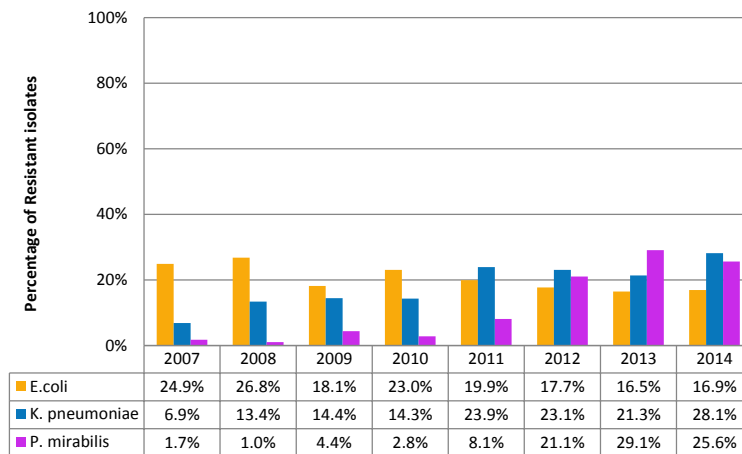


Figure 15- Proportion of *ESBL-like Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Proteus mirabilis* isolates demonstrating non-susceptibility to quinolones, aminoglycosides or TMP-SMX, two or more, and three of quinolones, aminoglycosides, and TMP-SMX (2007-2014)

Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories

Carbapenemase-Producing Organisms (CPOs)

In response to the emergence of CPOs as an infectious disease concern in BC, the British Columbia Public Health Microbiology and Reference Laboratory (BCPHMRL) and Provincial Infection Control Network (PICNet) collaborated with representatives from each health authority to produce a BC CPO Surveillance System that has been implemented across acute care facilities in BC (35). The purpose of the system is to identify and monitor incidence of CPOs among patients and to synthesize epidemiological and laboratory data to inform best practice and management of patients with CPO infections (35). The population under surveillance consists of patients admitted to acute care facilities, haemodialysis patients visiting renal clinics, and patients deemed to be at high risk for CPO infection (35). Organisms under surveillance include Enterobacteriaceae, *P. aeruginosa*, and *Acinetobacter spp*, which have been identified to be resistant to carbapenems and will undergo phenotypic or molecular screening for CPO (35).

According to the BCPHMRL *Laboratory Trends* report, 201 patients with CPO have been identified since 2008: 128 harboured the New Delhi Metallo- β -lactamase-1-gene (NDM-1), 28 cases harboured the *Serratia marcescens* enzyme (SME) resistance genes, 27 cases with OXA-48 carbapenemase and 17 cases with the *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenems (KPC) β -lactamase gene overall (36). Prior to 2010, only one patient in 2008 and 2009 were identified to carry CPO; however, an increasing number of cases are being identified each year. In 2014, the majority of patients infected with CPOs carried NDM-1 (73.0%), followed by 13.5% of patients infected with organisms carrying the SME gene.

Table 1 - Gene harboured in identified cases of carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPO) from 2008 to March 2014

Gene	Collection Year							Total
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
NDM-1	1	1	3	8	13 ^b	48 ^{b,c}	54 ^{b,c}	128
KPC	0	0	1 ^a	1	1	6 ^c	8 ^c	17
VIM	0	0	1 ^a	0	0	0	0	1
OXA-48	0	0	0	1	9 ^b	7	10 ^b	27
SME	0	0	1	4	8	13	2	28
Total	1	1	6	14	31	74	74	201

Source: BCPHMRL and National Microbiology Laboratory

- ^a. Counts include 1 patient with KPC and VIM.
- ^b. Counts include 7 patients with NDM-1 and OXA-48
- ^c. Counts include 2 patient with NDM-1 and KPC

AmpC

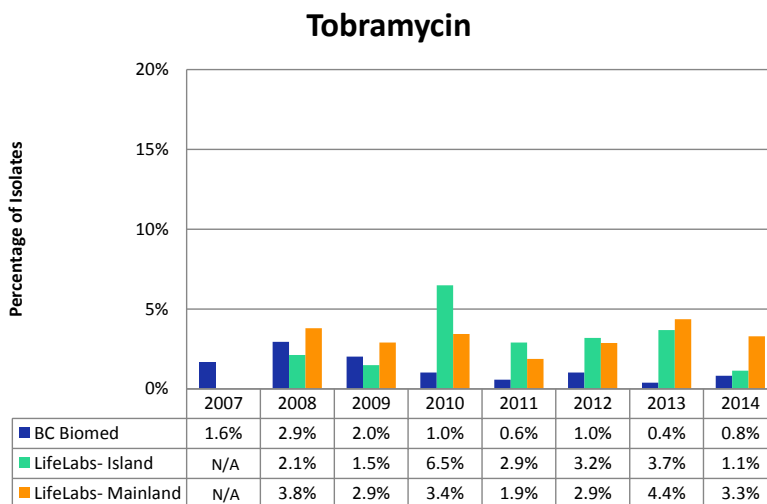
AmpC genes are inducible genes that are triggered in response to the presence of a β -lactam. These genes can also be found on transmissible plasmids, allowing the gene to be transferred between bacteria (3). The gene codes for the production of β -lactamase enzymes, allowing the organism to break down penicillins, cephalosporins and other β -lactam drugs (37). Data for 2012 to 2014 were not available at the time of report completion.

1.10. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

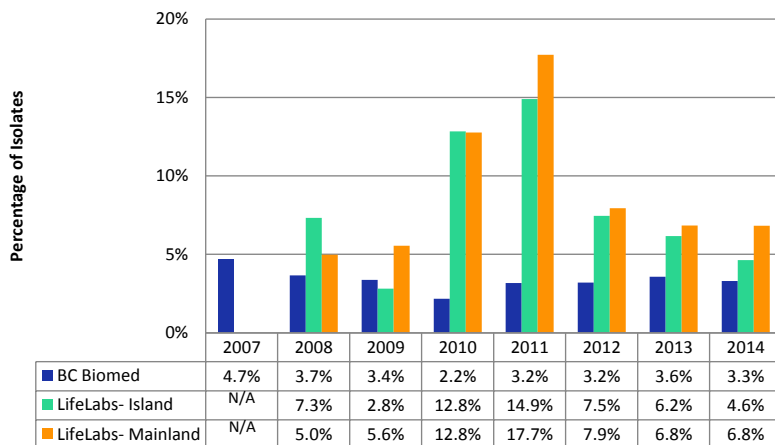
Pseudomonas aeruginosa are prominent nosocomial pathogens that infect numerous sites including the respiratory tract, urinary tract, blood, skin, and soft tissue. The main virulence factor is its low permeability in the outer membrane, which reduces the uptake of antibacterial agents into the cell (38). Treatment for *P. aeruginosa* infections typically includes piperacillin, tobramycin, ceftazidime, carbapenems, fluoroquinolones, and aminoglycosides (13).

The percent of *P. aeruginosa* isolates that are non-susceptible to tobramycin have decreased according to BC Biomedical data from 1.6% in 2007 to 0.8% in 2014 ($p < 0.01$) (**Figure 16**). Data from LifeLabs show higher rates of non-susceptibility to tobramycin and is reported at 1.1% on the Island and 3.3% in the Mainland in 2014 (**Figure 16**). These rates of non-susceptibility reported in BC Biomed and LifeLabs are lower than the national data reported in the CANWARD study (6.7%) in 2013 (15). According to BC Biomedical data, the proportion of *P. aeruginosa* that is non-susceptible to gentamicin remains stable ($p = 0.161$) and is reported at 3.3% in 2014. The data from LifeLabs show a similar trend; since the peak rate of non-susceptibility rate to gentamicin in 2011, decreasing trends are observed on both the Island and Mainland and are reported at 4.6% and 6.8%, respectively (**Figure 16**). This is lower than the national non-susceptibility rate reported in the CANWARD study (8.8%) (15). Non-susceptibility rates to ciprofloxacin show a decreasing trend since 2007 and is reported at 9.0% in 2014 ($p < 0.01$) (**Figure 16**). Similarly, a significant decreasing trend is observed in LifeLabs on the Mainland with a higher rate of 13.9% reported in 2014 ($p < 0.05$) (**Figure 16**). This non-susceptibility rate of *P. aeruginosa* to ciprofloxacin is lower than the national rate reported in the CANWARD study (19.4%) (15). According to BC Biomedical data, over the testing period (2007 to 2014), less than 3% of isolates in any year were non-susceptible to ceftazidime (2.2% in 2014) or piperacillin (2.5% in 2014) (**Figure 16**). However, non-susceptibility rates for piperacillin show an increasing trend from 2007 to 2014 ($p < 0.01$) (**Figure 16**). Ceftazidime non-susceptibility, as reported by LifeLabs, has increased from 2.6% in 2009 to 4.2% in 2014 for Mainland, which remains lower than national rates reported in the CANWARD study (17.9%) (**Figure 16**) (15).

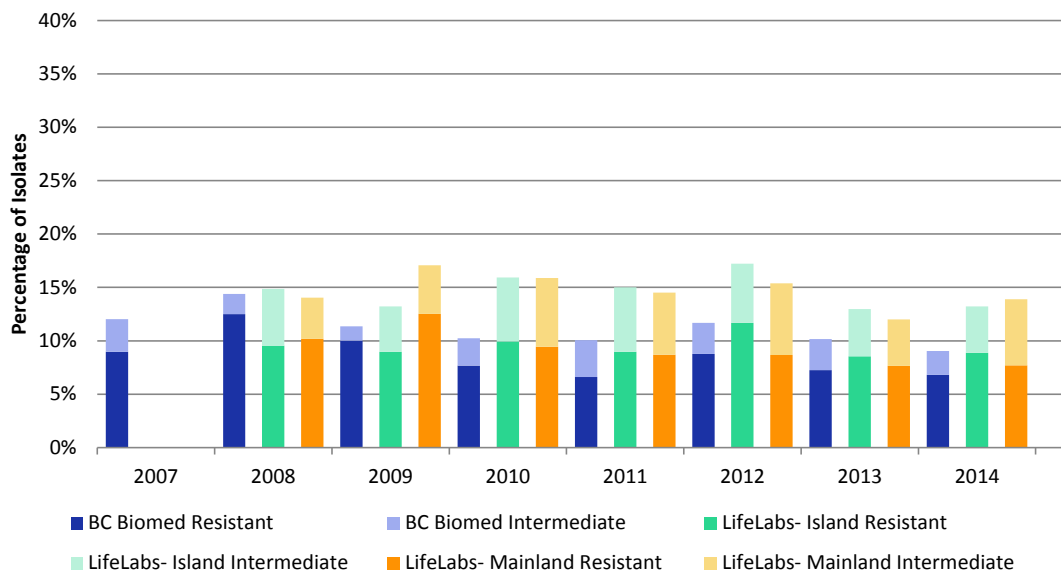
Please note, differences between BC Biomedical and LifeLabs data may be attributed to different testing methodologies between the laboratories.



Gentamicin

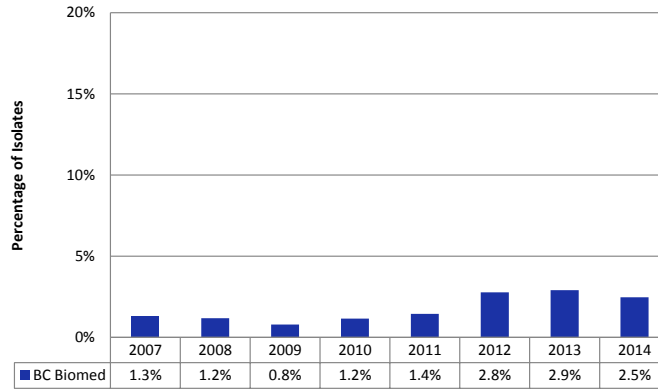


Ciprofloxacin



		Year								
Data Source	Susceptibility	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
BC Biomed	I ^a	3.1%	1.9%	1.3%	2.6%	3.5%	2.9%	2.9%	2.2%	
	R ^b	9.0%	12.5%	10.0%	7.7%	6.6%	8.8%	7.3%	6.8%	
LifeLabs- Island	I	N/A	5.3%	4.3%	6.0%	6.0%	5.5%	4.4%	4.4%	
	R	N/A	9.6%	9.0%	10.0%	9.0%	11.7%	8.5%	8.9%	
LifeLabs- Mainland	I	N/A	3.9%	4.6%	6.4%	5.8%	6.7%	4.4%	6.2%	
	R	N/A	10.2%	12.5%	9.4%	8.7%	8.7%	7.6%	7.7%	

Piperacillin



Ceftazidime

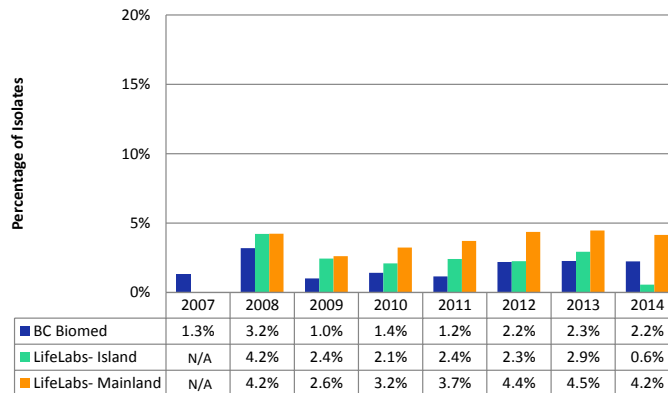


Figure 16- Proportion of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolates non-susceptible to tobramycin, gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, piperacillin, and ceftazidime (2007-2014)

^aI= Isolates classified as having intermediate resistance based on MIC breakpoints and CLSI guidelines

^bR= Isolates classified as resistant based on MIC breakpoints and CLSI guidelines

Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services

Please note: LifeLabs data for resistance to piperacillin was limited (data provided for 2008 and 2009 only); hence, data was not included in the analysis.

1.11. *Salmonella*

Nontyphoidal salmonellosis is one of the most prevalent and widely distributed foodborne diseases and is caused by *Salmonella enterica* serovars Typhimurium, Enteritidis, Newport, and Heidelberg (39). As a common cause of gastroenteritis in Canada, although it is typically self-limiting, it may cause serious complications in immunocompromised individuals, the elderly, and infants (39). *Salmonella* can be found in both domestic and wild animals and is found widely distributed in food animals such as poultry, pigs and cattle (1). It is predominantly transmitted through human consumption of contaminated food that originated from animals including eggs, meat, poultry and milk; however person-to-person transmission is possible through the fecal-oral route as well (1).

Salmonella enteric serovar Enteritidis (SE) is a rod shaped bacterium that is facultative anaerobic and non spore-forming (40). SE first became one of the leading causes of salmonellosis in humans in the late 1970s and continues to be the chief cause of salmonellosis (25.7% of cases) in Canada as shown through data collected in 2007 (40). SE is an especially resilient organism and was reported to have survived in animal feeds and feces for more than two years (40). Studies have shown that the most likely source of SE infections in humans is from eggs, as SE is able to persist on the shell surface potentially cross-contaminating the liquid portion of the egg when it is cracked for consumption (40).

The following data were from both hospital and community *Salmonella* isolates by Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS). Due to a large number of isolates, only half of the isolates received during the first 15 days of the month were tested for antimicrobial susceptibility. Among the antimicrobials tested in 2014, SE isolates demonstrated almost 100% susceptibility to ceftriaxone and azithromycin (data not shown). Resistance to ampicillin is reported at 5.5% in 2014, which remains lower than rates seen in 2003 and 2004 (approximately 8%) (**Figure 17**). Following a large increase from 2.6% in 2005 to 15.5% in 2006, tetracycline resistance has substantially decreased and was reported at 1.6% in 2014 (**Figure 17**). Resistance to chloramphenicol remained below 2.0% from 2004 to 2012. Since the peak rate (4.5%) in 2012 with 4 isolates identified, the non-susceptibility to chloramphenicol decreased and reported to be 0.8% in 2014 with 1 isolate identified (**Figure 17**).

Salmonella serotype Heidelberg (SH) is among the top 3 serovars isolated from patients infected with *Salmonella* in Canada and the most common source is from consumption of contaminated poultry or eggs (41). Most infections lead to mild to moderate infections; however, severe illness such as septicemia, myocarditis, extraintestinal infections, and death can also occur (41). The wide usage of ceftiofur, a third generation cephalosporin, in animal husbandry is becoming a major public health concern as this practice will lead to resistance to other cephalosporins used to treat a variety of human infections (41).

In BC, the resistance of SH to ceftriaxone has fluctuated between 12% and 67%, and was reported at 36.4% in 2014 (**Figure 18**). However, the non-susceptibility of SH to ceftriaxone has decreased since 2012 and is reported 36.4% in 2014. Similarly, resistance to amoxicillin-clavulanic acid has fluctuated largely and peaked in 2012 at 48.7% (**Figure 18**). Since 2012, it has decreased to 36.4% in 2014 respectively. Resistance to ampicillin has fluctuated during the period from 2007 to 2012 except for the increase observed in 2010 and 2012, and is reported to be at its peak with a rate of 74.4% in 2012 (**Figure 18**). This resistance rate has gradually decreased to 45.5% in 2014. Resistance to tetracycline show a decreasing trend from 40.0% in 2007 to 18.2% in 2014 (**Figure 18**).

Salmonella Enteritidis

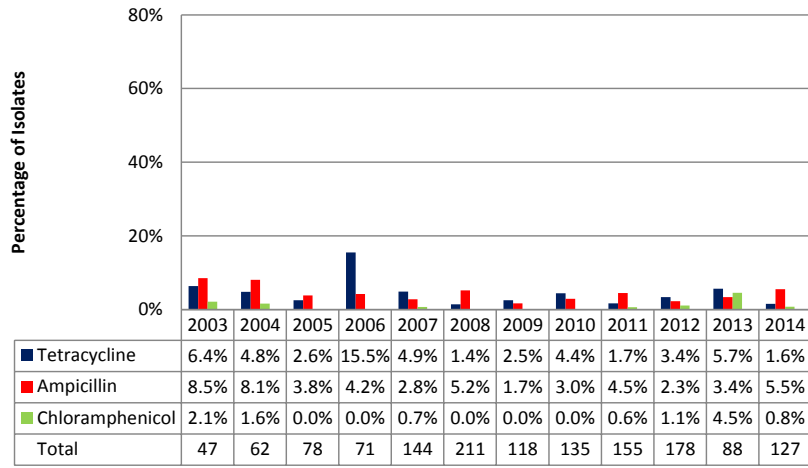


Figure 17- Proportion of *Salmonella* Enteritidis isolates resistant to ampicillin, tetracycline, and chloramphenicol in British Columbia (2003-2014).
Source: CIPARS

Salmonella Heidelberg

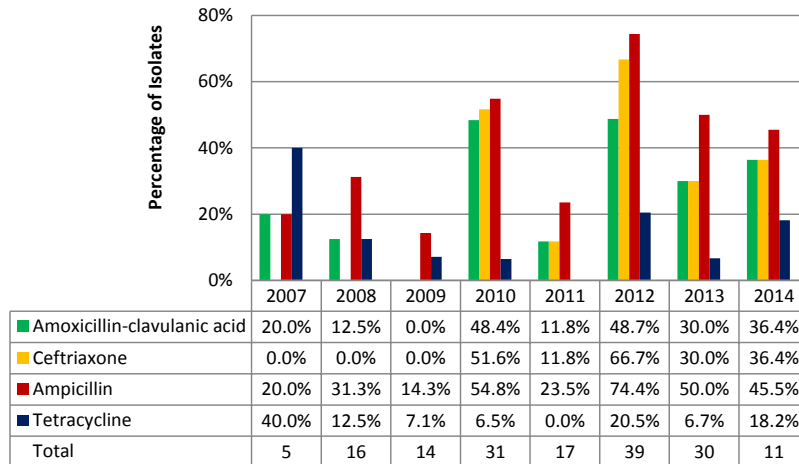


Figure 18 - Proportion of *Salmonella* Heidelberg isolates resistant to amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, ceftriaxone, ampicillin, and tetracycline in British Columbia (2007-2014)
Source: CIPARS

1.12. *Haemophilus influenzae*

Haemophilus influenzae is a respiratory tract bacterium that causes numerous invasive diseases including bacterial meningitis, bacterial pneumonia, epiglottitis, septic arthritis, cellulitis, and pericarditis.

According to BC Biomedical Laboratories data, ampicillin resistance remained around 20.0% from 2007 to 2014 with the exception of a decrease to 15.8% in 2009 and 14.3% in 2011 (**Figure 19**). In 2014, resistance to ampicillin was reported at 23.5% among all *H. influenzae* isolates (**Figure 19**). LifeLabs data for *H. influenzae* isolates from Vancouver Island and the Mainland regions show that non-susceptibility rates have stabilized over the period from 2008-2014 and is reported to be at 24.9% and 24.4% of isolates on the Island and the Mainland, respectively, in 2014 (**Figure 19**).

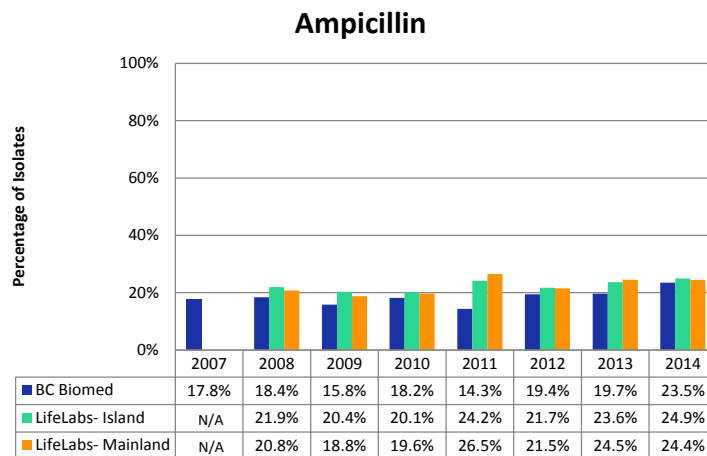


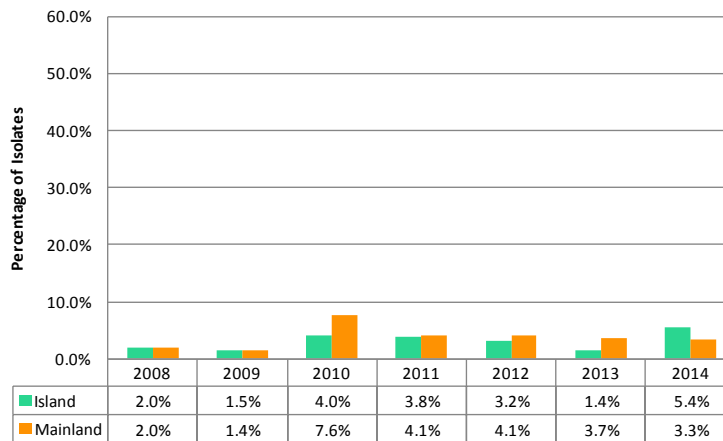
Figure 19 - Proportion of *Haemophilus influenzae* isolates resistant to ampicillin (2007-2014)
Source: BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services

1.13. *Campylobacter*

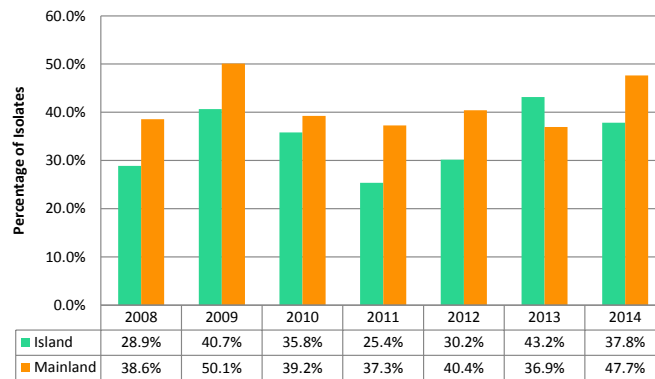
Campylobacter are spiral shaped bacteria that are a major cause of campylobacteriosis, a foodborne diarrhoeal illness (42). In a report on the burden of foodborne illness published by the BCCDC, it was found that *Campylobacter* spp. is the leading cause of foodborne illness by bacteria, contributing to 24,603 cases during the period 2000-2010 (42). Campylobacteriosis is most commonly reported as single, sporadic cases in Canada; however, outbreaks where two or more cases are linked to a common exposure do occur (43). Transmission of this bacterium in humans is mostly through consumption of contaminated poultry, water, produce, and unpasteurized dairy products, but can also directly transmit from the primary source (such as chicken) to contaminate other food products or surfaces (43). Although most infections caused by *Campylobacter* are self-limiting, serious complications can occur in the young, the elderly, and immune-compromised individuals (44). Erythromycin is considered the drug of choice for campylobacteriosis, however, due to its broad spectrum of activity against enteric pathogens, fluoroquinolones are also used (44). Tetracycline and gentamicin are also considered in cases of systemic infections (44). Similarly, it is recommended in the Bugs and Drugs guide that macrolides (azithromycin and erythromycin) be used as empiric therapy only when infection is severe or prolonged or when the patient is immunocompromised (13).

Non-susceptibility rates to erythromycin on the Island and the Mainland show similar trends, peaking in 2010 at a rate of 4.0% (Island) and 7.6% (Mainland) (**Figure 20**). The reported rate of non-susceptibility to erythromycin for 2014 was 5.4% and 3.3% for Island and Mainland, respectively (**Figure 20**). Non-susceptibility rates to ciprofloxacin fluctuate for Mainland around 40% while they fluctuate around 30% for Island. In 2014, the non-susceptibility rates to ciprofloxacin are reported to be 37.8% on the Island and 47.7% on the Mainland (**Figure 20**). Similarly, non-susceptibility rates to tetracycline exhibit similar trends between data from Mainland and the Island with the rate lower on the Island (37.0%) when compared to the Mainland (52.7%).

Erythromycin



Ciprofloxacin



Tetracycline

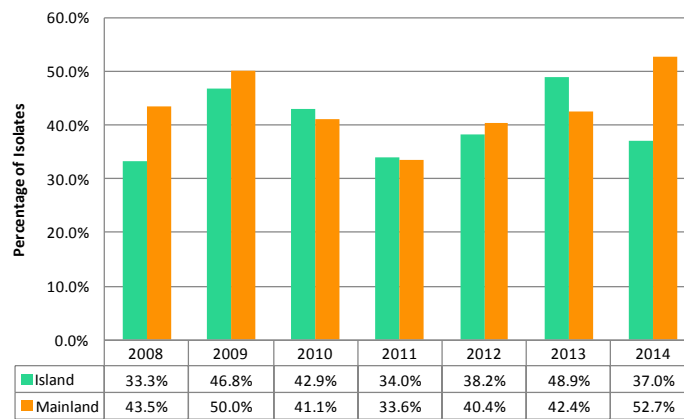


Figure 20- Proportion of *Campylobacter* spp. non-susceptible to ciprofloxacin, erythromycin, and tetracycline (2008-2014).
Source: LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services

1.14. *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*

Neisseria gonorrhoeae is a, non-spore forming, non-motile bacteria that produces β -lactamase (45). It is the causative agent of gonorrhoea (gonococci) and is most often found in the urethra in males and the cervix in females, but could also be transmitted sexually to the rectum and the pharynx (46). The emergence of resistance to penicillin and tetracycline was first described in Asia in the 1970s and by the mid-1990s, resistance to fluoroquinolones also emerged and began to spread internationally (1). Due to the resistance of *N. gonorrhoeae* to all standard first-line antimicrobial agents, third-generation cephalosporins became the last remaining option for empiric monotherapy (1). Currently in BC, the recommended empiric therapy of *N. gonorrhoeae* as outlined in the Bugs and Drugs guide is cefixime and ceftriaxone, with azithromycin recommended as the alternative therapy (13). However, an increase in resistance to oral cephalosporin (e.g. cefixime) has led to several countries reporting treatment failure (1).

The BC Public Health Microbiology and Reference Laboratory (BCPHMRL) routinely tests *N. gonorrhoeae* isolates from BC against a panel of antibiotics including cefixime, ceftriaxone, and azithromycin (47). An overall decreasing trend is observed among isolates with elevated MICs to cefixime, azithromycin, and ceftriaxone (**Figure 21**). In 2014, no isolates demonstrated decreased susceptibility (MIC ≥ 0.25 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) to cefixime, 0.4% of isolates demonstrated decreased susceptibility (MIC ≥ 2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) to ceftriaxone, 0.8% of isolates showed resistance to azithromycin, and 22.4% of isolates showed resistance to ciprofloxacin (**Figure 21**).

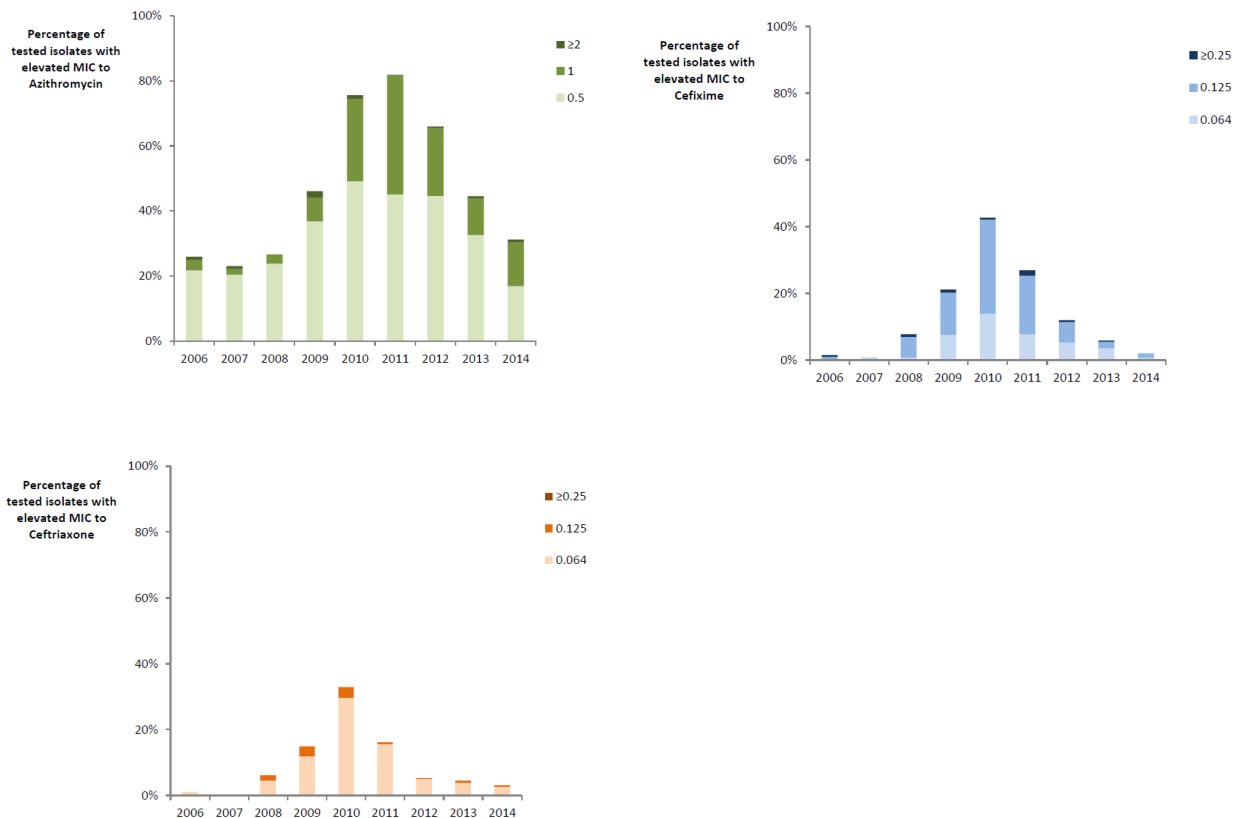


Figure 21- Percentage of tested *N. gonorrhoeae* isolates with elevated MICs to azithromycin, cefixime and ceftriaxone (2010 - 2014). MIC units are in $\mu\text{g/mL}$.

Source: BCPHMRL, Public Health Advanced Bacteriology & Mycology Program

1.15. *Neisseria meningitidis*

Neisseria meningitidis is an aerobic bacterium that normally colonizes the mucosa of the upper respiratory tract (47). It has a wide range of clinical manifestations, from transient fever and sore throat to fatal meningitis and fulminant septicemia (48). Thirteen serotypes based on differences in the polysaccharide capsule of *Neisseria meningitidis* have been identified to date with 90% of meningococcal diseases worldwide caused by serogroups A, B, and C (49;47). In Canada, serogroups B and C have been largely responsible for most of the cases since 1993 (incidence rates ranging from 0.2 – 0.44 per 100,000 population and 0.13 to 0.65 per 100,000 population for B and C respectively) (49).

In BC, serogroup B (12%- 43%) and serogroup Y (4% - 28%) were predominant during the time period from 2008 to 2014 (47). Meningococcal infections is highly contagious and is transmitted between human-to-human through direct contact with infectious respiratory droplets or oral secretions (49). Meningitis is the most fatal illness caused by *N. meningitidis* and requires immediate management with effective antibiotics once illness is suspected (49). Penicillin G is the recommended empiric therapy for invasive meningococcal disease (in Canada), however, resistance due to alterations in the penicillin binding proteins first reported in the 1980s has led to use of third-generation cephalosporins such as ceftriaxone for initial treatment (49)(13). Intermediate resistance to quinolones was reported a 2008 ago with a slowly increasing trend over the years, however, the trend is not accompanied by an increase in the MICs (49).

According to data from BCPHMRL, non-susceptibility rates to ciprofloxacin remains low at 5.0% out of the 20 isolates tested in 2014 (data not shown). Although the proportion of tested isolates non-susceptible to penicillin remains high in 2014 at a rate of 35.0%, it has decreased from a rate of 52.0% in 2012 (data not shown) (47).

Other organisms

1.16. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB) is a slow-growing, aerobic, acid-fast bacterium that is the causative agent for tuberculosis (TB) (50). The infection usually causes disease in the lungs (pulmonary TB), but the bacteria can travel through the bloodstream to other parts of the body (extrapulmonary TB) (50). In British Columbia, there were 264 cases of TB disease reported in 2013 with an average incidence rate of 5.8 cases per 100,000 people, which is higher than the national level (51).

Mono-resistant TB (MTB) is defined as resistance to one of the first-line drugs, isoniazid (INH), rifampin (RMP), ethambutol (EMB), or pyrazinamide (PZA) (52). Poly-resistant TB is defined as resistance to two or more first-line drugs not including INH and RMP combination. Multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) is defined as TB that is resistant to at least the two best first-line drugs, INH and RMP, but does not meet the definition of extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) (52). XDR-TB is defined as a form of TB that is resistant to INH and rifampin (i.e. MDR-TB), as well as resistance to second-line drugs fluoroquinolone and to any one of the three injectable second-line anti-TB drugs (amikacin, kanamycin or capreomycin) (52).

Susceptibility data for TB is presented per patient rather than per isolate in order to maintain consistency with reporting to the Public Health Agency of Canada. A total of 2347 patients with culture-confirmed TB strains and drug susceptibility testing (DST) results were reported between 2005 and 2013 by the BCPHMRL (**Figure 22**). In BC, MTB was on the rise from 5.8% in 2006 to 11.3% in 2011. Since 2011, the trend drastically decreased to 8.3% in 2012, yet an increasing trend is observed and currently reported to be 9.9% in 2014 (**Figure 22**). Proportions of poly-resistance TB has varied between 0% and 0.9% while proportions of MDR-TB have fluctuated between 0% and 2.2% throughout the same period (**Figure 22**). In 2014, the MDR-TB is reported at 2.2%, which is highest rate since 2005 (**Figure 22**).

Rates in BC are comparable to national rates for 2012 (data not shown). BC had the second highest number of TB cases in Canada in 2012, following Ontario(52). For more information on TB, the most recent BCCDC report can be found online at:

http://www.bccdc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/C43269A4-2140-44AB-9CC6-D0B956FE0151/0/TB_Annual_Report_2011_20131007.pdf.

Percent and Number of *M. tuberculosis* Complex patients that are Mono-resistant, Poly-resistant and Multi-resistant in British Columbia, Canada, 2005-2014

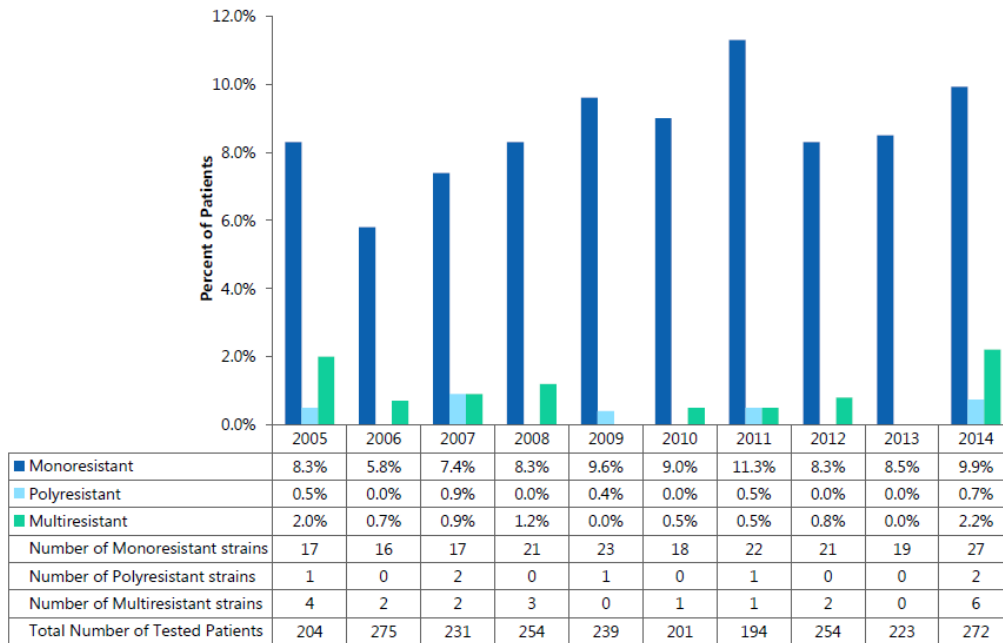


Figure 22 - Proportion and number of *M. tuberculosis* complex patients that are mono-resistant, poly-resistant and multi-drug resistant in British Columbia, Canada (2005-2014)

Source: BCPHMRL

Please note: Data provided by the BCPHMRL represent patients with tuberculosis caused by species within the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex including, but not limited to, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

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Dr. Edith Blondel-Hill (Interior Health Authority)
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Appendix A: Supplemental Tables

Table A.1 -Total number of isolates tested for antimicrobial susceptibility from the various data sources

Year	MRSA			MSSA			<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>		
	BB	LL-M	LL-I	BB	LL-M	LL-I	BB	LL-M	LL-I
2007	2336	N/A	N/A	5325	N/A	N/A	156	N/A	N/A
2008	1070	3007	1077	5562	7839	4498	154	520	291
2009	1676	2531	896	5330	7820	4319	132	475	375
2010	1880	2392	711	4850	7464	4051	118	403	182
2011	1464	2136	720	4407	7647	4107	137	462	164
2012	1350	2103	654	4307	7809	4022	114	436	144
2013	1465	1953	563	4855	7253	3754	99	415	168
2014	1491	1936	572	4900	7650	4047	131	465	166

Year	<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>			<i>Enterococcus spp.</i>			<i>Escherichia coli</i>		
	BB	LL-M	LL-I	BB	LL-M	LL-I	BB	LL-M	LL-I
2007	873	N/A	N/A	3466	N/A	N/A	24365	N/A	N/A
2008	949	242	64	3238	3290	1718	24569	23315	11845
2009	619	165	29	3302	3339	1873	24851	24415	12346
2010	490	185	34	3648	3026	1810	27514	24727	12601
2011	449	171	60	2945	3234	1823	24448	26323	12872
2012	432	147	39	3058	3624	1912	26289	28334	13021
2013	454	117	38	3335	3393	1731	29473	27122	13344
2014	423	139	46	4176	3671	1947	33228	31631	15147

Year	<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>			<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>			SPICE		
	BB	LL-M	LL-I	BB	LL-M	LL-I	BB	LL-M	LL-I
2007	2059	N/A	N/A	1381	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2008	2121	2075	1271	1251	1307	520	N/A	1470	753
2009	2108	2021	1363	1442	1418	530	N/A	1470	807
2010	2358	2047	1280	1480	1414	482	N/A	1521	755
2011	2016	2288	1273	1468	1484	515	N/A	1673	864
2012	2343	2555	1304	1370	1728	527	N/A	1855	850
2013	2551	2497	1381	1538	1588	573	N/A	1798	925
2014	3221	3181	1601	1743	1584	666	N/A	1906	1104

Year	ESBL			<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>			<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>		
	ECOL ^a	KPNE ^b	PMIR ^c	BB	LL-M	LL-I	BB	LL-M	LL-I
2007	24365	2059	1381	921	N/A	N/A	587	N/A	N/A
2008	24569	2121	1251	852	1066	736	522	1078	554
2009	24851	2108	1442	893	1117	780	408	1050	480
2010	27514	2358	1480	783	1115	672	392	1037	428
2011	24448	2016	1468	696	1159	624	307	1008	468
2012	26289	2343	1370	687	1312	712	252	748	335
2013	29473	2551	1538	758	1186	684	259	846	351
2014	33228	3221	1743	851	1350	692	298	775	401

Year	<i>Campylobacter</i>		
	BB	LL-M	LL-I
2007	N/A	N/A	N/A
2008	N/A	496	203
2009	N/A	500	200
2010	N/A	465	149
2011	N/A	488	159
2012	N/A	541	190
2013	N/A	463	141
2014	N/A	363	130

Note: BB= BC Biomedical Laboratories; LL-I= LifeLabs-Island; LL-M: LifeLabs-Mainland

^a. ECOL= *E.coli*

^b. KPNE= *K. pneumoniae*

^c. PMIR= *P.mirabilis*

*. Data provided by BC Biomedical Laboratories

Table A.2- Summary of antimicrobial modes of action and bacterial mechanisms of resistance.

Antimicrobial Class Example(s)	Action	Antimicrobial Mechanism	Resistance Mechanism	Common bacteria exhibiting resistance mechanism
B-lactams Ampicillin Amoxicillin Penicillin Cephalosporins	Bactericidal	<i>Inhibit cell wall synthesis</i> ; Bind to penicillin-binding proteins (PBPs) and prevent transpeptidation of bacterial cell wall	1. Alter composition of PBPs and prevent β -lactam binding 2. Production of β -lactamases	1. <i>S. aureus</i> (MRSA), <i>S. pneumoniae</i> 2. <i>Enterococcus</i> spp., <i>E. coli</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>H. influenzae</i> , <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>
Glycopeptides Vancomycin	Bactericidal	<i>Inhibit cell wall synthesis</i> ; Bind to D-Ala-D-Ala dipeptide precursor and prevent peptidoglycan synthesis	1. Acquisition of <i>van</i> gene cassette, which encodes an alternate dipeptide precursor, D-Ala-D-Lac, with reduced affinity for glycopeptides	1. <i>Enterococcus</i> spp. (VRE), <i>S. aureus</i> (VRSA)
Aminoglycosides Streptomycin Gentamicin Amikacin	Bactericidal	<i>Inhibit protein synthesis</i> ; Bind to the 30S ribosomal subunit and prevent peptide elongation	1. Mutation in the ribosome binding site 2. Increased efflux or decreased uptake 3. Enzymatic modification via phosphorylation, adenylation, or acetylation	1. <i>Enterococcus</i> spp., <i>Salmonella</i> 2. <i>P. aeruginosa</i> 3. Gram-negative bacteria
Macrolides Erythromycin Clarithromycin Azithromycin	Bacteriostatic	<i>Inhibit protein synthesis</i> ; Bind to 23S rRNA in the 50S ribosomal subunit and prevent peptide elongation	1. Increased efflux due to acquisition of <i>mef</i> gene, which encodes the efflux system (M phenotype) 2. Methylation of the 23S rRNA due to acquisition of the <i>erm</i> gene, which encodes a ribosomal methylase (MLS _B phenotype)	1. <i>S. pneumoniae</i> , <i>S. pyogenes</i> 2. <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. pneumoniae</i> , <i>S. pyogenes</i>
Lincosamides Clindamycin	Bacteriostatic	<i>Inhibit protein synthesis</i> ; Bind to 23S rRNA in the 50S ribosomal subunit and prevent peptide elongation	1. Methylation of the 23S rRNA (MLS _B phenotype)	1. <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. pneumoniae</i> , <i>S. pyogenes</i>
Tetracyclines Tetracycline Doxycycline Minocycline	Bacteriostatic	<i>Inhibits protein synthesis</i> ; Bind to 30S ribosomal subunit and prevent binding of incoming aminoacyl-tRNA	1. Mutation in the 30S ribosomal subunit 2. Increased efflux	1. Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria 2. Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria
Quinolones Ciprofloxacin Levofloxacin Moxifloxacin	Bactericidal	<i>Inhibit DNA and RNA synthesis</i> ; Inhibit supercoiling enzymes, DNA gyrase A and topoisomerase IV	1. Mutation in supercoiling enzymes causing reduced affinity for quinolones 2. Increased efflux	1. <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Gram-negative bacteria 2. <i>S. aureus</i>
Sulfonamides and Trimethoprim TMP-SMX	Bactericidal	<i>Prevent synthesis of folic acid</i> ; Sulfonamides - compete with <i>p</i> -amino-benzoic acid by binding dihydropteroate synthase Trimethoprim – bind dihydrofolate reductase and prevent production of folic acid	1. Mutations in folic acid synthesis enzymes causing reduced affinity for sulfonamides and trimethoprim 2. Overproduction of enzymes	1. <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Gram-negative bacteria 2. <i>E. coli</i>
Nitrofurans Nitrofurantoin	Bactericidal	Thought to prevent protein synthesis by damaging ribosomal proteins	1. Diminished nitroreductase activity causing less electrophilic conversion of nitrofurantoin	1. Urinary tract infection pathogens

Appendix B: Data Sources

The data sources used for the compilation of this report are outlined below including the specific bacterial species provided. Organisms are tested for susceptibility to antimicrobial agents in the laboratory using the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) breakpoints, as set out by the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines (3).

BC Association of Medical Microbiologists (BCAMM)

Extended spectrum β -lactamase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (ESBL producing Enterobacteriaceae)

The BC Association of Medical Microbiologists (BCAMM) collects data from a representative sample of community-based and hospital-based laboratories in BC. Refer to the BCAMM 2012 Report for a complete list of all participating laboratories (34). Data were available up to 2012 and included in the 2014 report. Note that the participating community-based laboratories include BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs sites, which provide most of the out-patient coverage for the province and are also included in this report. Limitations of the BCAMM data include the possibility of more than one isolate from the same patient being tested and included by different participating sites, re-testing of isolates at certain sites, the lack of denominator data for *Enterococci* as they are part of normal enteric flora and often non-pathogenic, and the inability to differentiate community-acquired and hospital-acquired infections.

BC Biomedical Laboratories and LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), methicillin-sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA), *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Enterococcus* spp., *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Serratia* spp., *Providencia* spp., *Morganella* spp., *Citrobacter* spp., *Enterobacter* spp., *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *P. mirabilis* isolates with phenotype compatible with ESBLs, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella* (non-typhoidal), *Haemophilus influenza* and *Campylobacter* spp.

As of April 2, 2013, LifeLabs Medical Laboratory Services completed the purchase of BC Biomedical Laboratories following approvals from the Federal Competition Bureau and the Provincial government (53). The laboratories implement different methods for susceptibility testing (e.g. Vitek versus replicator) and their information systems have not yet been merged, thus, the data provided independently by both constituents were analyzed separately for this report. In addition, nitrofurantoin testing by LifeLabs has been shown to overestimate non-susceptibility for *Enterococcus* spp., *E. coli*, and *K. pneumoniae*; these results have been omitted from this report.

BC Biomedical Laboratories collected isolates from 45 community-based patient service centres located throughout the Lower Mainland of BC. Clustering of patient services is found in the Fraser Health Authority. Since 2007, BC Biomed provided anonymous monthly line-listed datasets, which were analysed in collaboration with the *Do Bugs Need Drugs?* (DBND) program in BC. LifeLabs has provided anonymous, monthly, line-listed susceptibility data from 2008 to 2014. LifeLabs collects isolates from 80 community-based patient service centres located throughout Vancouver Island and the Mainland of BC. Due to the clustering of patient services in the Vancouver Island and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities, isolates may not be representative of the entire province; however, in combination with BC Biomedical Laboratories data, 90% of all community laboratories in BC are included resulting in greater geographical representation. An indicator of the testing area of the LifeLabs laboratory associated with a given isolate has also been provided in the data (e.g. Mainland versus Island), and has allowed for analysis of these regions separately.

The data shown for *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *P. mirabilis* isolates with a phenotype compatible with ESBLs in the present report were not provided directly from the BC Biomedical Laboratories. Instead, these isolates were identified based on resistance to third generation cephalosporins (e.g. ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, ceftazidime, or cefixime). However, because cephamycin results were not available, true identification of ESBL producing *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *P. mirabilis* isolates was not possible and an overestimation is expected. Without direct confirmation, these isolated will be identified as extended spectrum beta-lactamase-like (ESBL) producers or "isolates with phenotype compatible with ESBLs."

BC Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory (BCPHMRL)
Carbapenase-producing organisms (CPO), Extended spectrum β -lactamase producing Enterobacteriaceae (ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae), *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

Since the fall of 2010, the BCPHMRL implemented genotypic methods for testing Enterobacteriaceae isolates in order to confirm antibiotic susceptibility profiles for isolates with unusual phenotypic profiles submitted from front-line microbiology laboratories. In particular, the BCPHMRL looks for gene targets associated with ESBL (SHV, TEM, CTX-M and OXA-1), AmpC (CMY-2, CMY-1/MOX, CMY-2/LAT, DHA, ACC, MIR/ACT and FOX) and carbapenem (KPC, NDM, IMP and VIM) resistance. These data are reported in the BCAMM report. Additionally, updated carbapenase-producing organism (CRO) trends are included in the *Lab Trends* report (36).

Since 2010, the BCPHMRL has been monitoring the resistance patterns of *N.gonorrhoeae* to a panel of antimicrobials using E test® on culture positive isolates. Antibiotics included in the panel include azithromycin, ceftriazone, cefixime, ciprofloxacin, penicillin, spectinomycin, and tetracycline (47). Antimicrobial susceptibility testing has also been performed on *N.meningitidis* since 2012; E test® susceptibility results include ceftriaxone, ciprofloxacin, penicillin, rifampin, and nalidixic acid.

Tuberculosis data from 2005 to 2014 were provided directly from the BCPHMRL. The BCCDC is informed of tuberculosis cases directly from providers and laboratories throughout the province. All new cases of TB with confirmatory testing in BC and bacterial isolate available (approximately 80% of all cases) are tested for susceptibility against anti-tuberculosis agents. Data used for analysis are extracted from iPHIS (Integrated Public Health Information System). Please note that data on TB is now displayed on a per patient basis, rather than a per isolate basis for consistency with Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) reporting. Drug resistance is noted for patients with isolates that were mono-resistant, multi-drug resistant (MDR-TB) and poly-resistant.

Canadian Bacterial Surveillance Network (CBSN)
Streptococcus pneumoniae

The Canadian Bacterial Surveillance Network (CBSN) receives isolates from one or more hospitals located in BC each year (nine different hospitals in total since 1994). A set of consecutive clinically relevant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* isolates (from any site) as well as isolates from a sterile site are collected from participating hospitals. Limitations that may affect the data are the collection method being from any site, and isolate submission being voluntary with only two hospitals having submitted isolates for 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2014 and only one for 2011 and 2014. Aggregated data for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* were available for years 1994 to 2009 and line-listed data was provided for years 2010 to 2014. Please note that the oral penicillin and non-meningitis ceftriaxone CLSI breakpoints are used in this report.

Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS)
***Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Heidelberg**

Salmonella isolates from the BC Public Health Microbiology and Reference Laboratory (BCPHMRL) were forwarded to the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) in Winnipeg, Manitoba for susceptibility testing. Only isolates from the first fifteen days of each month were sent to CIPARS with the exception of *Salmonella* Typhi and *Salmonella* Newport, for which all isolates are submitted. For *Salmonella* Enteritidis, due to the large number of isolates submitted by the larger Canadian provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Québec), only half of the isolates received during the first 15 days of the month were tested for antimicrobial susceptibility. The remaining isolates were stored and tested as resources were available. Consequently, the tested isolates represent approximately half of all non-typhoidal *Salmonella* cases in BC. The twelfth edition of the Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Resistance Testing from the CLSI was used to classify MIC breakpoints for resistance (4). Aggregated data were available for years 2003 to 2014.

Appendix C: Community Laboratory Data Representativeness

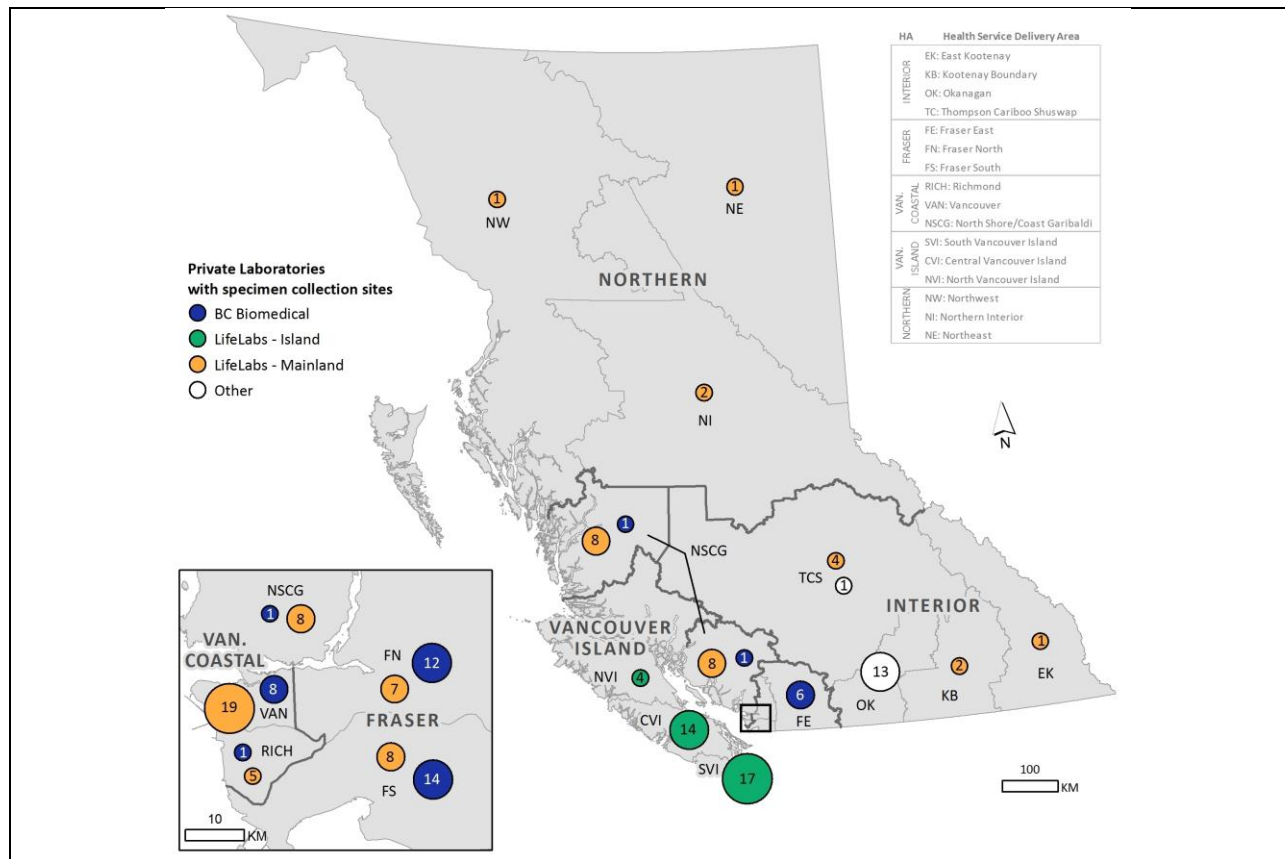


Figure 23. Community Laboratories in British Columbia as of November 2014 by Health Service Delivery Area (HSDA)

HA = Health authority

Note: Other includes Valley Medical Laboratories (n=12), Winfield Medical Laboratory (n=1), and Aberdeen Laboratory (n=1)

LifeLabs Medical Services laboratories, including BC Biomedical Sciences laboratories, represent 90% of all community laboratories in BC. The majority (78%) of laboratories in Fraser Health were formerly BC Biomedical Sciences locations and the majority (78%) of laboratories in Vancouver Coastal were LifeLabs; all community laboratories on Vancouver Island were owned by LifeLabs. Community samples in the Interior may be under represented in the data extracts by LifeLabs due to the majority of other private laboratories in the region (e.g. 12 Valley Medical Laboratory locations). The Interior accounts for approximately 16% of the provincial population (54).