

Not all regions in Switzerland met the WHO set target of 60% Access antibiotics in total outpatient antibiotic use.

Leveraging outpatient antibiotic use to create targeted antibiotic stewardship interventions in Switzerland

Background

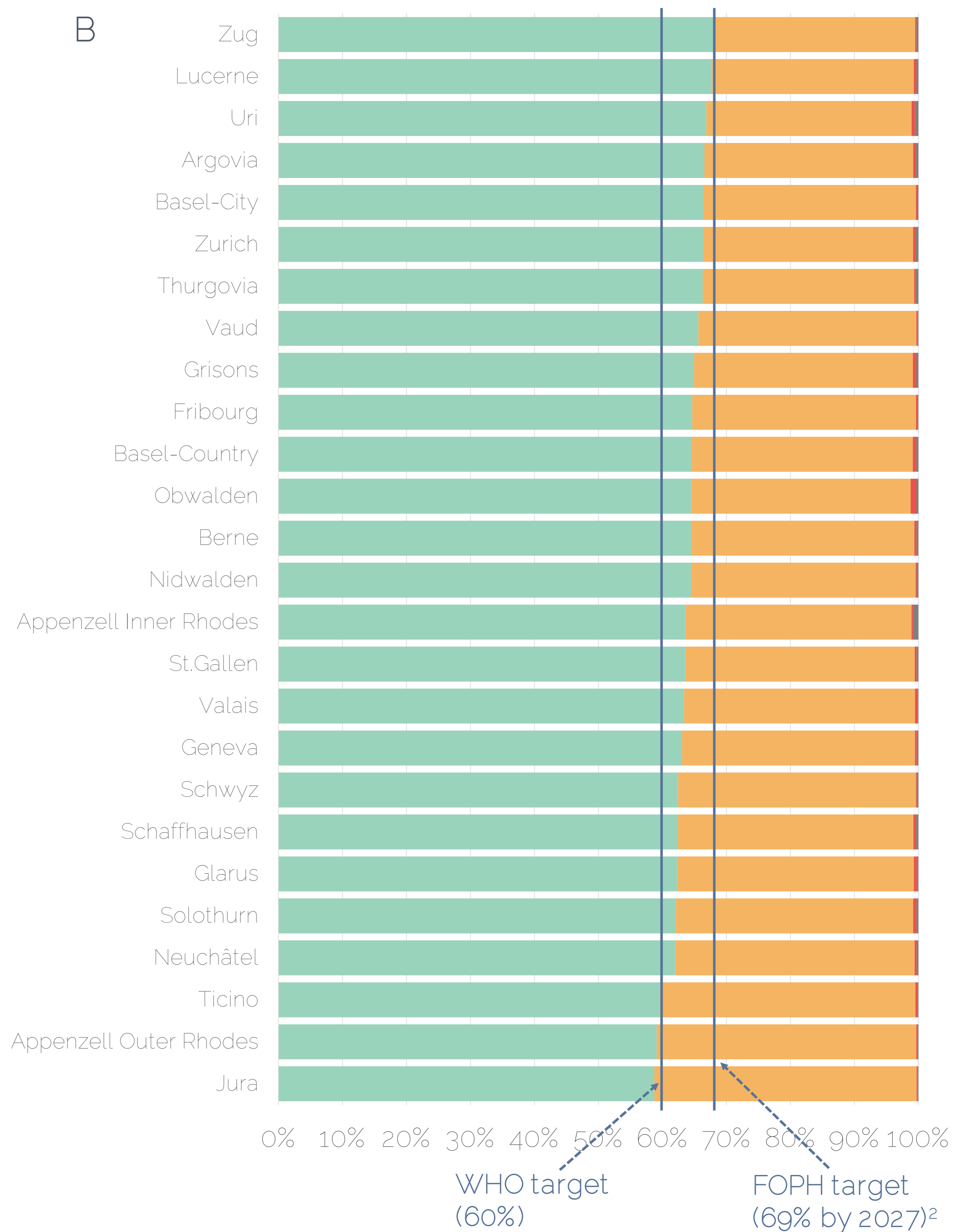
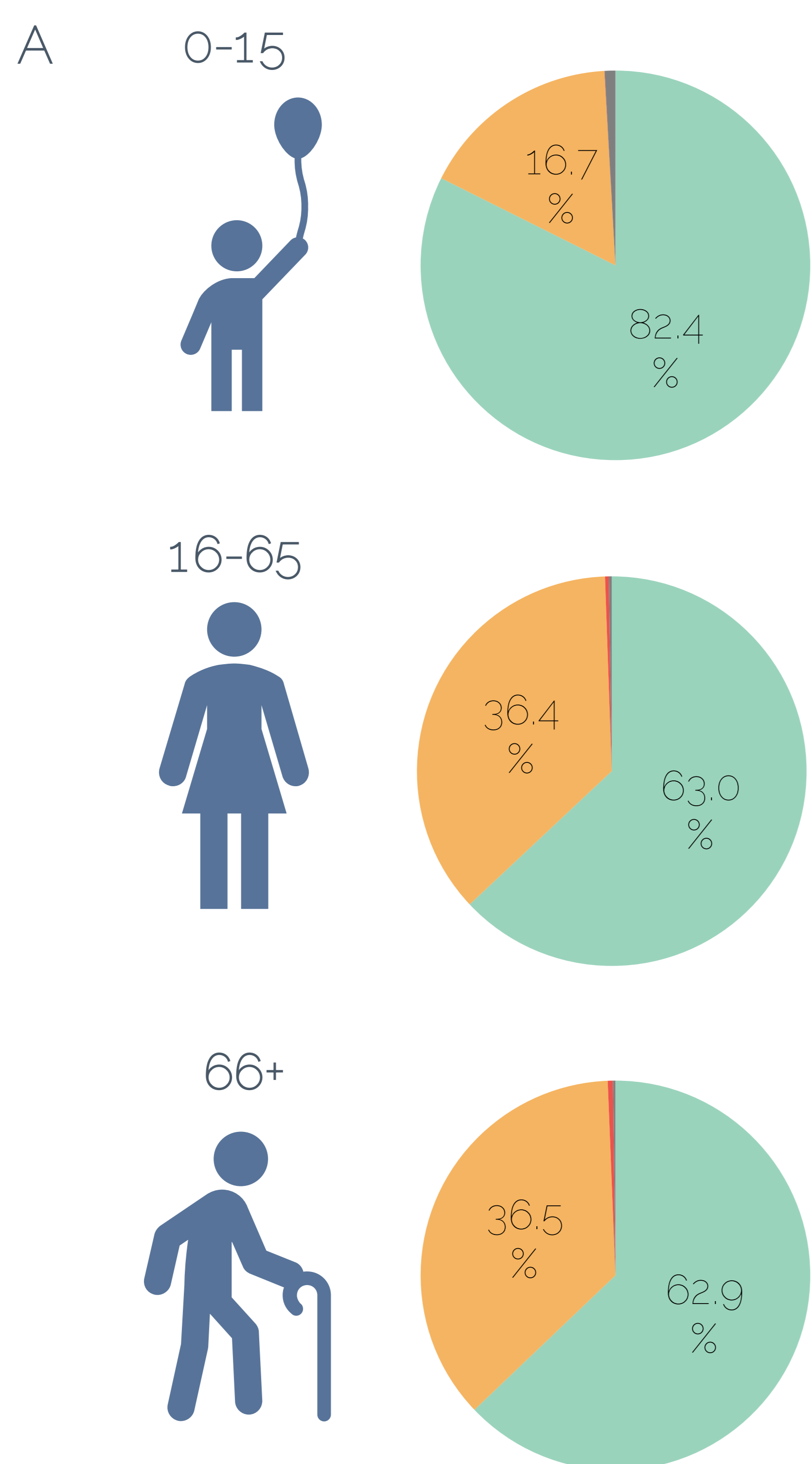
Appropriate antibiotic use is important, particularly in outpatient settings where 86% of antibiotics are prescribed in Switzerland.^{1,2} The WHO AWaRe classification assesses antibiotic use according to its impact on antimicrobial resistance and thus supports appropriate use of antibiotics.³ Antibiotic use is expressed as defined daily doses per 1000 inhabitants per day (DID) according to the WHO ATC/DDD index 2025.⁴

Methods

retrospective observational

health insurance claims data

crude DID rates standardized for sex and/or age



Results

The 2022 standardized population-weighted mean consumption of antibacterials (ATC group J01, J04A, A07AA and P01AB) was 7.75 (95% CI: 6.87 – 8.72) DID (cantonal range: 4.26 – 11.27). Antibiotic consumption in 2022 compared to 2015 has decreased significantly in 7/26 cantons and no cantons showed significant increase.

In 2022, 23 cantons (88.5%) met the WHO target of at least 60% of antibiotic consumption being from the Access group, three cantons (11.5%) – with the respective standardized proportions 58.7%, 59.1% and 59.6% – did barely not meet the WHO target yet (Fig. B). The Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) set a national target of 69% of Access group antibiotics to be reached by 2027², no canton reached this target in 2022. When analysing different age groups (Fig. A), it becomes evident that the proportion of Access group antibiotics is highest in children (0-15y, 82.4%), and lower in both, adults (16-65, 63.0%) and the elderly (66+, 62.9%).

Discussion

To reach the FOPH target of 69% Access group antibiotics by 2027, further efforts are needed. This data analysis will support to better understand patterns in antibiotic use and help tailor national and cantonal stewardship programs in outpatient healthcare.

References

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