SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE IN SWITZERLAND (SEARCH)
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Objectives
Comprehensive, representative and valid surveillance of antibiotic resistance on local, national and international levels is key to resistance control. We established a national surveillance program in Switzerland within the frame of the National Research Program for Antibiotic Resistance (NRP9).

Methods
Routine resistance data are collected electronically on a weekly basis from 22 representative clinical microbiology laboratories into a central database.
Data are validated, mapped to a common nomenclature and subjected to algorithms identifying double samples, defining microorganisms as contaminants versus pathogens and nosocomial versus community acquired. Proportions and temporal trends were calculated using Chi-Square test.
For data access a public internet site (www.search.ifik.unibe.ch) was developed including an interactive resistance database for the most prevalent microorganisms. Laboratories can access and analyze their own data online.

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