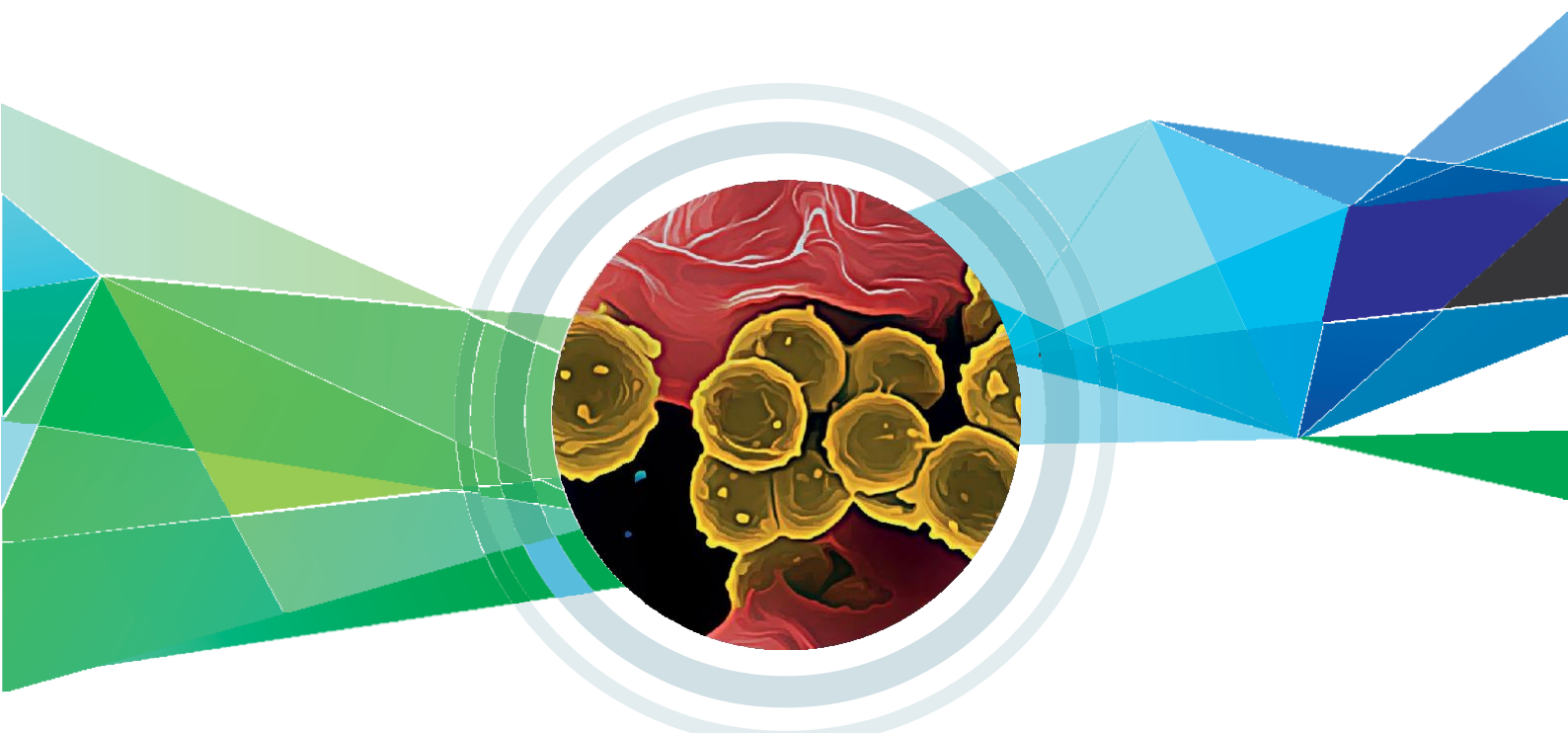




Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of National Health Services,  
Regulations & Coordination



National Institute of Health  
Government of Pakistan



# National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Surveillance Report Pakistan 2021-2022

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**National Antimicrobial Resistance  
(AMR) Surveillance Report Pakistan  
*2021-2022***



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## Abbreviations & Acronyms

| Abbreviation   | Full forms  | Abbreviation     | Full forms  |
|----------------|---|------------------|---|
| %I             | Percent intermediate                                | %MDR             | Percent multidrug-resistant                           |
| %R             | Percent resistant                                   | %S               | Percent susceptible                                   |
| AMR            | Antimicrobial resistance                            | API              | Analytical Profile Index                              |
| AST            | Antimicrobial susceptibility test                   | ATCC             | American Type Culture Collection                      |
| CLSI           | Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute         | LIMS             | Laboratory information Management                     |
| ESBL           | Extended spectrum beta- lactamase                   | E. coli          | <i>Escherichia coli</i>                               |
| E. faecalis    | <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>                        | E. faecium       | <i>Enterococcus faecium</i>                           |
| HIMS           | Hospital information Management system              | GLASS            | Global AMR Surveillance System (WHO)                  |
| EQAS           | External quality assurance system                   | HIS              | Hospital Information System                           |
| K. pneumoniae  | <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>                        | CSF              | Cerebrospinal fluid                                   |
| MDR            | Multidrug resistance                                | MIC              | Minimal inhibitory concentration                      |
| MSSA           | Methicillin- (oxacillin-) susceptible Staph. aureus | REQAS            | Regional External Quality Assurance Services (Muscat) |
| N. gonorrhoeae | <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>                        | NA               | Not applicable  |
| NRL            | National Reference Lab                              | N                | Number  |
| PDR            | Pandrug-resistant                                   | P. aeruginosa    | <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>                         |
| Resp.          | Respiratory   | MRSA             | Methicillin- (oxacillin-) resistant                   |
| S. pneumoniae  | <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>                     | S./Staph. aureus | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>                          |
| VRE            | Vancomycin-resistant Enterococci                    | sp.. spp.        | Species   |
| XDR            | Extensively drug resistant                          | WHO              | World Health Organization                             |

| Abbrv.     | Antibiotics                 | Abbrv.     | Antibiotics      | Abbrv.     | Antibiotics                   |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>AMC</b> | Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid | <b>FCT</b> | 5-Fluorocytosine | <b>NOR</b> | Norfloxacin                   |
| <b>AMK</b> | Amikacin                    | <b>FEP</b> | Cefepime         | <b>OXA</b> | Oxacillin                     |
| <b>AMP</b> | Ampicillin                  | <b>FLU</b> | Fluconazole      | <b>PEN</b> | Penicillin G                  |
| <b>ATM</b> | Aztreonam                   | <b>FOS</b> | Fosfomycin       | <b>TOB</b> | Tobramycin                    |
| <b>AZM</b> | Azithromycin                | <b>FOX</b> | Cefoxitin        | <b>TZP</b> | Piperacillin-tazobactam       |
| <b>CAZ</b> | Ceftazidime                 | <b>FQ</b>  | Fluoroquinolones | <b>VAN</b> | Vancomycin                    |
| <b>CIP</b> | Ciprofloxacin               | <b>GEH</b> | Gentamicin       | <b>RIF</b> | Rifampin, rifampicin          |
| <b>CLI</b> | Clindamycin                 | <b>GEN</b> | Gentamicin       | <b>SAM</b> | Ampicillin-sulbactam          |
| <b>CLR</b> | Clarithromycin              | <b>IPM</b> | Imipenem         | <b>STH</b> | Streptomycin                  |
| <b>CRO</b> | Ceftriaxone                 | <b>LNZ</b> | Linezolid        | <b>SXT</b> | Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole |
| <b>CTX</b> | Cefotaxime                  | <b>LVX</b> | Levofloxacin     | <b>TCC</b> | Ticarcillin-clavulanic acid   |
| <b>CXM</b> | Cefuroxime                  | <b>MEM</b> | Meropenem        | <b>TCY</b> | Tetracycline                  |
| <b>CZO</b> | Cefazolin                   | <b>MFX</b> | Moxifloxacin     | <b>TGC</b> | Tigecycline                   |
| <b>DAP</b> | Daptomycin                  | <b>MNO</b> | Minocycline      | <b>TEC</b> | Teicoplanin                   |
| <b>ERY</b> | Erythromycin                | <b>MUP</b> | Mupirocin        |            |                               |
| <b>ETP</b> | Ertapenem                   | <b>NIT</b> | Nitrofurantoin   |            |                               |

## Foreword

In 2017, NIH has established National AMR Surveillance system under the leadership and supervision of Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination (MoNHSR&C) Government of Pakistan. Provincial governments engaged in AMR surveillance through nomination of AMR focal persons and establishment of steering committees at ministerial level.

Pakistan enrolled in GLASS (2016) and progressively worked to develop Pakistan AMR surveillance system in 2018. Initially, National AMR Surveillance started to work with five lab based sentinel sites and up until now is expanded to 26 sites. AMR surveillance data from all sentinel sites of respective provinces is reported to National Coordination Center (NCC). This system constitutes of hospitals, health facilities and laboratories at provincial and federal level

and integrated with the global components GLASS as well. Moreover, laboratory specimens are routinely collected and tested for priority pathogens.

The surveillance system involves strong commitment from participating laboratories and close collaboration with AMR sentinel lab networks. It also involves the increase in enrollments and active participation of laboratory network in national surveillance system to monitor AMR. It will also reflect a collective understanding and engagement to support the global effort to control AMR. The support given by World Health Organization (WHO) Regional & Country Office, WHO Collaborating Centers, Fleming Funds Country Grants/Development Alternatives Incorporation (DAI) and other international partners have pivotal role in meeting the expectations of GAP and GLASS.

**Dr Muhammad Salman**

Chief Executive Officer

National Institute of Health (NIH)–Pakistan

# 1. Executive summary

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) represents a major threat to human health, with significant global economic and security implications. Surveillance is an essential tool to inform policies and infection prevention and control responses. Importantly, it is the cornerstone for assessing the spread of AMR and for informing and monitoring the impact of local, national, and global strategies. The NIH, as a focal point for AMR, has established the AMR surveillance system with a commitment to support the second objective of the National Action Plan-AMR initiative: to “strengthen knowledge through surveillance and research” and to continue filling knowledge gaps to inform strategies at all levels.

AMR surveillance is a laboratory-based system in which enrolled sentinel clinical laboratories share data with the NIH on an annual basis in the prescribed format. AMR data are collected through a case-finding surveillance system, which collates results of microbiological testing done routinely in laboratories for clinical purposes. This report summarizes AMR data for the years 2021 and 2022. During the data call years 2021 and 2022, 19 and 26 laboratories submitted AMR data, respectively.

For the reporting period of January–December 2021, a total of 132,269 non-duplicate isolates from 19 surveillance sites/laboratories were received for analysis. The most frequently reported pathogens were *E. coli* (35%), followed by *S. aureus* (13%), *K. pneumoniae* (9%), and *P. aeruginosa* (3%). During the reported year, data showed a high burden of resistance among priority pathogens and antibiotics; for

instance, *Escherichia coli* exhibited resistance rates of 72% to Cefotaxime, 75% to Ceftriaxone, and 72% to Ceftazidime. *Acinetobacter species* showed carbapenem resistance of 74%, and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) was reported at 68%. Moreover, among *Enterobacteriaceae*, over 52% of reported *E. coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolates were Multi-drug-resistant (MDR), and 3.6% and 8.7% were possibly Pan Drug Resistant (PDR), respectively. Furthermore, among the reported isolates of *Salmonella Typhi*, 38% were Extensively Drug Resistant (XDR), and more than 71% were resistant to ceftriaxone.

Similarly, during the reporting period of 2022, a total of 229,617 non-duplicate isolates from 26 surveillance sites/laboratories were received and available for analysis. The most frequently reported pathogens were *E. coli* (36%), followed by *K. pneumoniae* (12%), *S. aureus* (10%), and *P. aeruginosa* (7%). During the reported year 2022, data showed a high burden of resistance among priority pathogens and antibiotics; for instance, *Escherichia coli* exhibited resistance rates of 77% to Cefotaxime, 75% to Ceftriaxone, and 74% to Ceftazidime. Carbapenem resistance among *Acinetobacter species* was reported at 73%, and MRSA was reported at 65%. Moreover, among *Enterobacteriaceae*, over 51% of reported *E. coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolates were MDR, and 2.1% and 6.7% were possibly PDR, respectively. Furthermore, among the reported isolates of *Salmonella Typhi*, 38% were XDR, and more than 72% were resistant to ceftriaxone.



## 2. Introduction

The grave concern of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) cannot be overstated, as it stands as a foremost and priority health problem worldwide, particularly in Low- and Middle-Income countries, including Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan is committed to addressing AMR issues by endorsing the AMR Global Action Plan approved at the 68th session of the World Health Assembly in 2015 and making concerted efforts to tackle this problem by implementing the National Action Plan for AMR.

The burden of antibiotic resistance (AMR) among bacteria, primarily driven by the consumption of antimicrobials, has steadily increased and is now recognized as a major health crisis. Prior to antibiotic use, a low level of AMR was observed, primarily due to the selective pressure of antibiotic exposure, not only in humans but also in the animal health sector. The progressive rise in AMR has become a global public health concern. It is estimated that bacterial AMR was directly responsible for 1.27 million global deaths in 2019 and contributed to 4.95 million deaths.<sup>1</sup> In addition to death and disability, AMR has significant economic costs. The World Bank estimates that AMR could result in an additional US\$1 trillion in healthcare costs by 2050, and US\$1 trillion to US\$3.4 trillion in gross domestic product (GDP) losses per year by 2030.<sup>2</sup>

In 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with member states, generated a global report on AMR surveillance, providing a comprehensive overview of the magnitude and current surveillance status of AMR worldwide.

In 2020, there was an increase of more than 15% compared to 2017 in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) rates for meropenem and third-generation cephalosporin resistance in bloodstream *E. coli* infections, ciprofloxacin resistance in *Salmonella spp.* bloodstream infections, and azithromycin resistance in gonorrhoea. These increases raise significant concerns, particularly in the context of the AMR indicators monitored under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework. Across 76 countries, median

reported rates reached 42% for third-generation cephalosporin-resistant *E. coli* and 35% for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, highlighting the urgency of addressing antimicrobial resistance.<sup>3</sup>

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has alarmingly increased across the globe, and Pakistan is no exception. The significant burden of multi and pan-resistance bacterial infections leads to considerable mortality and morbidity, limiting our options for treating infectious diseases. Notably, there has been a significant increase in *S. Typhi ceftriaxone* resistance, rising from 60% in 2019 to 79% in 2021. Methicillin resistance was reported in 65% of *S. aureus* isolates in 2021. In *Acinetobacter baumannii*, resistance against Carbapenems reached up to 70% in 2021, as indicated in National AMR data. Additionally, there is an ever-increasing trend of ESBLs, NDMs, VREs, CREs, MDR TB, XDR TB, and MDR *Candida auris*.<sup>4</sup>

In fulfillment of the commitment to contain AMR in the country, Pakistan has developed a National Action Plan (NAP).<sup>5</sup> This plan was completed in collaboration with the WHO and involved all stakeholders at the federal, provincial, and regional levels. It is built upon the objectives of the Global Action Plan (GAP) and the National Strategic Framework, developed through a systematic, all-inclusive consultative process to ensure the ownership, agreement, and commitment of all stakeholders.

- 1 Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators. (2022). Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis. *The Lancet*; 399(10325): P629–655. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)02724-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)02724-0)
- 2 Drug-Resistant Infections: A Threat to Our Economic future (March 2027) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/health/publication/drug-resistant-infections-a-threat-to-our-economic-future>
- 3 Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) Report 2022. <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/364996/9789240062702-eng.pdf?sequence=1>
- 4 Pakistan Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System Surveillance Report 2017–2019. [https://www.nih.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Report\\_2017-2018-NIH-Final.pdf](https://www.nih.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Report_2017-2018-NIH-Final.pdf)
- 5 Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plan Pakistan. <https://www.nih.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/AMR-National-Action-Plan-Pakistan.pdf>

The National Action Plan on AMR provides a roadmap to establish a functional, coordinated, collaborative, and sustainable AMR containment system using a “One Health” approach aligned with the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR. The action plan has seven strategic priorities as follows:

- i. Development and implementation of a national awareness-raising and behavioral change strategy on antimicrobial resistance
- ii. Establishment of an integrated national AMR surveillance system (human, animal usage, and resistance monitoring)
- iii. Improve prevention & control of infections in health care, community, animal health, food, agriculture, and environment
- iv. Update and enforce regulations for human and veterinary antimicrobial utilization
- v. Phase out the use of antimicrobials as Growth Promoters and provide appropriate alternatives (such as prebiotics, probiotics)
- vi. Integration of AMR in all public health research agendas, including research on vaccines
- vii. Estimation of the health and economic burden of AMR for decision making.

The second strategic objective entails strengthening knowledge and generating evidence through surveillance and research. This report underscores the objectives, key components, and achievements of the surveillance system, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in combating AMR in the country.

### 2.1 Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance:

The AMR Surveillance System aims to estimate the burden of AMR in priority pathogens and provide valuable information for informed decision-making and interventions to address this public health challenge. The WHO Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) was launched in 2015 to foster surveillance of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial consumption and use (AMC/U) globally, informing strategies to contain AMR. GLASS monitors progress in the implementation of national surveillance systems worldwide to ensure standardized collection, analysis, and sharing of official data on AMR among priority pathogens and antimicrobial consumption

(AMC), as well as information on key AMR epidemiological indicators. Since its launch, GLASS has expanded its scope and coverage. As of May 2021, a total of 109 countries and territories worldwide have been enrolled in GLASS.<sup>6</sup>

Pakistan has established sentinel surveillance to determine the burden of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the country. This initiative aims to support the National Action Plan (NAP), particularly focusing on its second objective: strengthening knowledge through surveillance and research, and enhancing existing activities.

### 2.2 Pakistan AMR Surveillance System:

The Pakistan AMR Surveillance System is built upon three core components, collectively contributing to the success and sustainability of surveillance efforts (illustrated in fig 2.1): the National Coordinating Center (NCC), serving as the central coordinating body responsible for overseeing and facilitating surveillance activities. It promotes effective communication, collaboration, and coordination among stakeholders involved in the surveillance system. The National Reference Laboratory (NRL) acts as the primary reference point for comprehensive testing and analysis. Equipped with advanced technology and expertise, the NRL ensures the accuracy and validation of data collected from the sentinel sites. The AMR Surveillance Sentinel laboratories are located throughout the country, and these sentinel sites play a crucial role in data collection.

Pakistan has been included among the countries enrolled in the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) since 2017, actively sharing data. Since its enrollment, the National Institute of Health (NIH) has been collaborating with surveillance sentinel laboratories. In 2017, five (05) clinical laboratories from various provinces were enrolled in the AMR surveillance system. The following year, 2018, data from nine (09) sites were submitted to WHO GLASS and analyzed by NIH. Subsequently, in 2019, 2020, and 2021, data from 12, 18, and 19 clinical microbiology laboratories, respectively, were submitted to WHO GLASS.

<sup>6</sup> GLASS manual for antimicrobial resistance surveillance in common bacteria causing human infection. <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/372741/9789240076600-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

### 2.3 Objectives:

1. Continual systematic collection of data from microbiology laboratories in both public and private sectors, establishing a systematic reporting and feedback mechanism, followed by dissemination of AMR surveillance reports to all stakeholders nationally and internationally.
2. Epidemiological analysis and interpretation of surveillance data to assess the burden of AMR and to formulate policies for future prevention and control.
3. Utilization of surveillance data for raising awareness and advocacy through risk communication strategies, as well as for the effective implementation of stewardship programs aimed at the responsible use of antimicrobial agents.

Laboratories at hospitals and other healthcare centers, as well as clinical microbiology laboratories (both public and private), are generating and collecting clinical and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) data as part of their routine patient care. This data can also be utilized for generat-

ing cumulative antibiograms and for local monitoring of antimicrobial resistance at the facility level, as well as for public health surveillance of antimicrobial resistance at the country level.

### 2.4 Identification and selection of surveillance sites and labs:

Surveillance sites/laboratories included in this report are identified based on the following criteria:

- i. Having established microbiology diagnostic capacity,
- ii. Demonstrating willingness to participate and share AMR data,
- iii. Agreeing to participate in laboratory assessments through standard evaluation tools,
- iv. Engaging in external quality assurance programs such as NEQAS (National External Quality Assurance Scheme) or any other EQA programs
- v. Achieving a minimum performance score of at least 80% in other relevant international EQA programs,
- vi. Maintaining a functional laboratory information management system (LIMS),
- vii. Adhering to data reporting mechanisms.

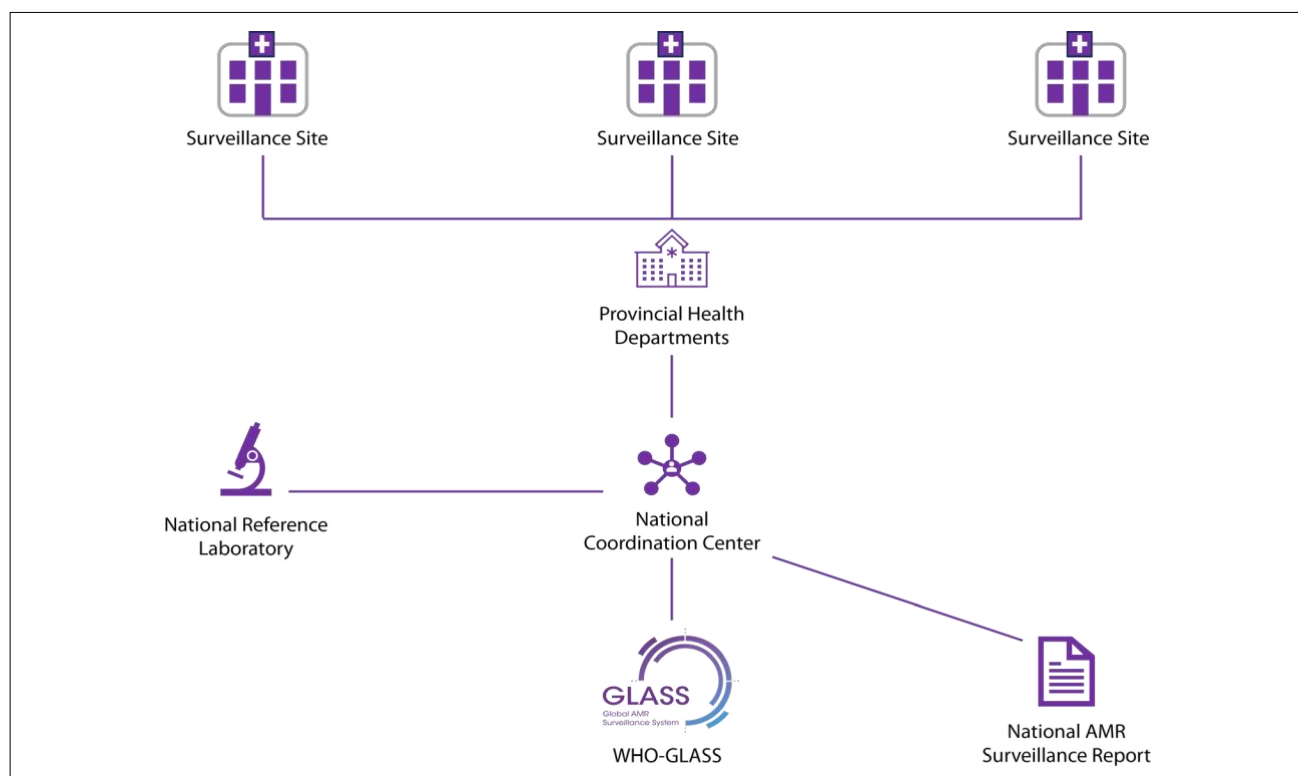


Figure 2.1: Components of National AMR surveillance system

## 2.5 Identification of organisms and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing:

Participating microbiology laboratories use either a manual bio-chemical testing or API (Analytical profile index)/ commercial automated systems for identification of bacteria. For routine antimicrobial susceptibility testing, sentinel sites using either diffusion method or automated systems following CLSI or EUCAST guidelines are preferred to enrolled.

## 2.6 Data collection Mechanism:

Nominated focal points at participating surveillance sites submit AMR data on a quarterly or annual basis to the NCC at NIH. The submitted AMR data includes microbiology data, and where available and technically feasible, clinical and demographic data. Clinical and demographic data for each isolate are extracted from hospital/laboratory information systems (HIS/LIS) and shared with the NCC in the prescribed format through email. The data variables, such as the patient's date of birth/age, gender, nationality, location, location type, clinical specialty/department, date of admission/discharge, etc., are collected. Laboratories share isolate-based data of positive cultures where information on the patient population with laboratory-confirmed infections (positive cultures) caused by the defined target pathogens.

Currently, following the GLASS protocol, blood, urine, feces (stool), and urethral and cervical swabs are designated as priority specimen types, with eight priority pathogens included for global AMR surveillance and reporting (list attached as Annexure I). To capture the resistance profile for other pathogens, the Pakistan AMR surveillance system also collects data for these pathogens and specimen types.

## 2.7 Data Cleaning:

After submission of AMR data to the national AMR Surveillance Coordination Center, the raw data is initially checked and cleaned for plausibility, quality, and completeness. Feedback is then communicated to the AMR focal point at the surveillance site as required. AMR focal points approached to verify, update and re-

submit the data as applicable. After the initial cleaning of AMR raw data, it is further converted to WHONET format using the BacLink tool. The following data is excluded from analysis, if technically possible:

- i. Internal quality control isolates (e.g., weekly ATCC QC strains)
- ii. External quality control isolates (EQAS, i.e., NEQAS, CAP, REQAS)
- iii. Isolates labeled as 'screening,' 'validation,' 'verification,' 'proficiency testing,' or similar
- iv. Duplicate isolates (copy strains); only the first isolate per patient, specimen type, and species during the reporting period (one year) is included
- v. Isolates from primarily contaminated specimen types
- vi. Other non-diagnostic isolates (e.g., from environmental sampling, infection control, OT/ICU surveillance)
- vii. Species for which less than 10 isolates are available for analysis
- viii. Antimicrobial agents that are selectively/not routinely tested (i.e., less than 70% of isolates were tested)

As recommended by CLSI guideline M39–Ed5:2022 and the WHO GLASS protocol, multiple isolates (copy strains) are routinely excluded from the analysis. This involves considering only the first isolate with antibiotic results of a given species per patient, specimen type, and analysis period (e.g., one year), irrespective of body site, antimicrobial susceptibility profile, or other phenotypical characteristics (e.g., bio-type).

## 2.8 Data Analysis:

Data analysis is performed using the WHONET 2022 Software for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (WHONET, 2022). Descriptive analysis involves calculating frequencies and presenting them in the form of graphs, charts, and tables. For analysis, the qualitative susceptibility categories – S (susceptible), I (intermediate), and R (resistant) – are utilized, as reported by the laboratory. The antibiotics and resistance data presented in this report are significant for antimicrobial resistance surveillance purposes only. They may or may not be first-line options for susceptibility testing or patient treatment guidelines and should not be interpreted as such.

## 2.9 Methodology:

### » Data Collection:

**Year 2021:** In the first week of July 2022, a data call was issued to thirty-three (n=33) laboratories, requesting to share AMR data from January to December 2021. Formal letters were dispatched from AMR national focal points to the laboratory focal persons. For the year 2021, a total of nineteen (19) public and private healthcare facilities/clinical laboratories submitted data. Among these, 09 were public sector hospital laboratories, and 10 were private sector facilities (comprising 07 hospitals and 03 clinical laboratories). A list of the sentinel sites, along with their affiliations, is provided in (Annexure II).

**Year 2022:** In the year 2022, a data call was issued via formal letters to 31 sentinel laboratories during the first week of July 2023, requesting data from January to December 2022. Reminders were sent to prompt data submission by the end of July 2023. Out of these, 26 sentinel sites shared the data in the prescribed format. Among the 26 sites, a total of 12 were public-sector hospital laboratories, while 14 were from the private sector, comprising 10 hospital laboratories and 4 clinical laboratories. A list of the sentinel sites, along with their affiliations, is provided in (Annexure III).

### » Data Cleaning and Analysis:

The data was submitted in the form of Excel sheets in the predefined format. After the submission of AMR data to the National AMR Surveillance Coordination Center, the raw data were checked and cleaned for plausibility, quality, and completeness. Data from five (05) sentinel laboratories were not in accordance with the prescribed format, and feedback was communicated to the AMR focal point at the surveillance sites of the respective laboratories to resubmit the data. Updated data was received from laboratories, which were included in the analysis. Therefore, data from nineteen (19) sentinel sites for year 2021 and (26) sentinel sites for 2022 were available for further processing and analysis. After the initial cleaning of AMR raw data, it was converted to WHONET format using the

BacLink software, and one national dataset file was created after removing the patient's identifier and names of individual laboratories. An aggregated WHONET data file of eight priority pathogens and four specimen types (the list is attached as an annex) was submitted to the WHO GLASS platform. For the purpose of this report, the data were analyzed using WHONET and SPSS software. Data analysis was performed for each priority pathogen with respect to distributions of isolates/patients by isolate type, gender, age category, and antimicrobial susceptibility profile (S, I, R). Antimicrobial susceptibility testing results are presented as the proportion of isolates of a specific microorganism that are susceptible (S), intermediate (I), and resistant (R) to a specific antimicrobial agent. For example, in *E. coli*, the proportion of isolates among different specimen types was calculated, and age/gender distribution was analyzed among positive cultures of *E. coli*. The percentage of each antibiotic tested and the S-I-R profile were calculated among the total tested antibiotics for specific organisms.

### » Definitions used:

- ▶ MDR (multidrug resistance) is defined as acquired non-susceptibility to at least one agent in three or more antimicrobial classes, as suggested by Magiorakos et al.<sup>7</sup>
- ▶ XDR/PDR: Magiorakos' et al. definitions for extensively drug-resistant (XDR) and pan drug-resistant (PDR) organisms could not be strictly applied, as only a limited number of antibiotic classes were routinely tested by clinical labs, and MDR isolates were not routinely sent to a reference lab. Therefore, the following modified definitions were used for 'possible XDR' and 'possible PDR' isolates.
  - ▶ 'Possible XDR': Non-susceptibility to at least one agent routinely tested by clinical labs in all but two or fewer antimicrobial categories (i.e., bacterial isolates remain susceptible to only one or two categories).
  - ▶ 'Possible PDR': Non-susceptibility to all agents routinely tested by clinical labs in all antimicrobial categories (i.e., no agents tested as susceptible for that organism).

7 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21793988/>

### 3. Demographic and Sensitivity pattern of Priority Pathogens during 2021

For the reporting period of January–December 2021, a total of 132,269 non-duplicate isolates from 19 surveillance sites/laboratories were available for analysis. The most frequently re-

ported pathogens were *E. coli* (44%), followed by *S. aureus* (16%), *K. pneumoniae* (12%), and *P. aeruginosa* & *Acinetobacter sp.* (4%).

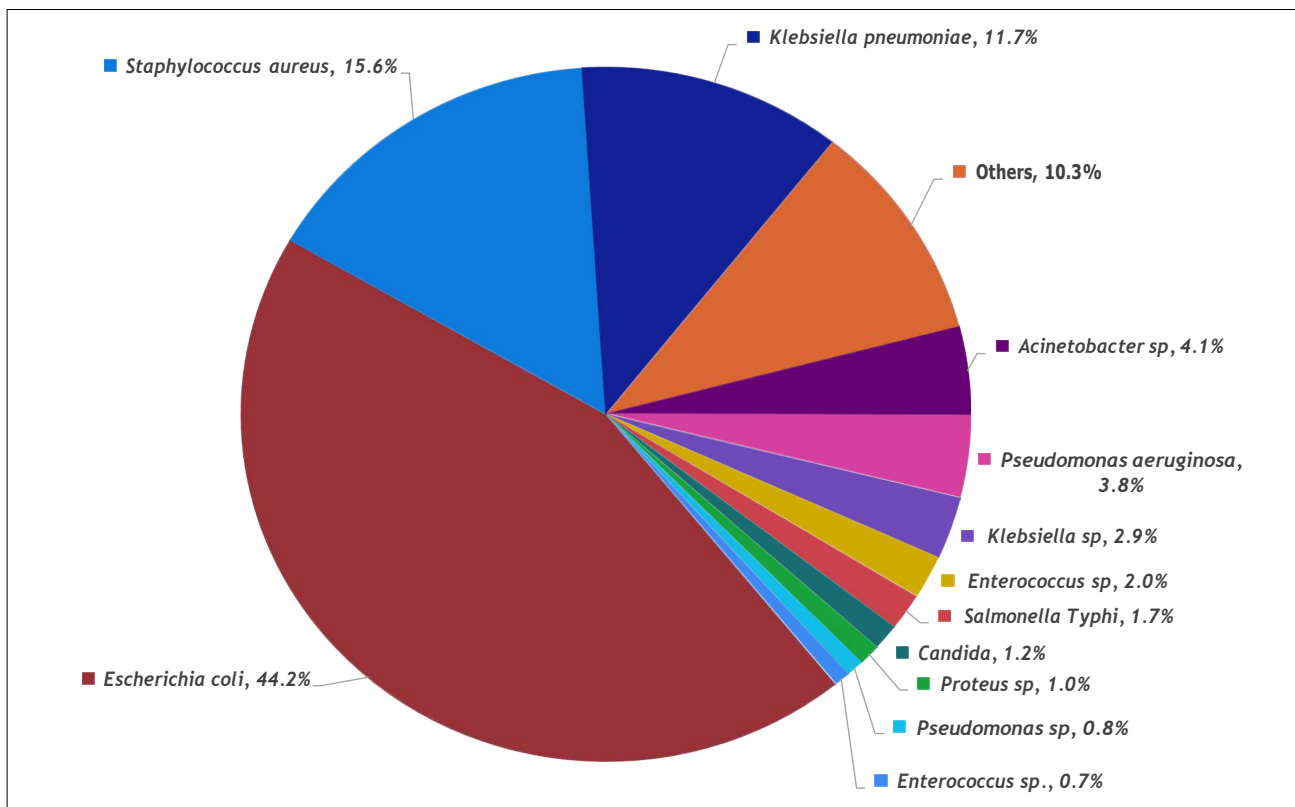
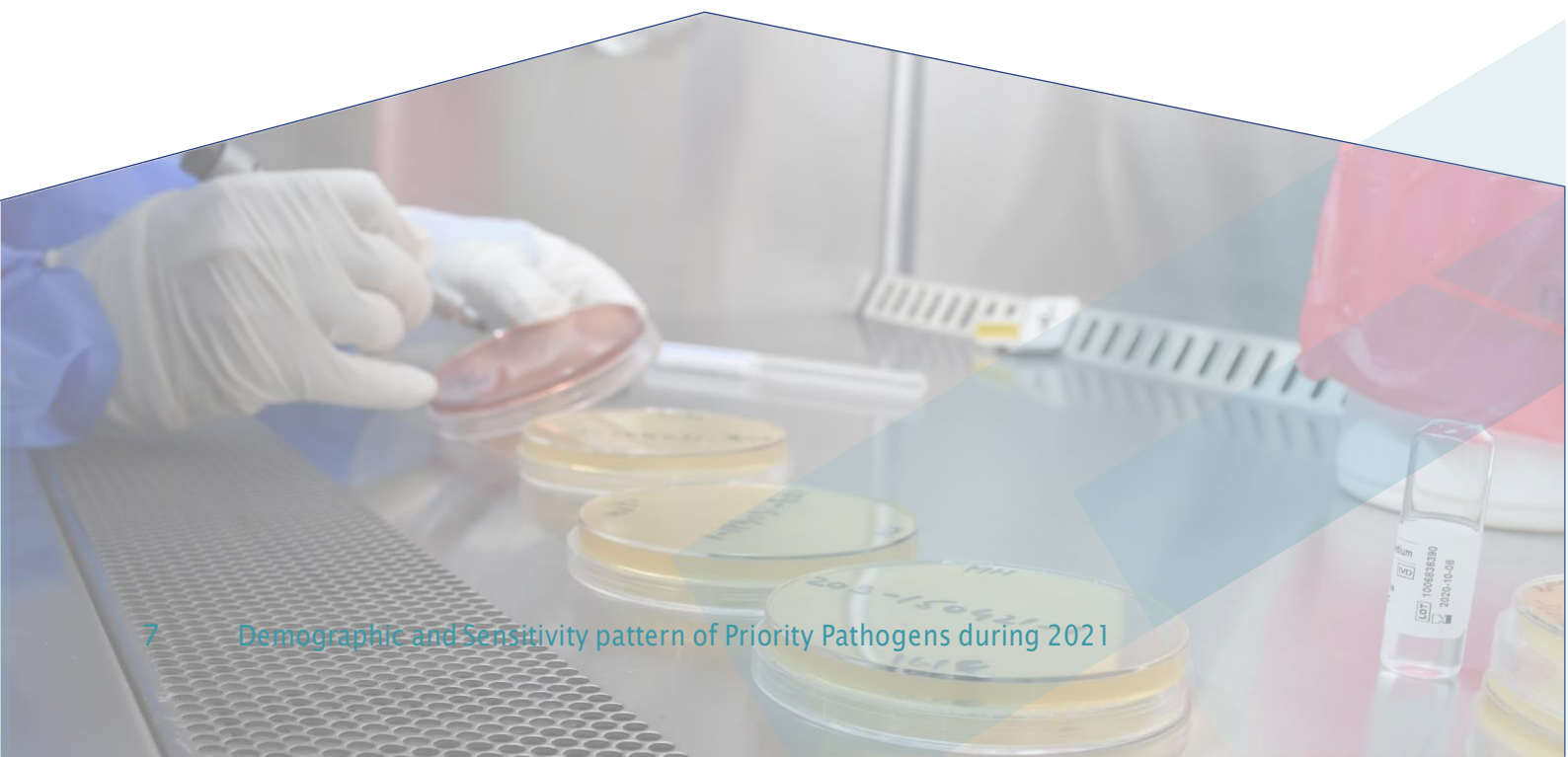


Figure 3.0: Distribution of AMR priority pathogens 2021 (n= 132,269)



### 3.1 Escherichia coli:

In the year 2021, a total of 19 sentinel sites reported 58,457 isolates of *E. coli*. The reported data indicates a typical trend, with the bacteria being more prevalent in urine specimens, accounting for 70% (n=40,935) of the total isolates and 38,500 (66%) in female patients. This higher prevalence in urine samples is attributed to the increased prevalence of urinary tract infections in female patients. Additionally, in terms of age distribution, *E. coli* infections were more common in the older age group (>25 years), comprising 50,271 of the reported cases, especially in the age group of 55-74 years.

Among these, the most tested and reported antimicrobials are Ciprofloxacin (56,215; 96%), Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (50,595; 87%), Ceftriaxone (91%), Imipenem and Meropenem (66%), Amikacin (63%), Ampicillin (62%), and Piperacillin-Tazobactam (60%) from *E. coli* isolates across all specimen sources. Resistance to *E. coli* ranges from 90% for Ampicillin to 9% for Amikacin, based on data reported in 2021. Similarly, among cephalosporins, 80% of isolates show resistance to cefuroxime, while 75% are resistant to ceftriaxone. Resistance to nitrofurantion and fosfomycin remain 11% and 8% respectively among the urine specimen.

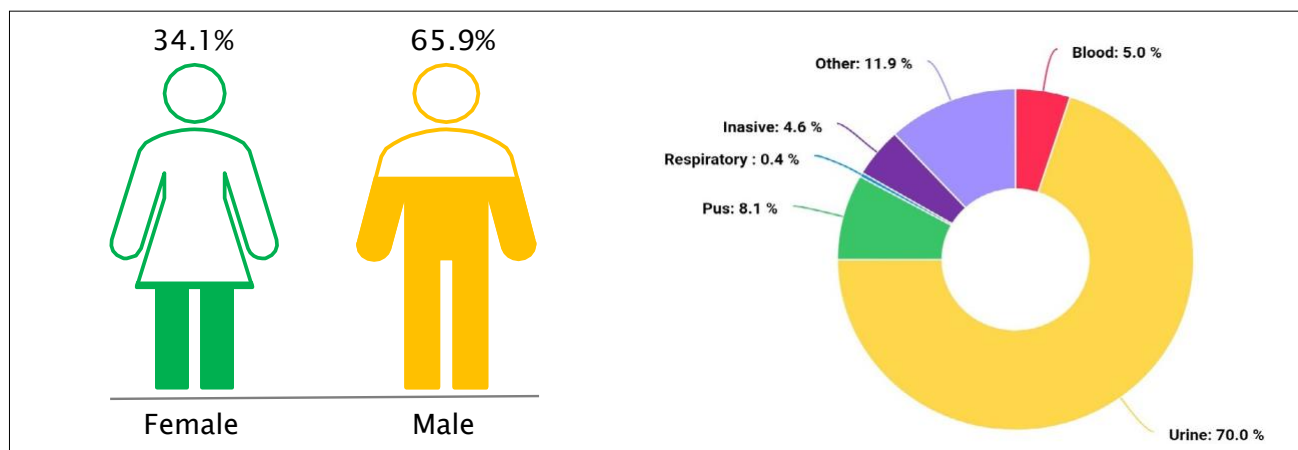


Figure 3.1: *E. coli*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types & gender wise, 2021

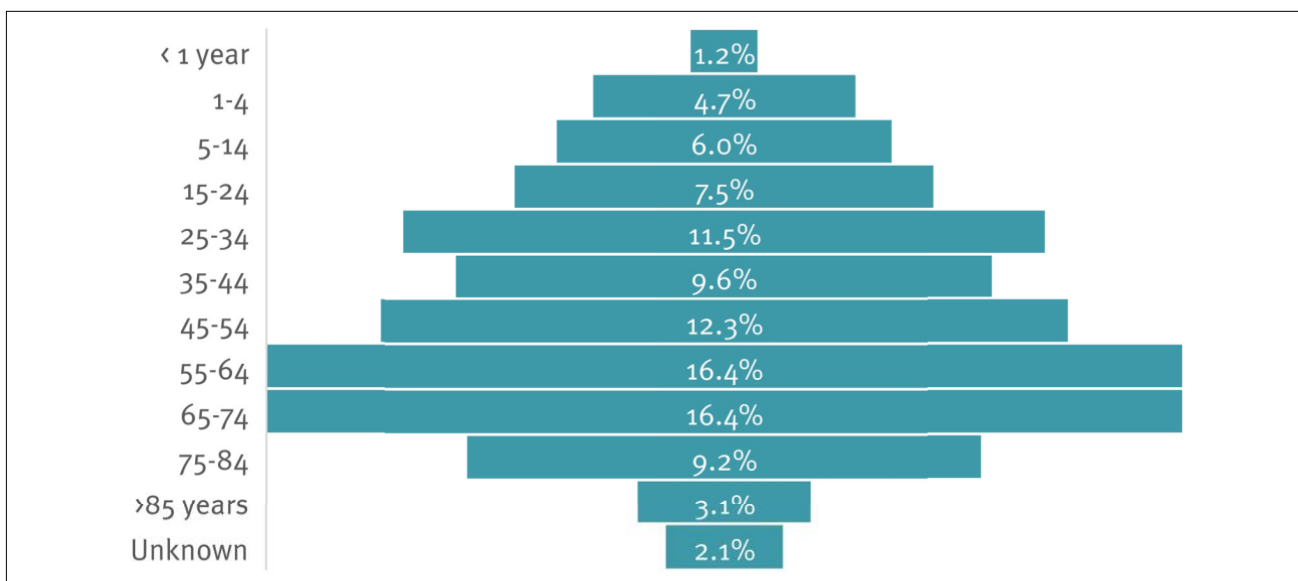
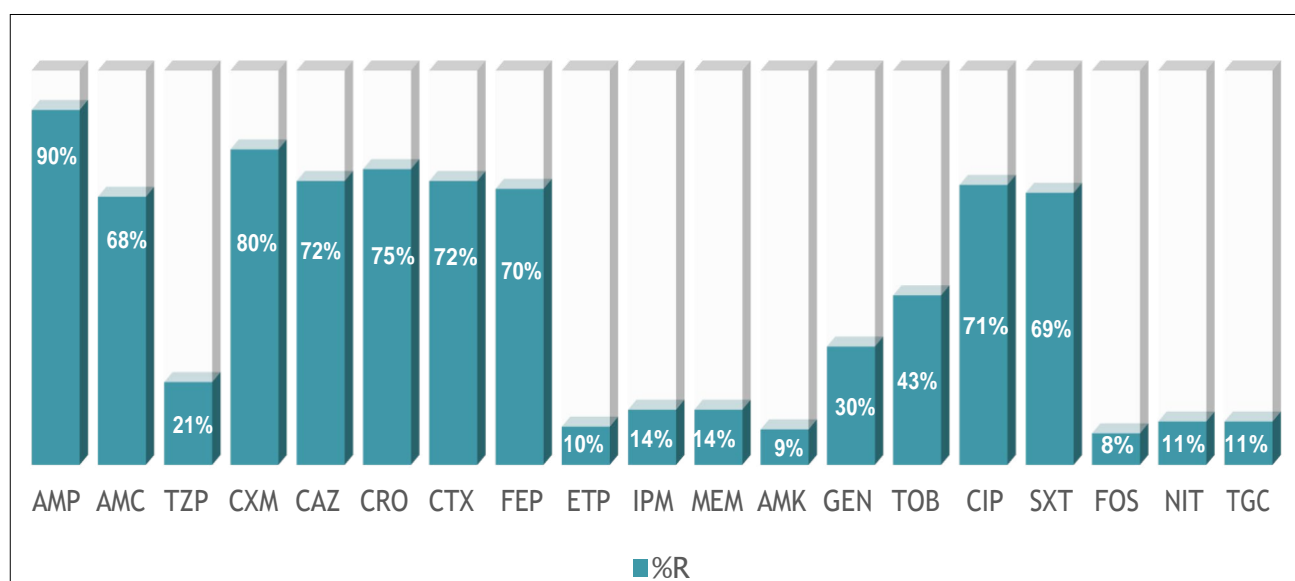


Figure 3.2: *E. coli*: Gender wise distribution, 2021

Table 3.1: Percentages of resistant, susceptible and intermediate isolates for *E. coli*, (isolates from all sources), Pakistan, 2021

| <i>E. coli</i> (n=58,457)     |      |             |      |     |      |
|-------------------------------|------|-------------|------|-----|------|
| Antibiotic                    | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I  | %S   |
| Ampicillin                    | AMP  | 36,169      | 89.8 | 0.4 | 9.8  |
| Amoxicillin-Clavulanic acid   | AMC  | 32,255      | 67.6 | 0.9 | 31.5 |
| Piperacillin-Tazobactam       | TZP  | 34,858      | 20.6 | 1.6 | 77.8 |
| Cefuroxime                    | CXM  | 15,132      | 80.3 | 0.7 | 19.0 |
| Ceftazidime                   | CAZ  | 9,630       | 72.2 | 1.4 | 26.4 |
| Ceftriaxone                   | CRO  | 53,311      | 74.7 | 0.2 | 25.1 |
| Cefotaxime                    | CTX  | 17,893      | 72.4 | 0.2 | 27.4 |
| Cefepime                      | FEP  | 10,638      | 70.1 | 1.2 | 28.7 |
| Ertapenem                     | ETP  | 33,580      | 9.7  | 0.4 | 89.9 |
| Imipenem                      | IPM  | 38,891      | 13.6 | 0.4 | 86.1 |
| Meropenem                     | MEM  | 38,801      | 13.8 | 0.3 | 85.8 |
| Amikacin                      | AMK  | 36,625      | 8.8  | 2.0 | 89.2 |
| Gentamicin                    | GEN  | 31,556      | 30.3 | 0.5 | 69.2 |
| Tobramycin                    | TOB  | 19,718      | 42.5 | 0.6 | 56.8 |
| Ciprofloxacin                 | CIP  | 56,215      | 70.8 | 2.2 | 27.0 |
| Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole | SXT  | 50,595      | 68.5 | 0.1 | 31.4 |
| Fosfomycin <sup>a</sup>       | FOS  | 30,380      | 8.4  | 0.2 | 91.5 |
| Nitrofurantoin <sup>a</sup>   | NIT  | 30,206      | 11.3 | 1.6 | 87.1 |
| Tigecycline                   | TGC  | 2,234       | 11.2 | 1.5 | 87.3 |

<sup>a</sup>Fosfomycin and Nitrofurantoin: Isolates from the urinary tract only.

Figure 3.3: Percentages of resistant isolates for *E. coli*, (isolates from all sources), Pakistan, 2021



### 3.2 *Klebsiella pneumoniae*:

In 2021, a total of 19 sentinel sites reported 15,446 isolates of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* is predominantly isolated from urine (49.6%, n=7,662) and is more prevalent in female patients (n=8,320), similar to *E. coli*. Likewise, it exhibits a typical age distribution, with a higher prevalence in the age group of 45-74 years (n=8,075) especially age group of 55-74 years which accounted for 30% of the reported isolates.

Among these, the most tested and reported an-

timicrobials are ceftriaxone (98%), ciprofloxacin (95%), trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (93%), and imipenem (75%), meropenem (75%) from *K. pneumoniae* isolates across all specimen sources. Resistance against *K. pneumoniae* ranged from 72% for cefotaxime to 22% for ertapenem. Fluoroquinolones (such as ciprofloxacin) exhibit a resistance rate of 53.2%. Moreover, ceftriaxone, the most frequently tested antibiotic for *K. pneumoniae* in the reported data, shows a resistance rate of 64%. Similarly, carbapenems (meropenem, imipenem and ertapenem) have demonstrated resistance of 30%, 29% and 22% respectively.

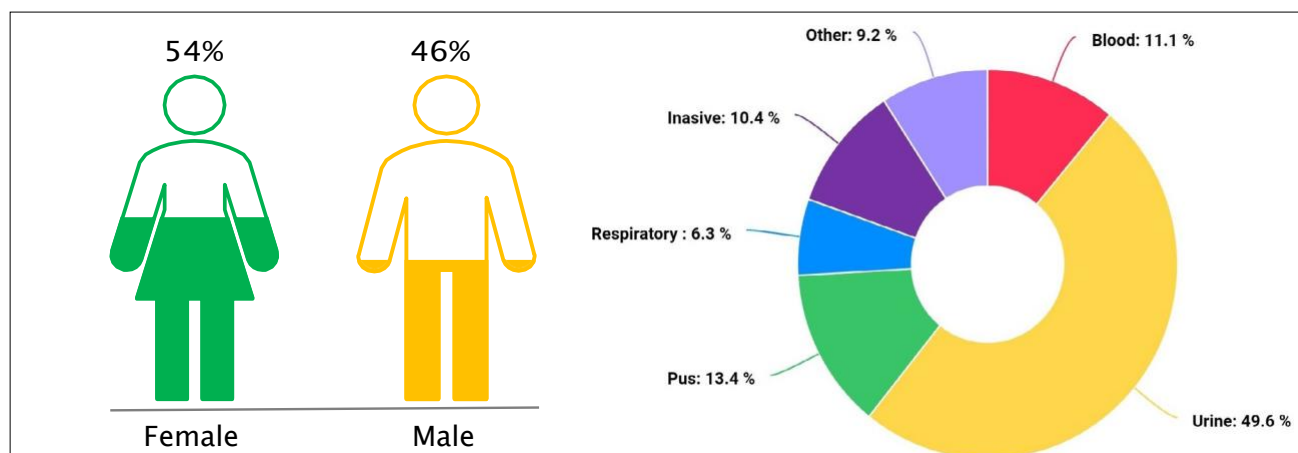


Figure 3.4: *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2021

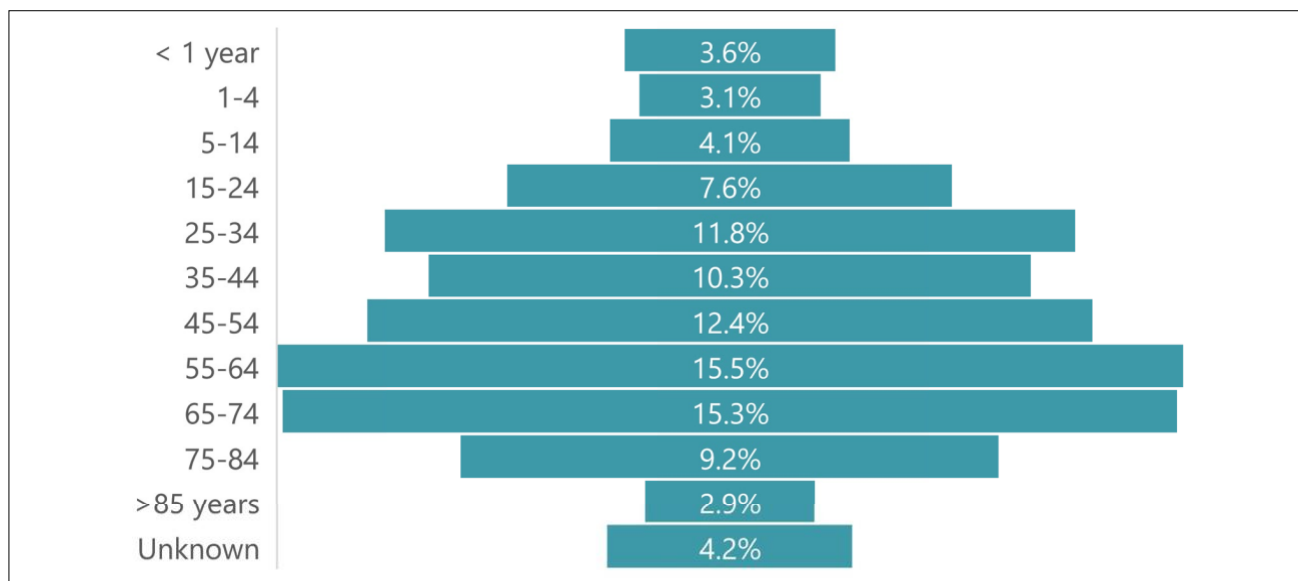
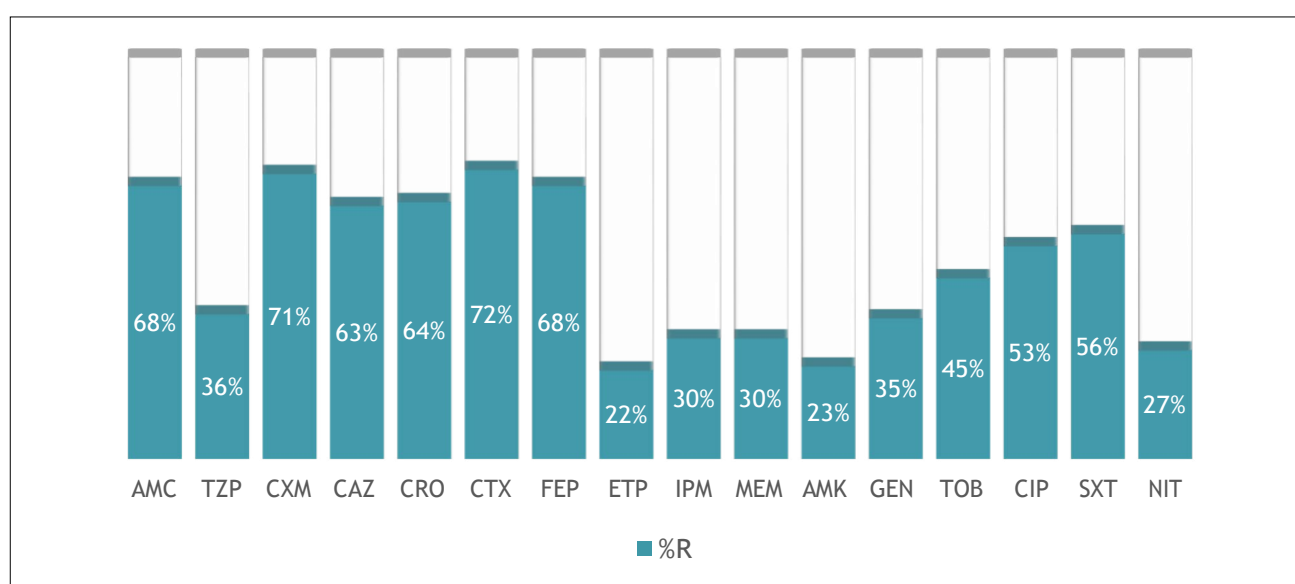


Figure 3.5: *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: Gender wise distribution, 2021

Table 3.2: Percentages of resistant, susceptible and intermediate isolates for *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, (isolates from all sources), Pakistan, 2021

| <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (n=15,446) |      |             |      |     |      |
|---|------|-------------|------|-----|------|
| Antibiotic                              | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I  | %S   |
| Amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid             | AMC  | 8,874       | 68.2 | 0.2 | 31.6 |
| Piperacillin/Tazobactam                 | TZP  | 8,131       | 36.1 | 0.6 | 63.3 |
| Cefuroxime                              | CXM  | 3,428       | 70.7 | 0.0 | 29.3 |
| Ceftazidime                             | CAZ  | 1,115       | 63.2 | 0.8 | 36.0 |
| Ceftriaxone                             | CRO  | 15,062      | 63.6 | 0.1 | 36.3 |
| Cefotaxime                              | CTX  | 5,684       | 71.8 | 0.0 | 28.2 |
| Cefepime                                | FEP  | 1,477       | 67.6 | 1.6 | 30.7 |
| Ertapenem                               | ETP  | 7,863       | 22.0 | 0.2 | 77.8 |
| Imipenem                                | IPM  | 11,590      | 29.2 | 0.8 | 69.9 |
| Meropenem                               | MEM  | 11,087      | 30.3 | 0.5 | 69.3 |
| Amikacin                                | AMK  | 9,146       | 23.3 | 0.4 | 76.2 |
| Gentamicin                              | GEN  | 8,199       | 34.9 | 0.1 | 65.0 |
| Tobramycin                              | TOB  | 6,373       | 44.9 | 0.2 | 54.9 |
| Ciprofloxacin                           | CIP  | 14,715      | 53.2 | 3.9 | 43.0 |
| Trimethopri–Sulfamethoxazole            | SXT  | 14,402      | 56.0 | 0.2 | 43.8 |
| Nitrofurantoin                          | NIT  | 5,374       | 27.3 | 1.7 | 71.1 |

<sup>a</sup> Nitrofurantoin: Isolates from urinary tract specimens only.

Figure 3.6: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

### 3.3 *Salmonella Typhi*:

In 2021, a total of 19 sentinel sites reported 2,309 isolates of *Salmonella Typhi*. *Salmonella Typhi* is predominantly associated with blood-stream infections, with a higher prevalence among males (n=1,358, 58.8%) compared to females. The age-wise distribution follows the typical pattern, with typhoid infection being more common in younger age groups. Specifically, over 60% (n=1,558) of isolates were reported from the age groups of 1–14 years.

Among these antimicrobials, Ampicillin and ciprofloxacin have been the most tested and re

ported, with 92% of isolates. Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, Chloramphenicol, Ceftriaxone, and Azithromycin follow closely, with 87% while Meropenem and Imipenem tested in 87% and 71% respectively, among isolates from all specimen sources.

*S. Typhi* isolates exhibit high-level resistance to first-line antibiotics previously used for typhoid treatment, including Ampicillin (83.2%), chloramphenicol (78.7%), and Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (67.2%). Additionally, 74.5% of isolates are resistant to ciprofloxacin, and 61.4% are resistant to ceftriaxone.

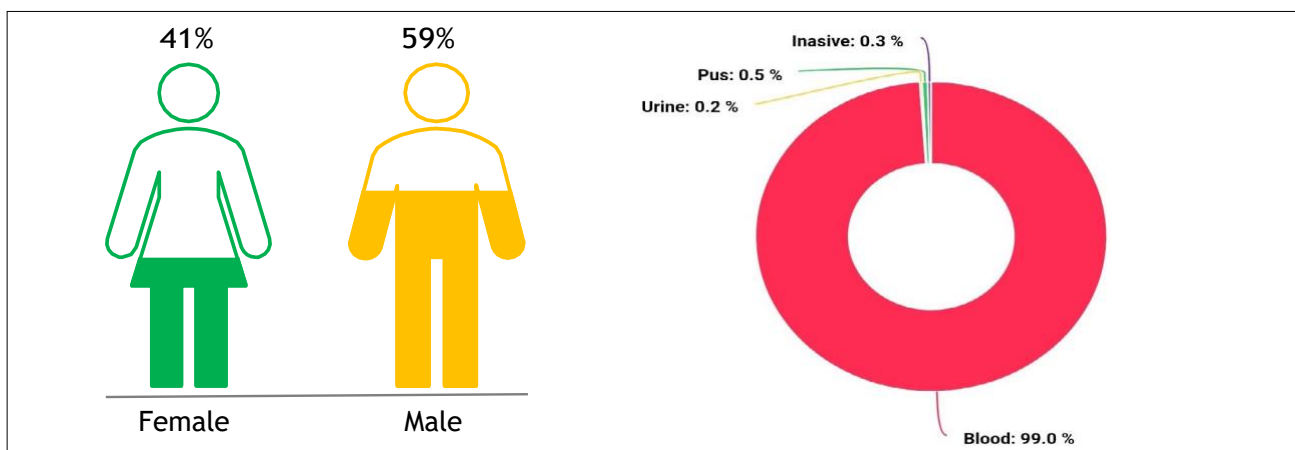


Figure 3.7: *Salmonella Typhi*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2021

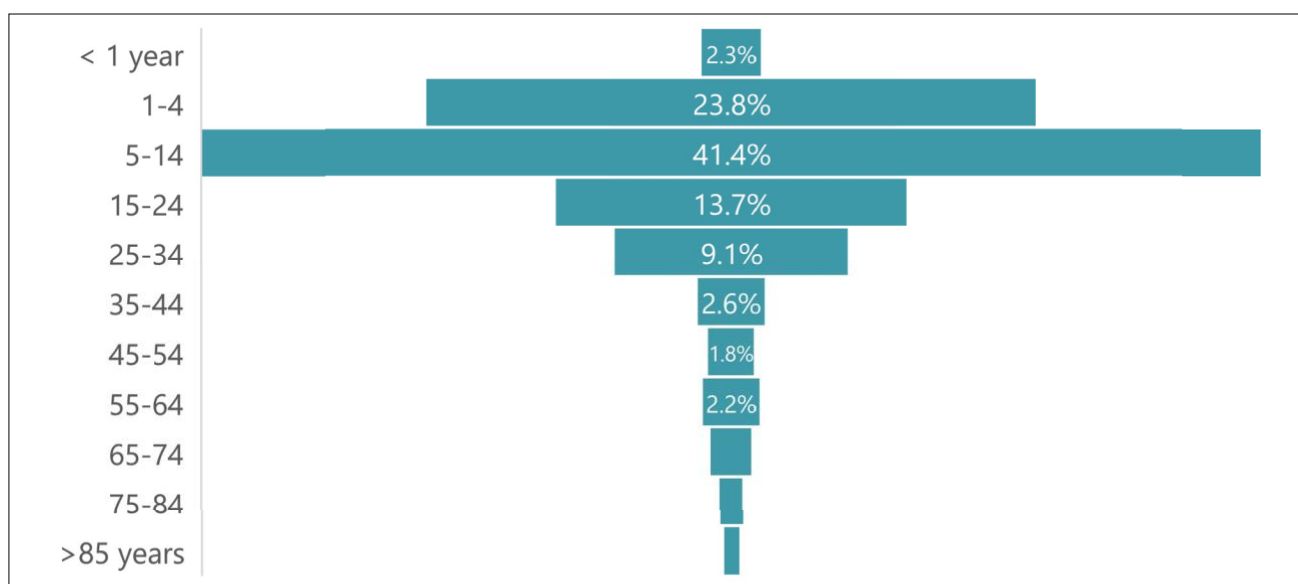
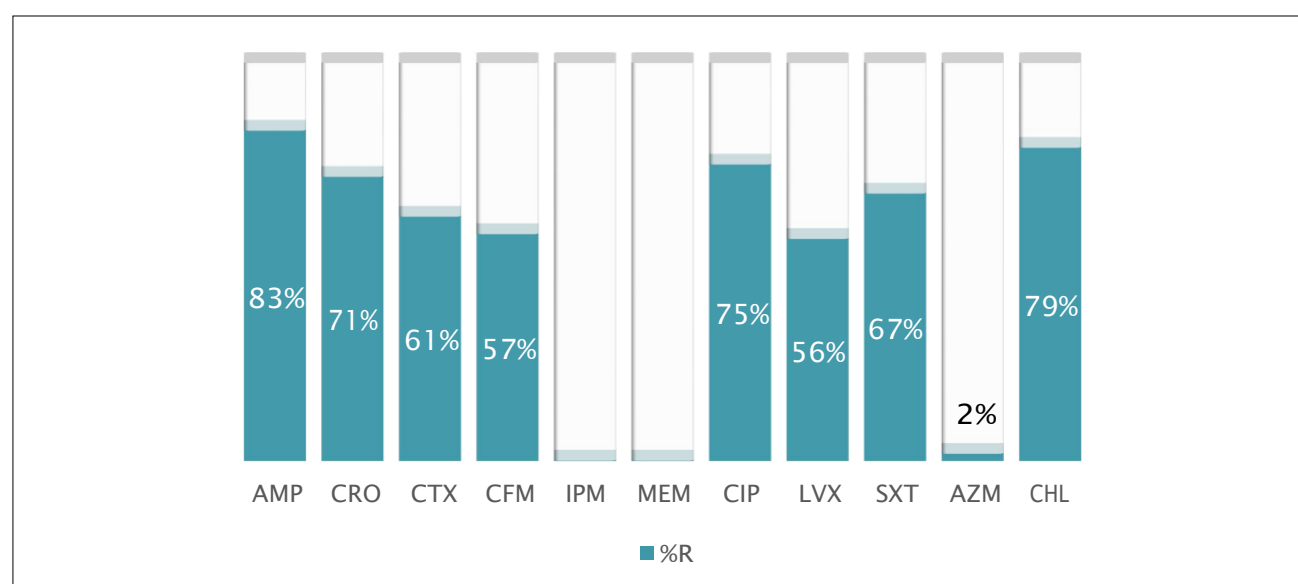


Figure 3.8: *Salmonella Typhi*: gender wise Distribution, 2021

Table 3.3: Percentages of resistant, susceptible and intermediate isolates for *Salmonella Typhi*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

| <i>Salmonella Typhi</i> (n=2,309) |      |             |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|-------------|------|------|------|
| Antibiotic                        | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I   | %S   |
| Ampicillin                        | AMP  | 2,135       | 83.0 | 0.0  | 17.0 |
| Ceftriaxone                       | CRO  | 2,013       | 71.4 | 0.1  | 28.5 |
| Cefotaxime                        | CTX  | 495         | 61.4 | 0.0  | 38.6 |
| Cefixime                          | CFM  | 1,248       | 57.0 | 0.0  | 43.0 |
| Imipenem                          | IPM  | 1,644       | 0.1  | 0.0  | 99.8 |
| Meropenem                         | MEM  | 1,961       | 0.1  | 0.0  | 99.8 |
| Ciprofloxacin                     | CIP  | 2,145       | 74.5 | 18.0 | 7.6  |
| Levofloxacin                      | LVX  | 258         | 55.8 | 1.6  | 42.6 |
| Trimethoprim–Sulfamethoxazole     | SXT  | 2,020       | 67.2 | 0.0  | 32.8 |
| Azithromycin                      | AZM  | 2,004       | 1.8  | 0.1  | 98.1 |
| Chloramphenicol                   | CHL  | 2,025       | 78.7 | 0.0  | 21.3 |

Figure 3.9: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Salmonella Typhi*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

### 3.4 *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*:

For the year 2021, 19 sentinel sites reported 5,011 isolates of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Over 50% of all *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* pathogens are isolated from pus specimens, and around 19% from urine. The age-wise distribution shows a non-significant variation among age categories, as almost equal proportions of *P. aeruginosa* are isolated from all age groups ranging from 5 to 84 years with slightly higher incidence among 15–34 years age group.

Among these, the most tested and reported antimicrobials were Amikacin at 95%, cefepime at 92%, ciprofloxacin, and Tobramycin at 90%, and Imipenem and Meropenem at 89%, respectively, in isolates from all specimen sources. Resistance in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ranges from 25.1% for ceftazidime to 32.4% for the Tobramycin and 38.7% for ciprofloxacin.

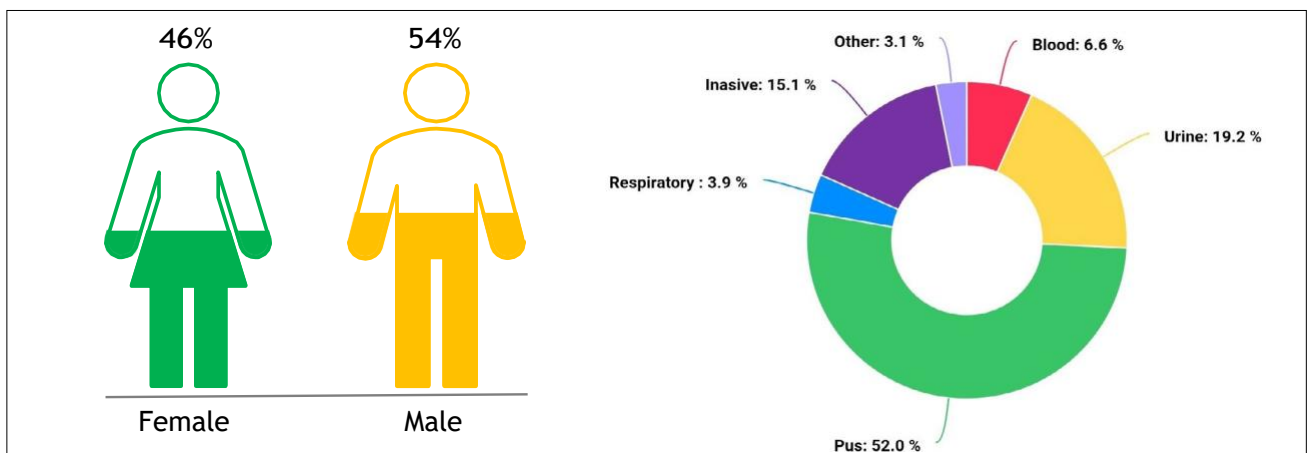


Figure 3.10: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2021

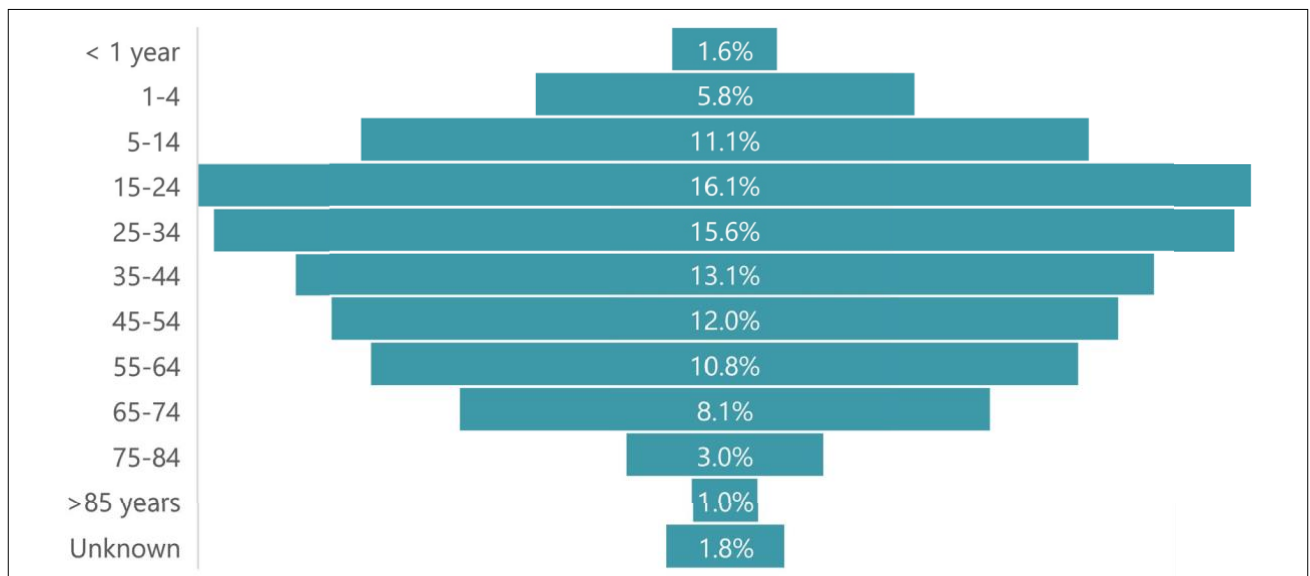
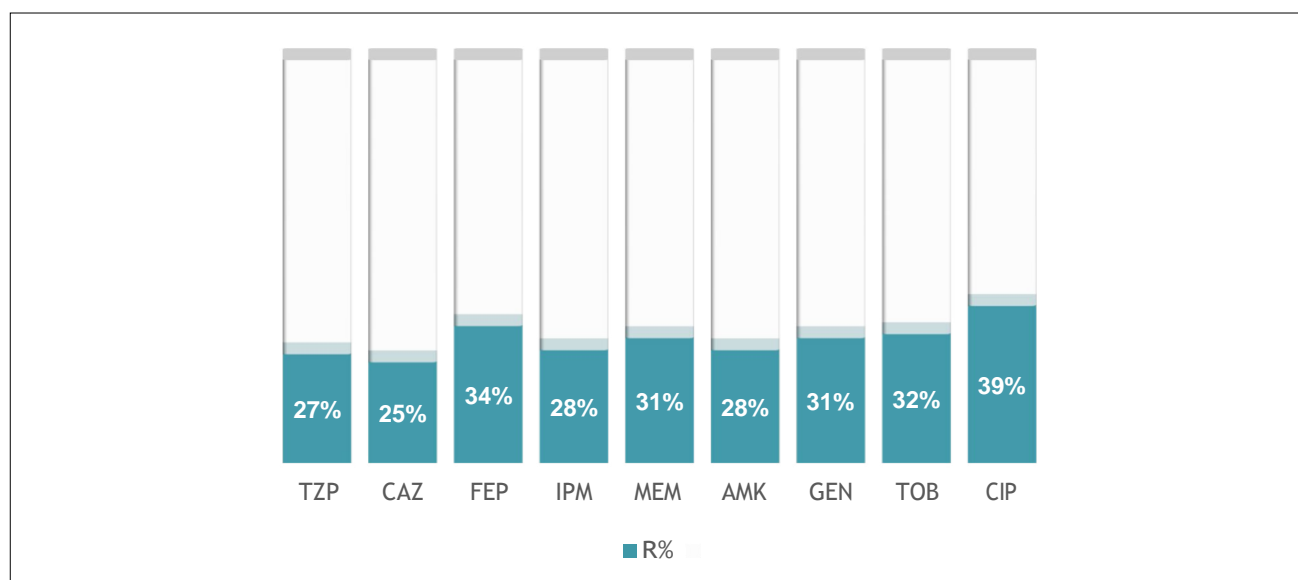


Figure 3.11: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*: Gender wise distribution, 2021

Table 3.4: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

| <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (n=5,011) |      |             |      |     |      |
|---|------|-------------|------|-----|------|
| Antibiotic                              | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I  | %S   |
| Piperacillin/Tazobactam                 | TZP  | 3,461       | 27.4 | 2.0 | 70.6 |
| Ceftazidime                             | CAZ  | 2,594       | 25.1 | 1.0 | 73.9 |
| Cefepime                                | FEP  | 4,620       | 34.0 | 1.1 | 64.9 |
| Imipenem                                | IPM  | 4,460       | 28.2 | 0.3 | 71.5 |
| Meropenem                               | MEM  | 3,717       | 30.7 | 0.2 | 69.1 |
| Amikacin                                | AMK  | 4,765       | 27.7 | 1.4 | 70.8 |
| Gentamicin                              | GEN  | 1,236       | 31.2 | 0.2 | 68.6 |
| Tobramycin                              | TOB  | 4,532       | 32.4 | 0.2 | 67.4 |
| Ciprofloxacin                           | CIP  | 4,533       | 38.7 | 1.3 | 60.0 |

Figure 3.12: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

### 3.5 Streptococcus pneumoniae:

For the year 2021, a total of 476 isolates of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* were reported, primarily from blood and invasive specimens. The prevalence was notably higher among male patients, comprising over 59% (n=277). Age-wise distribution reveals a higher frequency in two specific age groups: children aged 1-4 years (n=60) and older adults aged 55-64 years (n=73).

Among these, the most tested and reported antimicrobials are Penicillin G (95%), ceftriaxone (92%), and Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (82%), isolated from all specimen sources.

Resistance to *Streptococcus pneumoniae* ranged from 0% for vancomycin and linezolid, 68.6% for Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole, and approximately 34% resistance against Tetracycline.

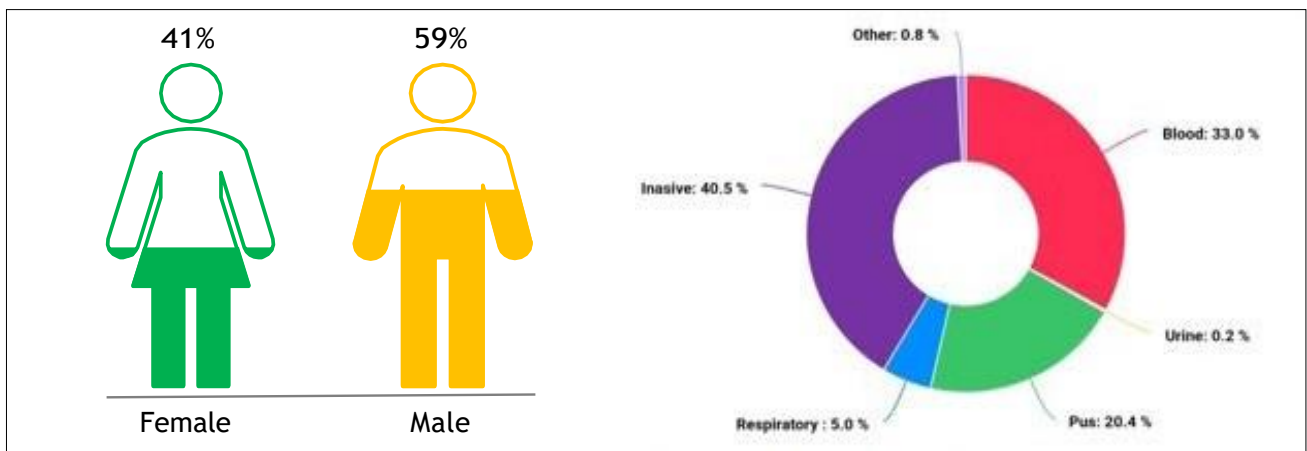


Figure 3.13: *Streptococcus pneumoniae*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2021

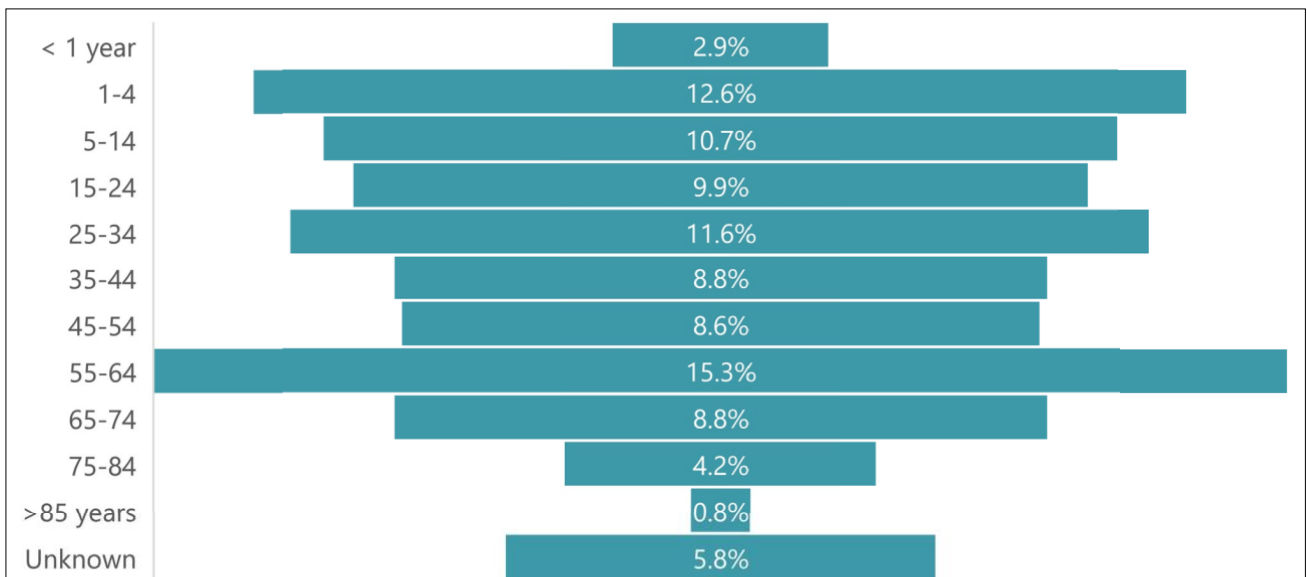
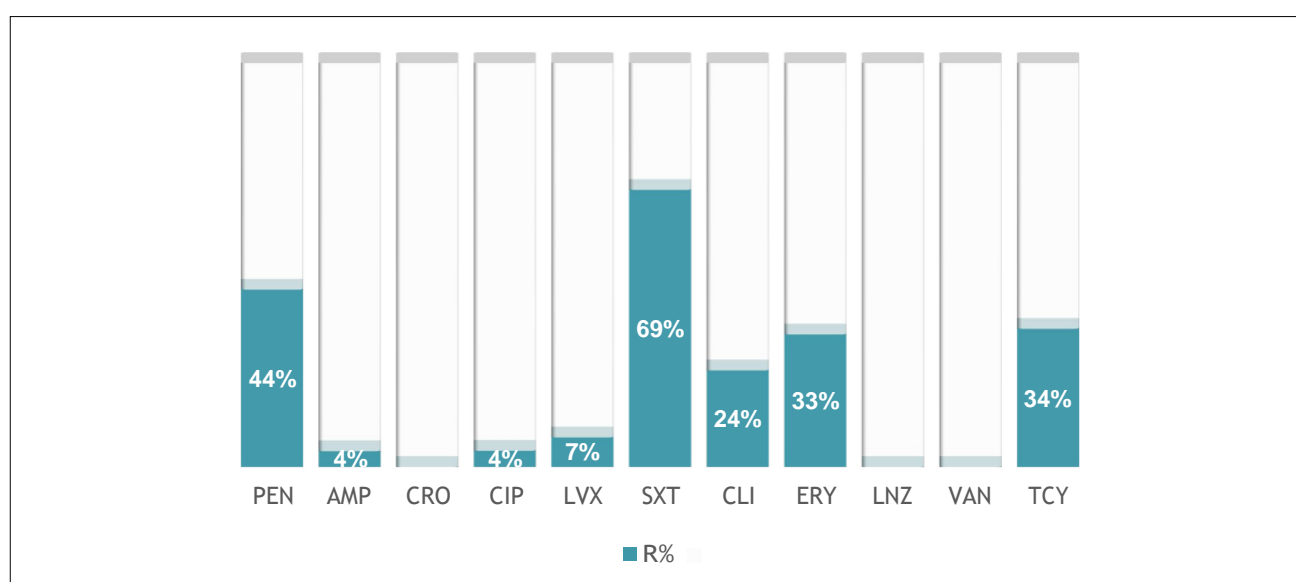


Figure 3.14: *Streptococcus pneumoniae*: Gender wise distribution, 2021

Table 3.5: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

| <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> (n=476) |      |             |      |     |       |
|---|------|-------------|------|-----|-------|
| Antibiotic                              | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I  | %S    |
| Penicillin G                            | PEN  | 453         | 43.9 | 0.2 | 55.8  |
| Ampicillin                              | AMP  | 279         | 3.9  | 1.4 | 94.6  |
| Ceftriaxone                             | CRO  | 442         | 0.0  | 0.0 | 100   |
| Ciprofloxacin                           | CIP  | 75          | 4.0  | 0.0 | 96.0  |
| Levofloxacin                            | LVX  | 206         | 7.3  | 0.5 | 92.2  |
| Trimethoprim–Sulfamethoxazole           | SXT  | 388         | 68.6 | 1.5 | 29.9  |
| Clindamycin                             | CLI  | 226         | 23.9 | 0.9 | 75.2  |
| Erythromycin                            | ERY  | 198         | 32.8 | 0.5 | 66.7  |
| Linezolid                               | LNZ  | 99          | 0.0  | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| Vancomycin                              | VAN  | 233         | 0.0  | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| Tetracycline                            | TCY  | 73          | 34.2 | 0.0 | 65.8  |

Figure 3.15: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021



### 3.6 Staphylococcus aureus:

In the year 2021, a total of 20,633 isolates of *Staphylococcus aureus* were reported. *Staphylococcus aureus* was predominantly reported from pus specimens, constituting over 60% (n=12,471) of the total isolates. In terms of gender distribution, it was more prevalent in males (n=11,591, 56%). The age group (25–34, 15.5%) shows high prevalence as compare to other age categories.

Among these antimicrobials, Oxacillin has been tested and reported in 79% of cases, followed by clindamycin at 60%, and both Erythromycin and Linezolid at 58% for isolates from all specimen sources. *Staphylococcus aureus* exhibits a range of resistance levels, from 0% for vancomycin to 78% for ciprofloxacin. Additionally, resistance rates against oxacillin are reported at 67.7%, and against ceftiofloxacin at 65.8%.

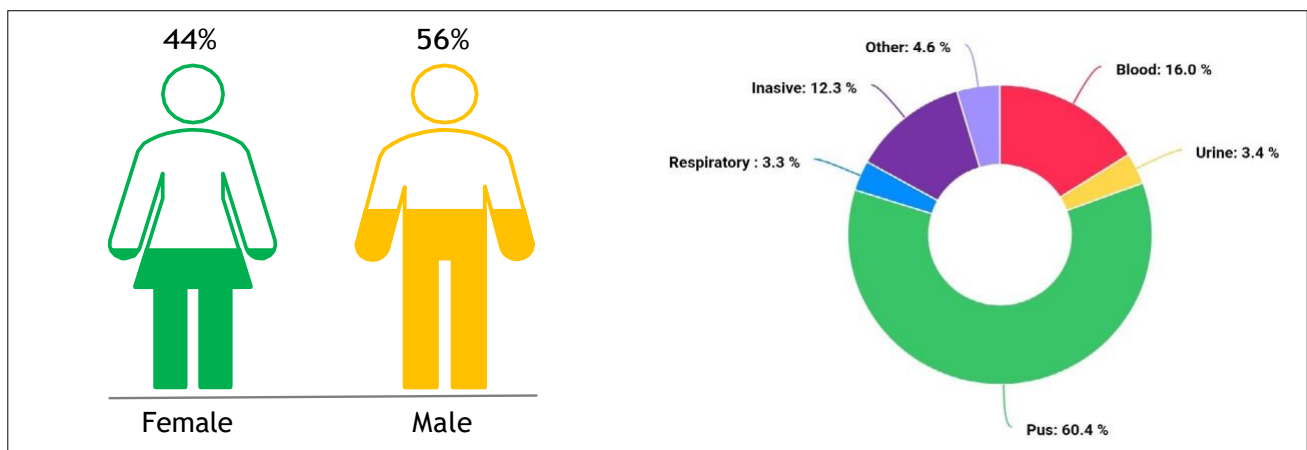


Figure 3.16: *Staphylococcus aureus*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types

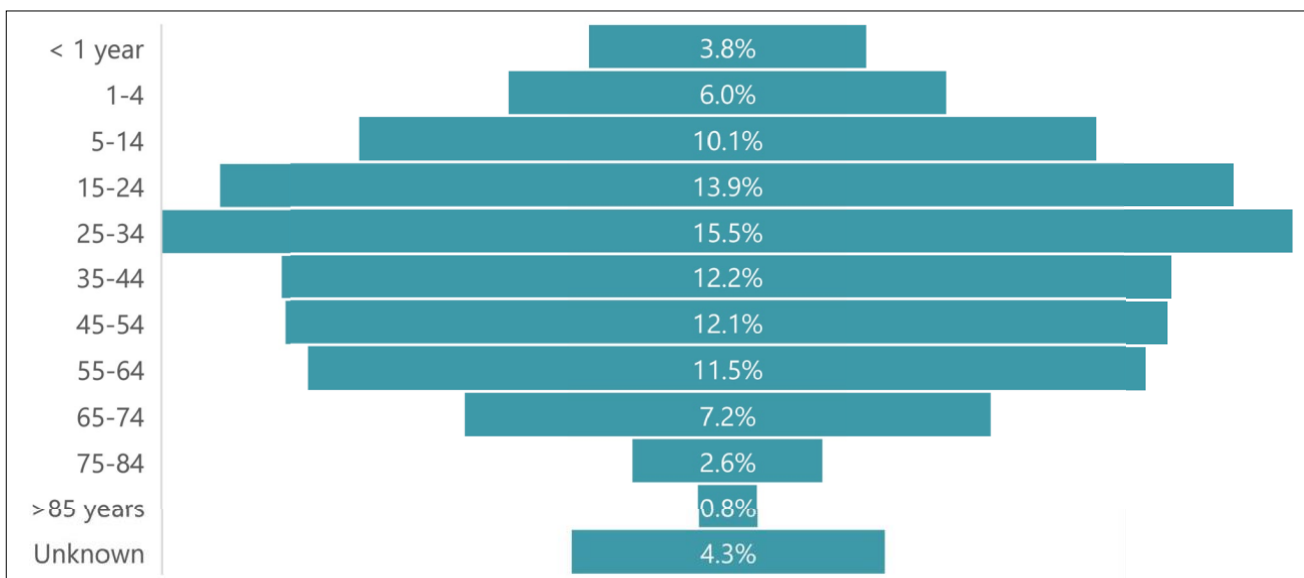
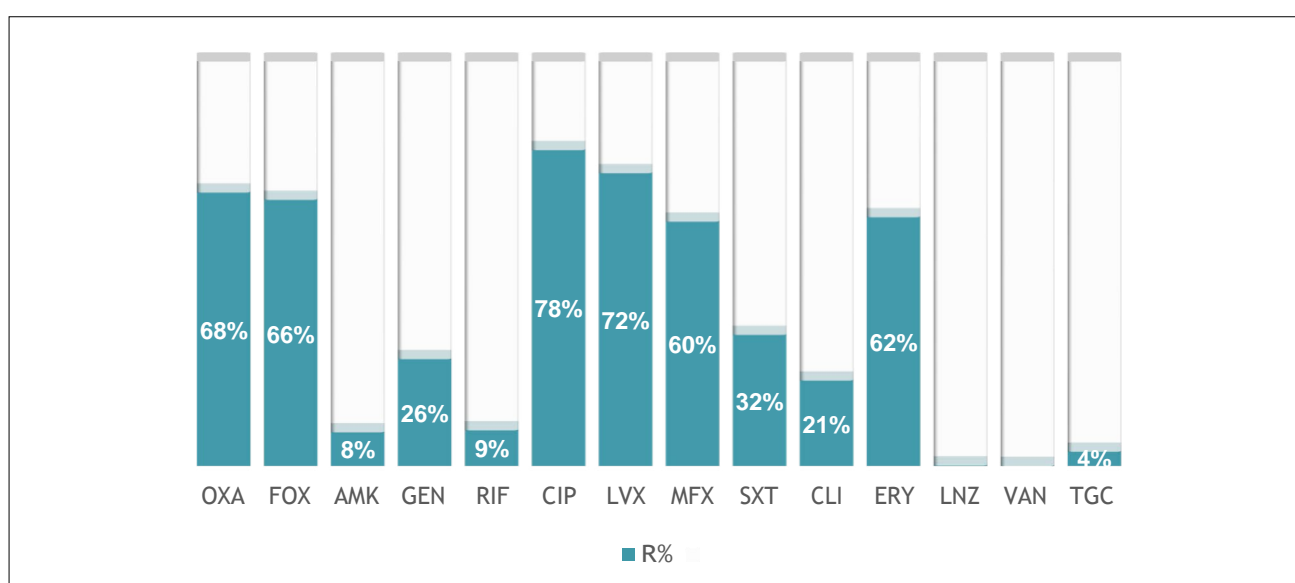


Figure 3.17: *Staphylococcus aureus*: Age wise distribution

Table 3.6: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *staphylococcus aureus* isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (n=20,633) |      |             |      |     |       |
|---|------|-------------|------|-----|-------|
| Antibiotic                              | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I  | %S    |
| Oxacillin                               | OXA  | 16,371      | 67.6 | 0.0 | 32.4  |
| Cefoxitin                               | FOX  | 1,482       | 65.8 | 0.0 | 34.2  |
| Amikacin                                | AMK  | 7,531       | 8.3  | 0.3 | 91.5  |
| Gentamicin                              | GEN  | 10,149      | 26.4 | 0.3 | 73.4  |
| Rifampin                                | RIF  | 1,787       | 8.8  | 0.0 | 91.2  |
| Ciprofloxacin                           | CIP  | 9,601       | 78.1 | 0.6 | 21.3  |
| Levofloxacin                            | LVX  | 4,989       | 72.4 | 1.1 | 26.5  |
| Moxifloxacin                            | MFX  | 1,426       | 60.4 | 1.6 | 38.0  |
| Trimethoprim–Sulfamethoxazole           | SXT  | 11,648      | 32.4 | 0.1 | 67.6  |
| Clindamycin                             | CLI  | 12,395      | 21.1 | 1.8 | 77.1  |
| Erythromycin                            | ERY  | 11,997      | 61.5 | 0.4 | 38.1  |
| Linezolid                               | LNZ  | 12,074      | 0.1  | 0.0 | 99.9  |
| Vancomycin                              | VAN  | 10,492      | 0.0  | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| Tigecycline                             | TGC  | 1,265       | 3.5  | 0.2 | 96.4  |

Figure 3.18: Percentages of resistant isolates for *staphylococcus aureus* isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

### 3.7 *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*:

In 2021, a total of 68 isolates of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* were reported. Typically, over 95% of these isolates are obtained from urethral swabs, with a higher prevalence observed in the adult age groups of >15 to <44 years (n=61).

Among these, the most tested and reported anti-microbials are ceftriaxone, tested in all isolates, ciprofloxacin in 98% of isolates, and cefixime in 96% of isolates from all specimen sources. For the year 2021, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* isolates showed an 88% resistance to ciprofloxacin, while isolates remained sensitive to ceftriaxone and cefixime.

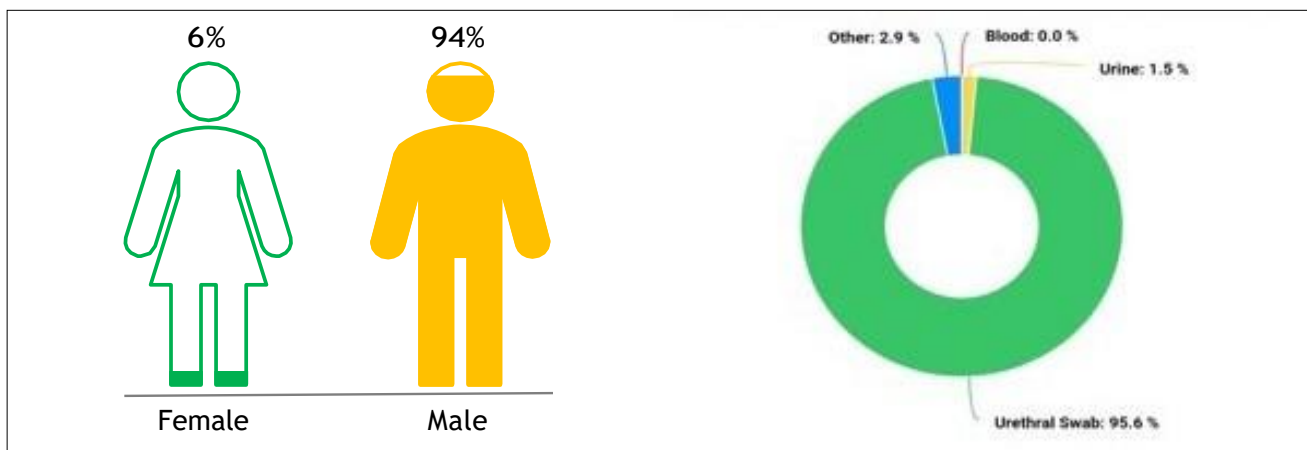


Figure 3.19: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types

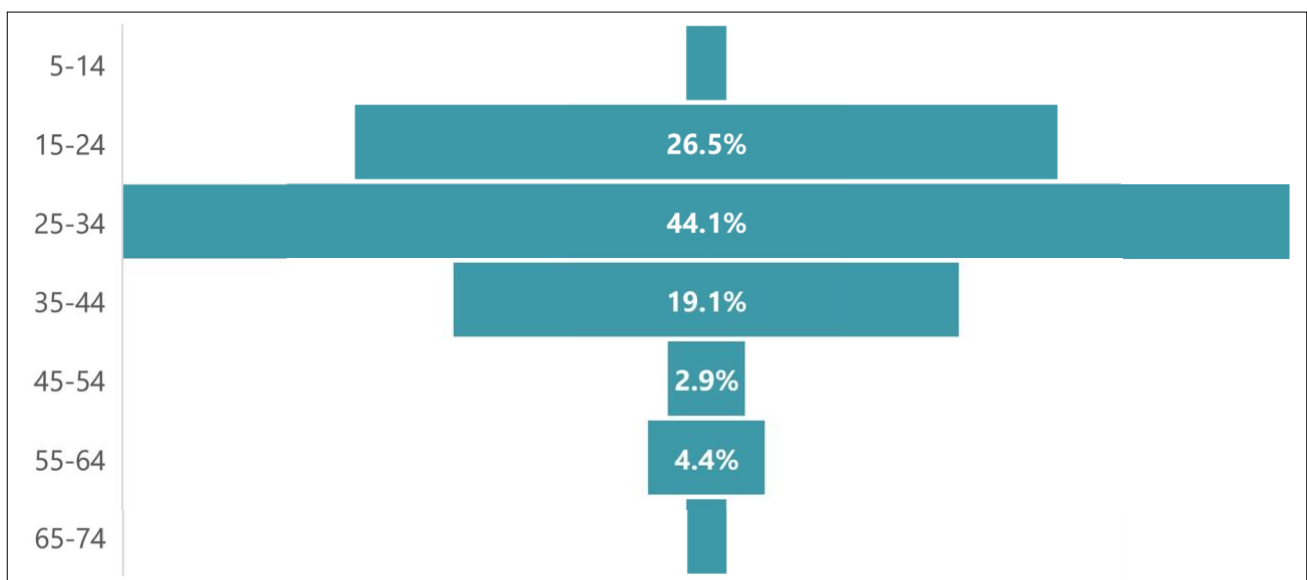
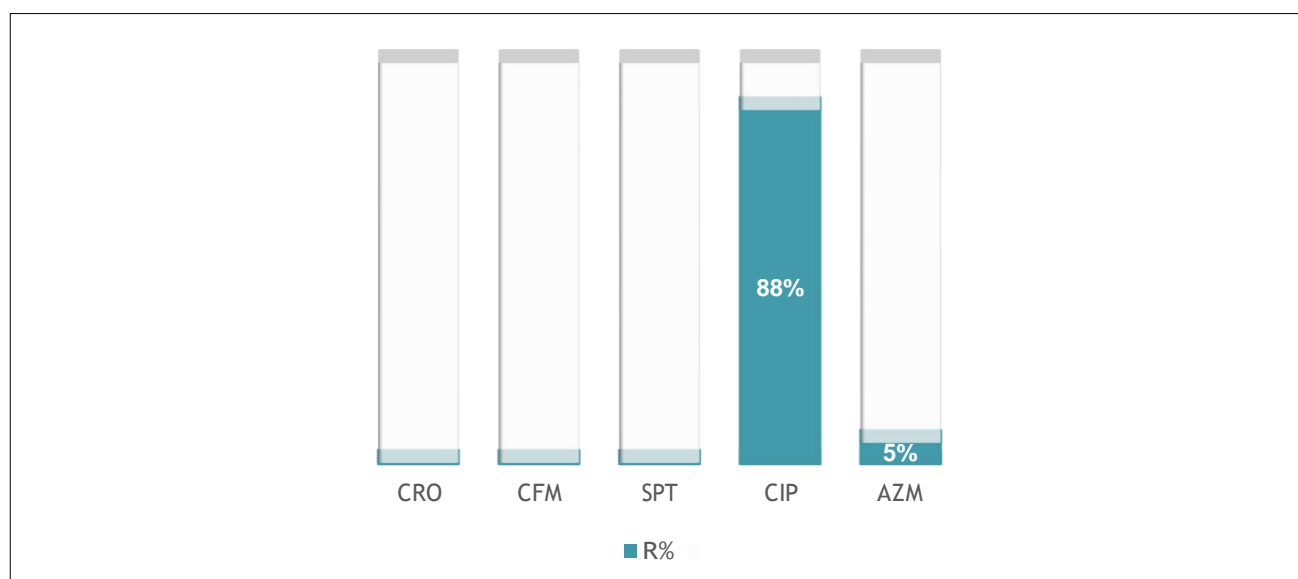


Figure 3.20: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: Age wise distribution

Table 3.7: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

| <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> (n=68) |      |             |    |    |     |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------|----|----|-----|
| Antibiotic                          | Code | Isolates(n) | R% | I% | S%  |
| Ceftriaxone                         | CRO  | 68          | 0  | 0  | 100 |
| Cefixime                            | CFM  | 65          | 0  | 0  | 100 |
| Spectinomycin                       | SPT  | 38          | 0  | 0  | 100 |
| Ciprofloxacin                       | CIP  | 67          | 88 | 9  | 3   |
| Azithromycin                        | AZM  | 58          | 5  | 0  | 95  |

Figure 3.21: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

### 3.8 *Shigella spp*:

In the year 2021, a total of 84 isolates of *Shigella spp* were reported. Out of the total 84 isolates reported, the majority were isolated from stool samples, with around 10% originating from blood samples. In terms of age distribution, the under-5 age group exhibited a higher number (n=35) compared to the older age groups.

antimicrobials are ceftriaxone, ciprofloxacin in 98% of cases, and Azithromycin in 58% of isolates across all specimen sources.

In 2021, *Shigella spp* isolates demonstrated resistance rates of 92% to Ampicillin and 83.3% to Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole. Additionally, 32.5% of isolates were resistant to ciprofloxacin. However, carbapenems remained effective against all reported isolates.

Among these, the most tested and reported

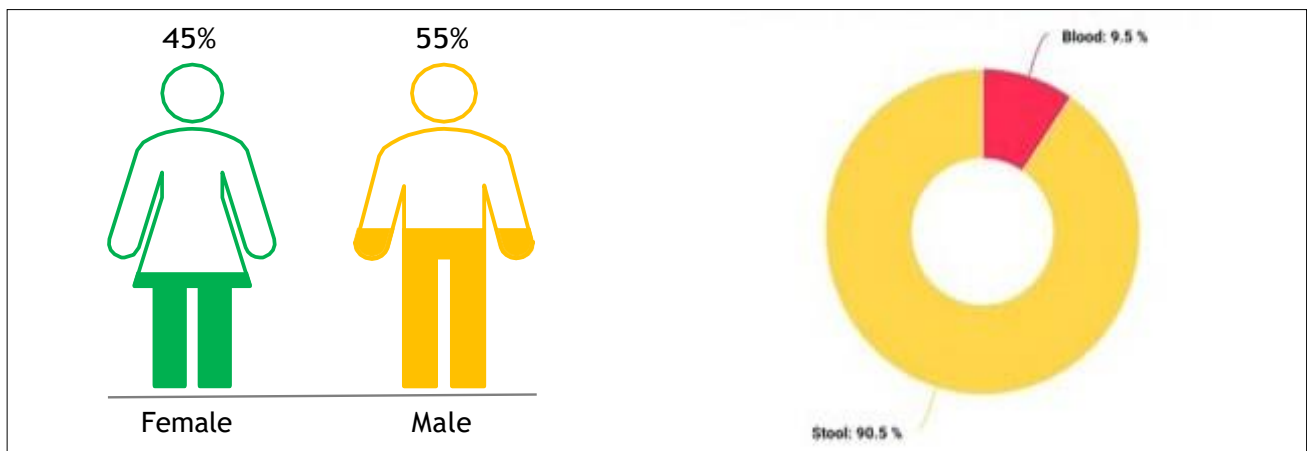


Figure 3.22: *Shigella spp*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types-2021

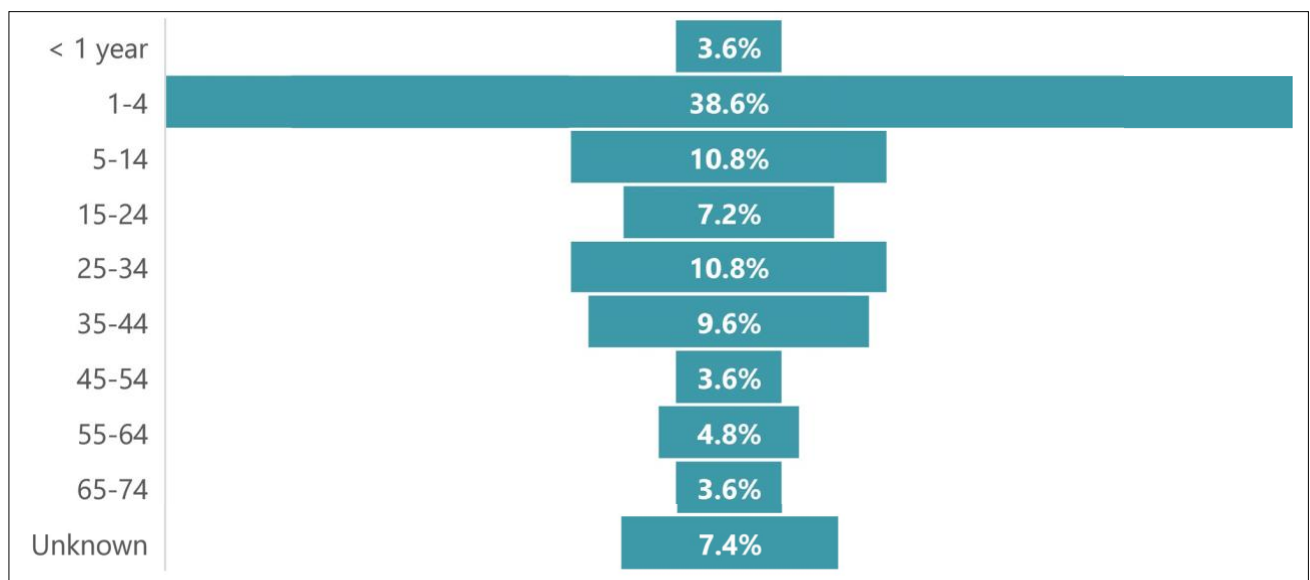
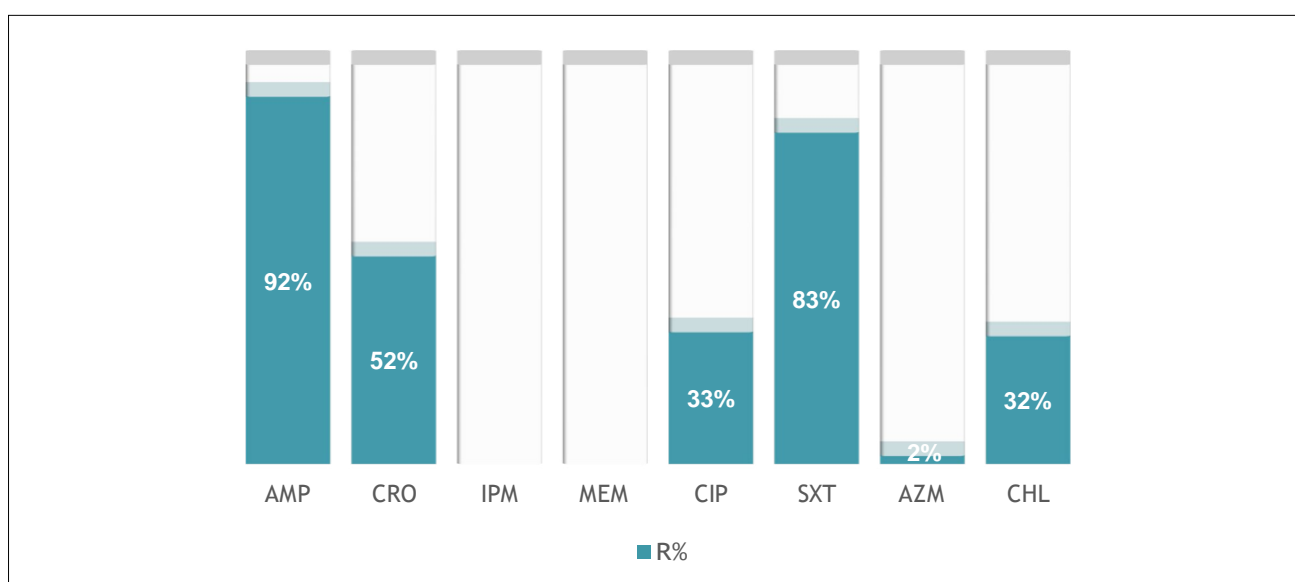


Figure 3.23: *Shigella spp*: Age wise distribution-2021

Table 3.8: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *shigella spp.* isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

| <i>Shigella spp.</i> (n=84)   |      |             |      |      |      |
|-------------------------------|------|-------------|------|------|------|
| Antibiotic                    | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I   | %S   |
| Ampicillin                    | AMP  | 25          | 92   | 0    | 8    |
| Ceftriaxone                   | CRO  | 84          | 52.4 | 0    | 47.6 |
| Imipenem                      | IPM  | 20          | 0    | 0    | 100  |
| Meropenem                     | MEM  | 23          | 0    | 0    | 100  |
| Ciprofloxacin                 | CIP  | 83          | 32.5 | 15.7 | 51.8 |
| Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole | SXT  | 24          | 83.3 | 0    | 16.7 |
| Azithromycin                  | AZM  | 49          | 2    | 0    | 98.0 |
| Chloramphenicol               | CHL  | 25          | 32   | 0    | 68   |

Figure 3.24: Percentages of resistant isolates for *shigella spp.* isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

### 3.9 Acinetobacter species:

In 2021, a total of 4,941 isolates of *Acinetobacter species* were reported. More than 35% (n=1,747) of these isolates were found in blood specimens, followed by 20% (n=993) in respiratory specimens. The prevalence was higher among male patients (n=2,910) compared to females. Age-wise distribution did not show any significant variation among age categories. Among these isolates, the most frequently tested and reported antimicrobials were Amikacin

(96%), Imipenem and Meropenem (88% each), and Colistin (52% of isolates from all specimen sources).

*Acinetobacter spp* isolates exhibited a high level of resistance to the reported antibiotics, ranging from 99% resistance against Ampicillin, 94% resistance to Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid and Ceftriaxone, 74% resistance in Carbapenems (Imipenem and Meropenem), and 3% resistance against Colistin.

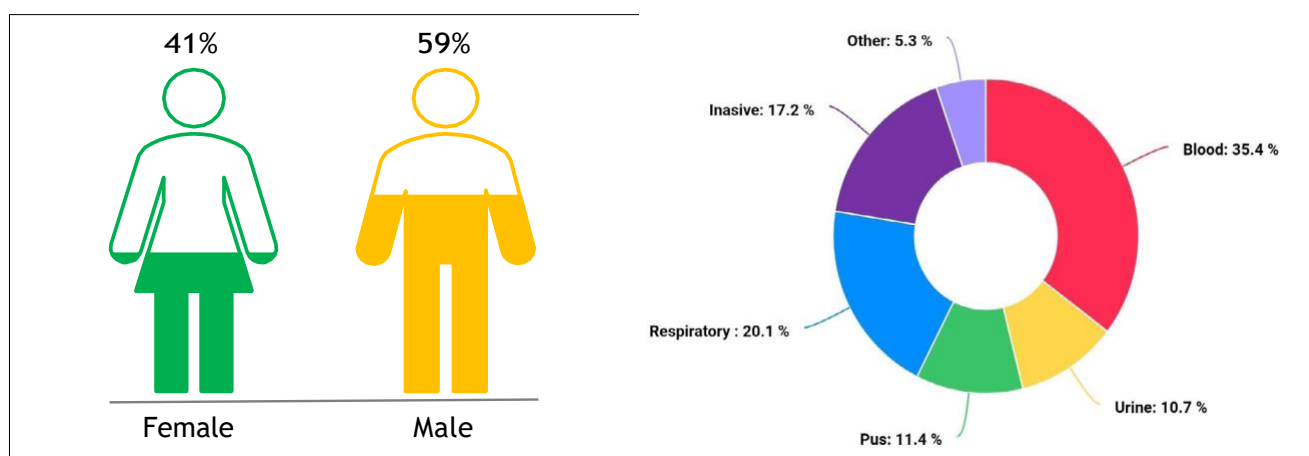


Figure 3.25: *Acinetobacter species*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2021

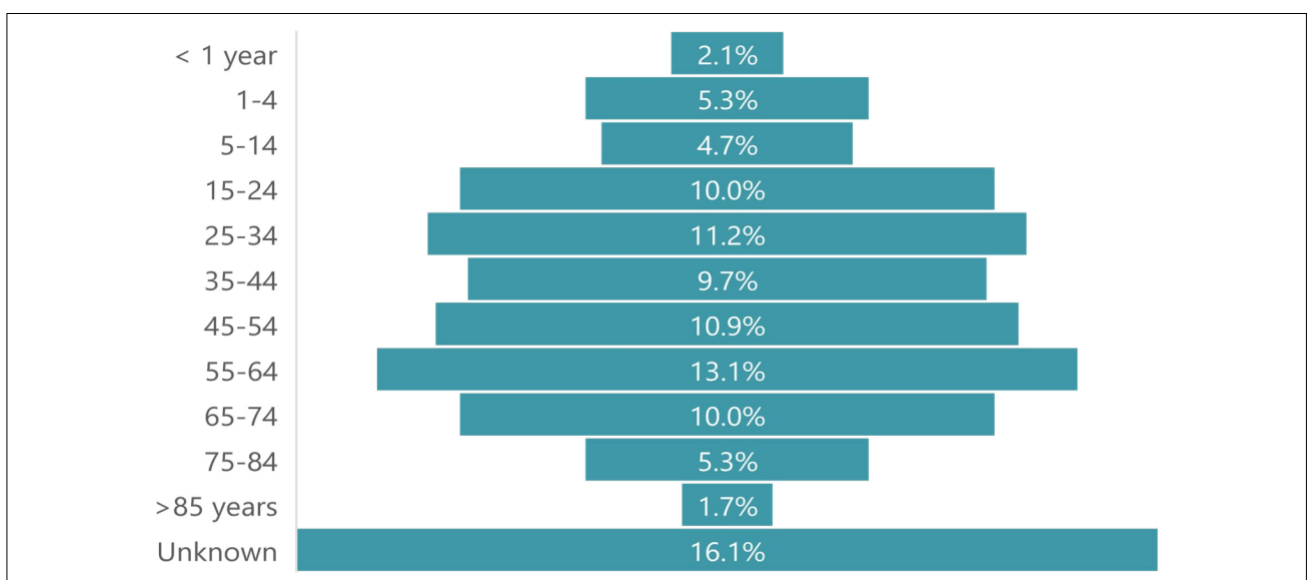
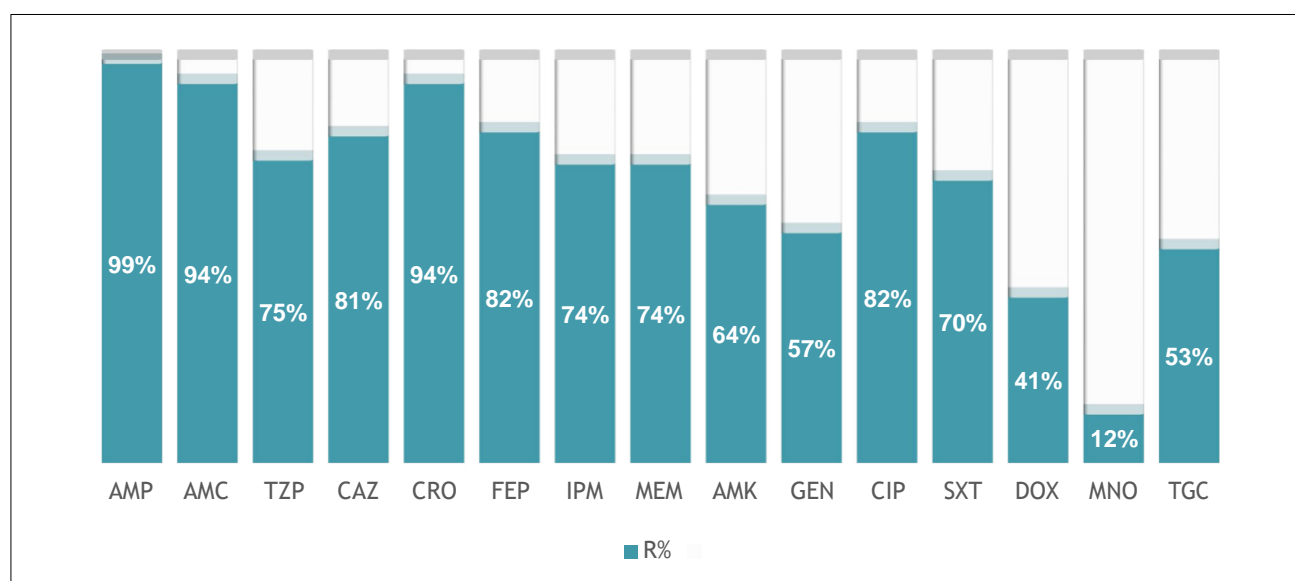


Figure 3.26: *Acinetobacter species*: Gender wise distribution, 2021

Table 3.9: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *Acinetobacter spp.*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021

| <i>Acinetobacter Spp</i> (n=4,941) |      |             |    |    |    |
|------------------------------------|------|-------------|----|----|----|
| Antibiotic                         | Code | Isolates(n) | %R | %I | %S |
| Ampicillin                         | AMP  | 677         | 99 | 0  | 1  |
| Amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid        | AMC  | 684         | 94 | 1  | 5  |
| Piperacillin /tazobactam           | TZP  | 1,688       | 75 | 1  | 24 |
| Ceftazidime                        | CAZ  | 971         | 81 | 2  | 18 |
| Ceftriaxone                        | CRO  | 978         | 94 | 1  | 4  |
| Cefepime                           | FEP  | 998         | 82 | 1  | 17 |
| Imipenem                           | IPM  | 4,366       | 74 | 1  | 25 |
| Meropenem                          | MEM  | 4,260       | 74 | 1  | 25 |
| Amikacin                           | AMK  | 4,770       | 64 | 2  | 34 |
| Gentamicin                         | GEN  | 3,681       | 57 | 4  | 39 |
| Ciprofloxacin                      | CIP  | 1,962       | 82 | 1  | 17 |
| Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole      | SXT  | 1,587       | 70 | 0  | 30 |
| Doxycycline                        | DOX  | 273         | 41 | 0  | 59 |
| Minocycline                        | MNO  | 1,259       | 12 | 6  | 82 |
| Tigecycline                        | TGC  | 2,095       | 53 | 25 | 22 |

Figure 3.27: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Acinetobacter spp.*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2021



### 3.10 MDR, XDR & PDR summary, Pakistan-2021:

Table 3.10: MDR, XDR &amp; PDR summary, 2021

| Organism                        | Number of isolates | MDR                  | Possible XDR         | Possible PDR       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>E. coli</i>                  | 58,457             | 30,564 (52.3%)       | 8,625 (14.8%)        | 2,081 (3.6%)       |
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>    | 20,633             | 9,403 (45.6%)        | 818 (3.9%)           | 0 (0%)             |
| <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>    | 15,446             | 8,003 (51.8%)        | 3,916 (25.4%)        | 1,341 (8.7%)       |
| <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>   | 5,011              | 1,606 (32.0%)        | 1,432 (28.6%)        | 73 (1.5%)          |
| <i>Acinetobacter spp.</i>       | 4,941              | 3,458 (69.9%)        | 3,359 (67.9%)        | 1,022 (20.6%)      |
| <i>Salmonella Typhi</i>         | 2,309              | 1,190 (52%)          | 880 (38%)            | 0 (0%)             |
| <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> | 476                | 0 (0%)               | 0 (0%)               | 0 (0%)             |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>107,273</b>     | <b>53,034(49.4%)</b> | <b>18,150(16.9%)</b> | <b>4,777(4.5%)</b> |

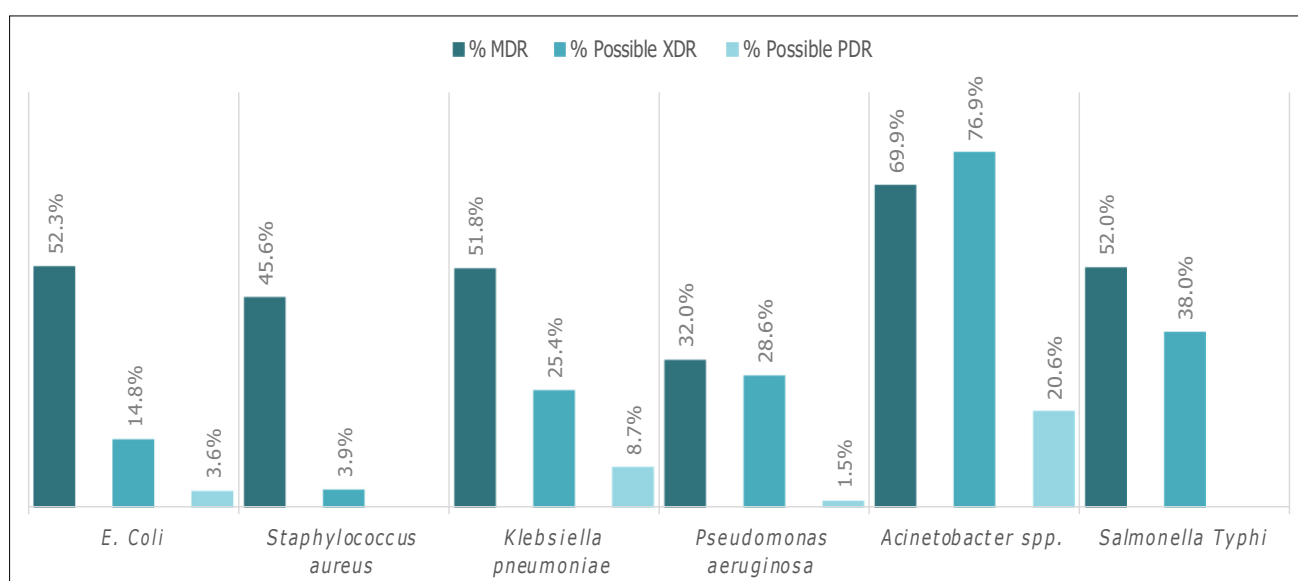


Figure 3.28: MDR, XDR &amp; PDR summary, 2021

## 4. Demographic and Sensitivity pattern of Priority Pathogens during 2022

For the reporting period January–December 2022, a total of 229,617 non–duplicate isolates from 26 surveillance sites/laboratories were available for analysis. The most frequently re-

ported pathogens were *E. coli* (36%), followed by *K. pneumoniae* (12%), *S. aureus* (10%), *P. aeruginosa* (8%) and *S. Typhi* (7%).

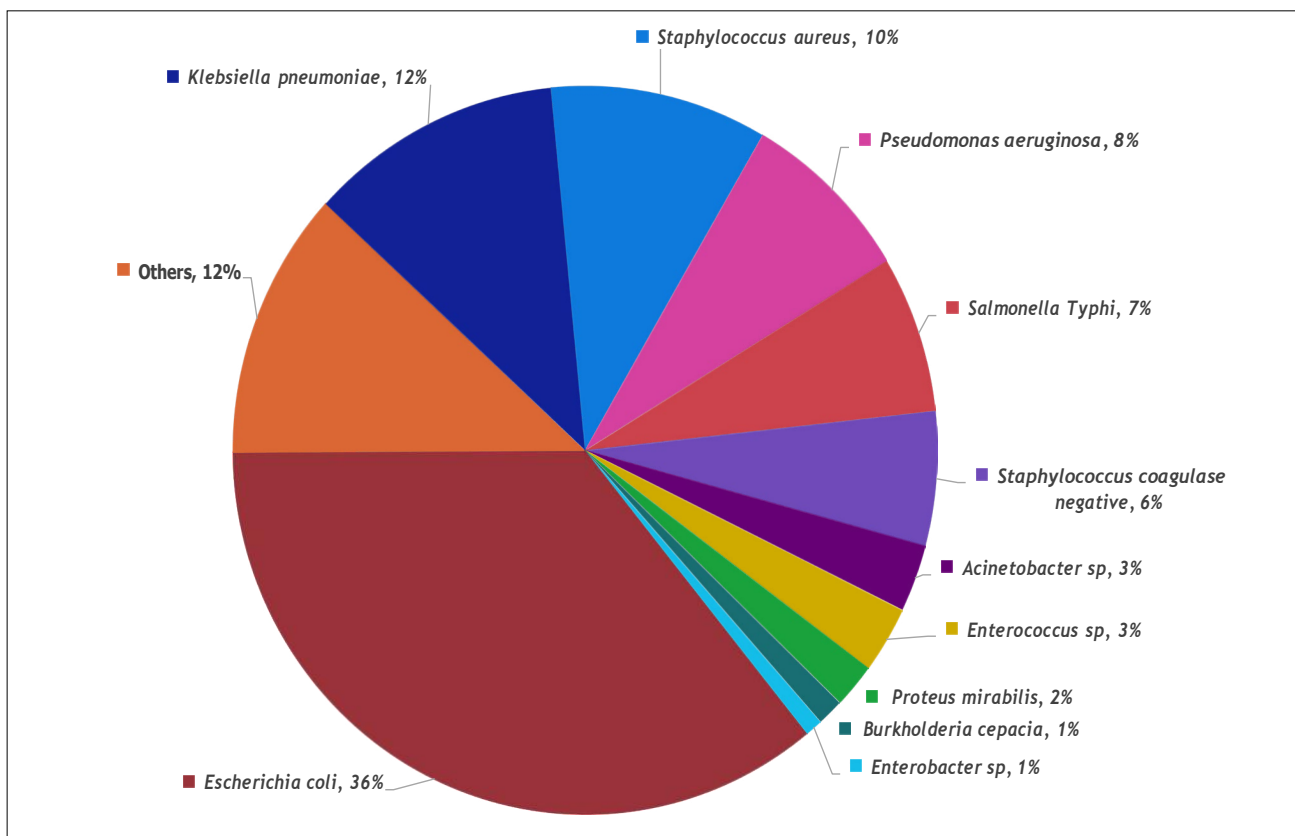


Figure 4.0: Distribution of AMR priority pathogens 2022 (n= 229,617)



### 4.1 *Escherichia coli*:

In the year 2022, a total of 26 sentinel sites reported 82,679 isolates of *E. coli*. According to the data, 82% (n=67,740) of these isolates were found in urine specimens, with 66% (n=54,885) specifically in female patients. This higher prevalence among females can be attributed to the increased incidence of urinary tract infections in this demographic. Additionally, the data indicates a higher prevalence of *E. coli* infections in the older age group (especially age group of 55-74 years) compared to the younger population.

Among these, the most tested and reported antimicrobials are Ceftriaxone, in 77,998 (94%) of isolates, Ciprofloxacin with 68,406 (83%), Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole with 61,963 (75%) instances, and Amikacin, 69.3%. For *E. coli* isolates from all specimen sources, resistance to antimicrobials varied, ranging from 92% for Ampicillin to 7% for Fosfomycin, based on data reported in 2022. Similarly, among cephalosporins, 78% and 77% of the isolates are resistant to cefuroxime and cefotaxime respectively. Furthermore, resistance rates to ciprofloxacin and Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole stand at 69.5% and 68.5% respectively.

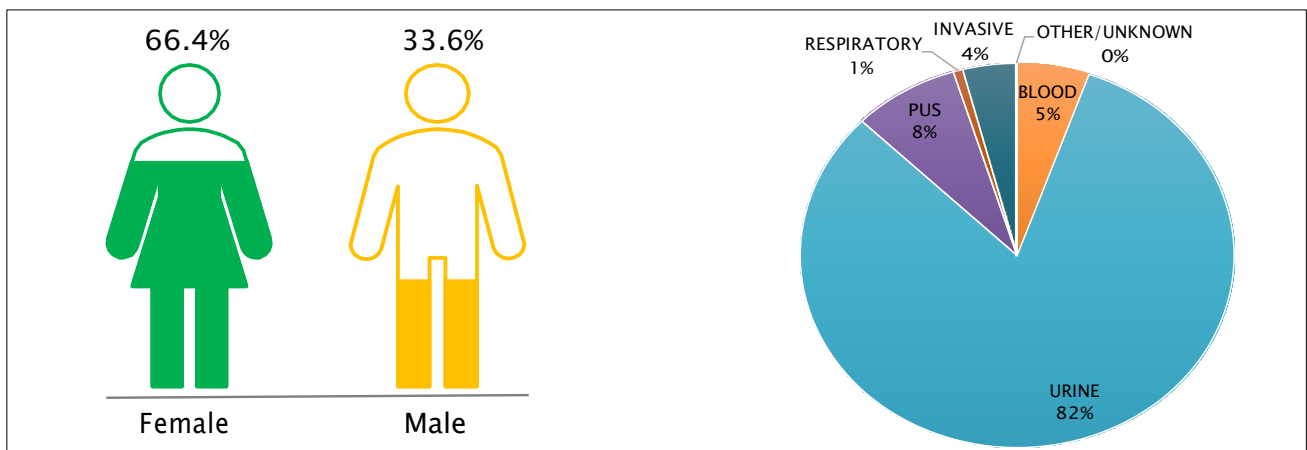


Figure 4.1: *E. coli*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types & gender wise, 2022

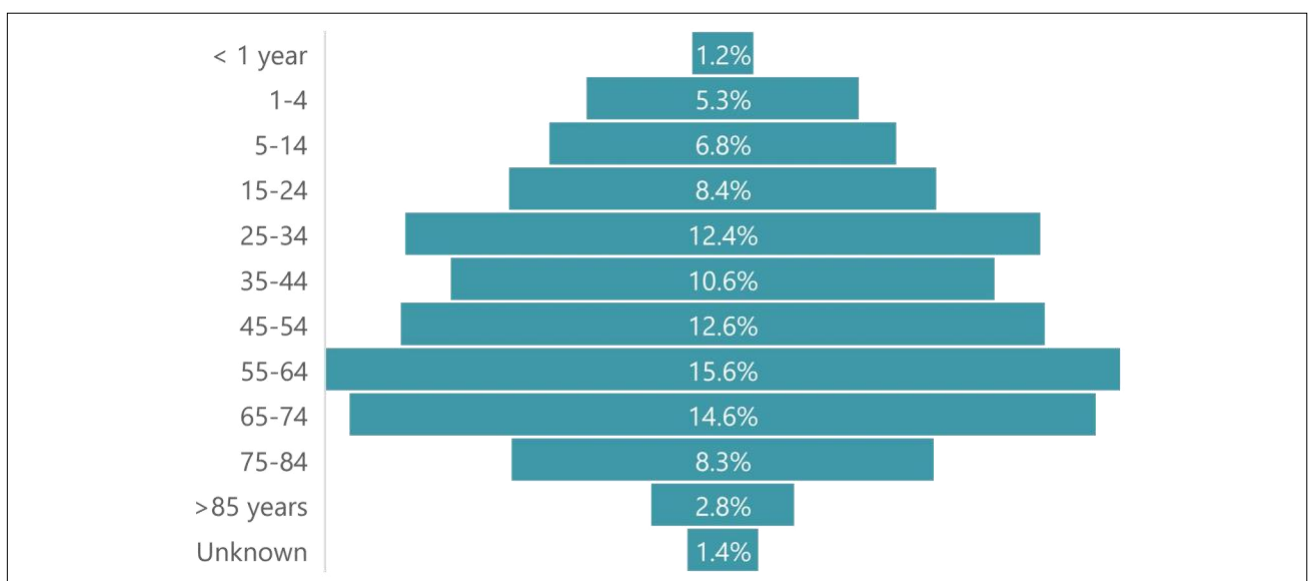
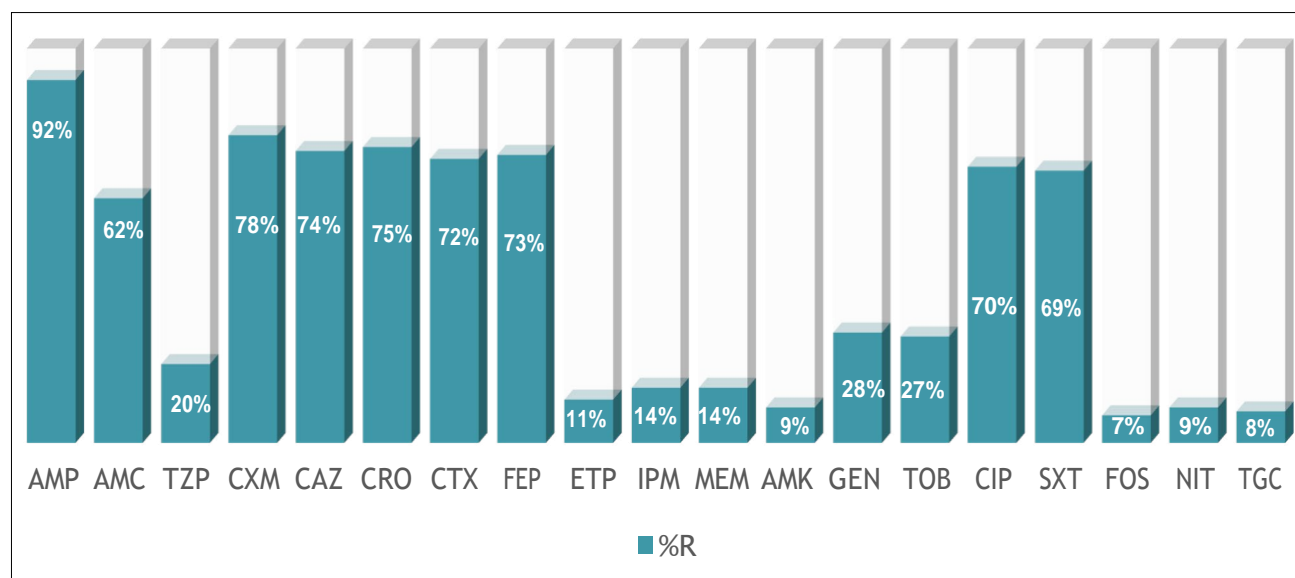


Figure 4.2: *E. coli*: Gender wise distribution, 2022

Table 4.1: Percentages of resistant, susceptible and intermediate isolates for *E. coli*, (isolates from all sources), Pakistan, 2022

| <i>E. coli</i> (n=82,679)     |      |             |      |     |      |
|-------------------------------|------|-------------|------|-----|------|
| Antibiotic                    | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I  | %S   |
| Ampicillin                    | AMP  | 54,058      | 91.7 | 0.3 | 8.1  |
| Amoxicillin-Clavulanic acid   | AMC  | 47,310      | 62.0 | 0.8 | 37.2 |
| Piperacillin-Tazobactam       | TZP  | 60,483      | 20.2 | 1.9 | 77.9 |
| Cefuroxime                    | CXM  | 42,914      | 78.0 | 0.3 | 21.7 |
| Ceftazidime                   | CAZ  | 11,719      | 73.5 | 2.2 | 24.2 |
| Ceftriaxone                   | CRO  | 77,998      | 74.6 | 0.1 | 25.3 |
| Cefotaxime                    | CTX  | 19,654      | 76.5 | 0.2 | 23.3 |
| Cefepime                      | FEP  | 10,315      | 73.3 | 3.2 | 23.5 |
| Ertapenem                     | ETP  | 30,697      | 11.0 | 0.7 | 88.3 |
| Imipenem                      | IPM  | 42,035      | 14.4 | 0.9 | 84.7 |
| Meropenem                     | MEM  | 53,022      | 13.5 | 0.4 | 86.2 |
| Amikacin                      | AMK  | 57,325      | 8.8  | 1.3 | 90.0 |
| Gentamicin                    | GEN  | 46,429      | 27.9 | 0.6 | 71.4 |
| Tobramycin                    | TOB  | 14,879      | 27.4 | 0.7 | 71.9 |
| Ciprofloxacin                 | CIP  | 68,406      | 69.5 | 2.1 | 28.4 |
| Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole | SXT  | 61,963      | 68.5 | 0.1 | 31.4 |
| Fosfomycin                    | FOS  | 46,737      | 7.1  | 0.1 | 92.8 |
| Nitrofurantoin                | NIT  | 49,651      | 9.2  | 0.8 | 90.0 |
| Tigecycline                   | TGC  | 3,836       | 7.5  | 2.4 | 90.1 |

<sup>a</sup> Fosfomycin and Nitrofurantoin: Isolates from the urinary tract only.

Figure 4.3: Percentages of resistant isolates for *E. coli*, (isolates from all sources), Pakistan, 2022

### 4.2 *Klebsiella pneumoniae*:

In the year 2022, a total of 26 sentinel sites reported 27,617 isolates of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. The reported data shows that 53% (n=14,656) were found in urine specimens, followed by 17% (n=4,649) in blood specimens. It appears to be more prevalent in female patients, accounting for 55% (n=15,045) of cases compared to males. Furthermore, in terms of age distribution, it is more prevalent in the older age group (>25 years) compared to the younger population.

Among these antimicrobials, ceftriaxone has been the most extensively tested and reported, 94.5% of cases, followed by ciprofloxacin at

76.5%, Piperacillin Tazobactam in 74%, Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole in 73.5%, Amikacin at 72%, and Meropenem at 70% in *K. pneumoniae* isolates across all specimen sources.

Resistance against *K. pneumoniae* varied, with cefotaxime exhibiting the highest resistance at 73% and Ertapenem the lowest at 20%. Fluoroquinolones, such as Ciprofloxacin, showed a resistance rate of 54%, while 66% resistance was reported against ceftriaxone, which was the most frequently tested antibiotic. Similarly, carbapenems (Imipenem, Meropenem, and Ertapenem) demonstrated resistance ranging from 21% to 32%.

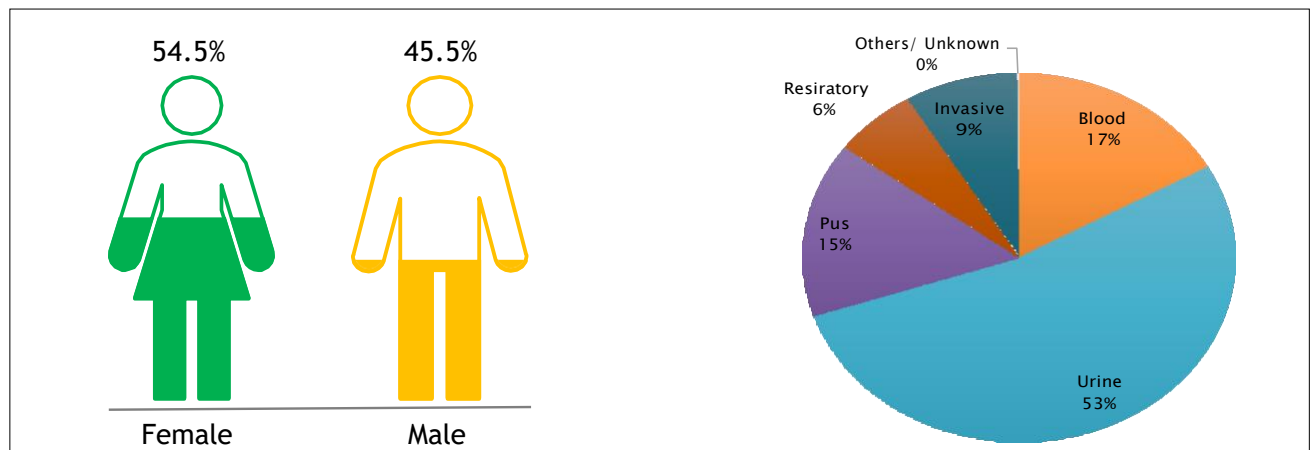


Figure 4.4: *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2022

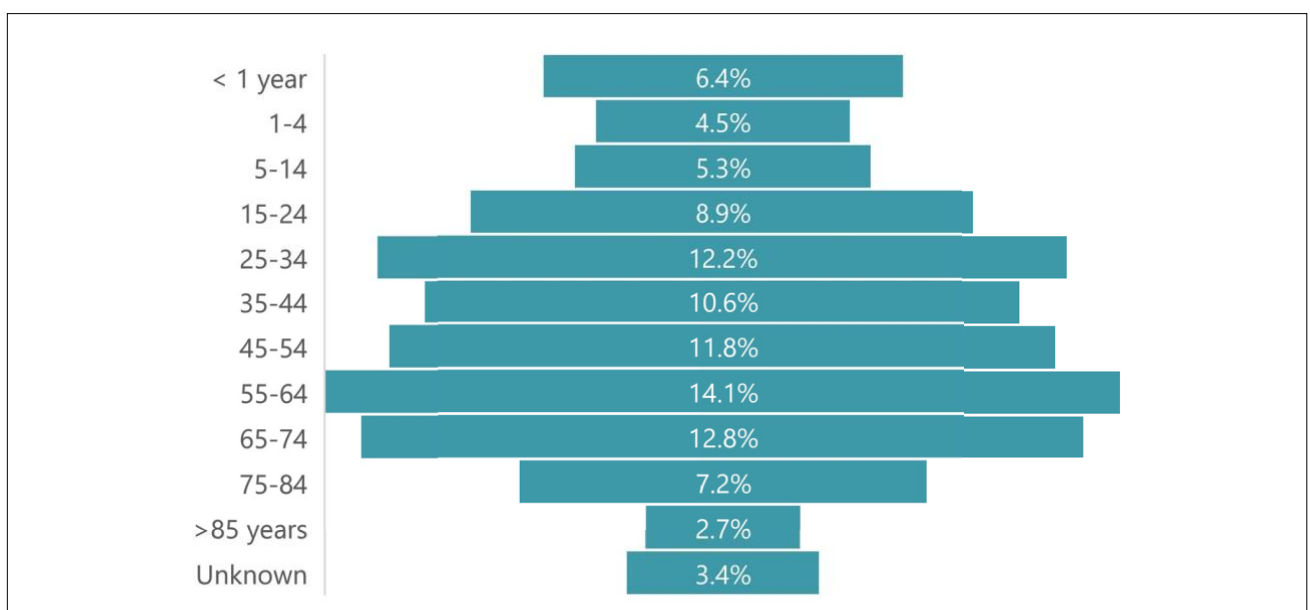
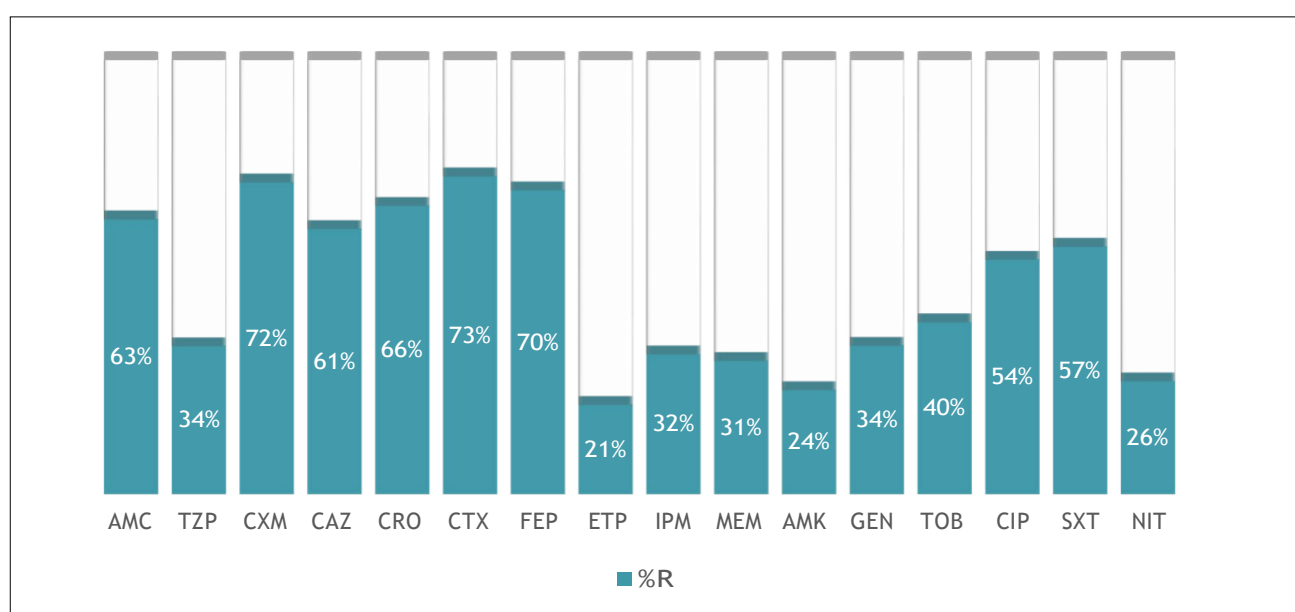


Figure 4.5: *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: Gender wise distribution, 2022

Table 4.2: Percentages of resistant, susceptible and intermediate isolates for *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, (isolates from all sources), Pakistan, 2022

| <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (n=27,617) |      |             |      |     |      |
|---|------|-------------|------|-----|------|
| Antibiotic                              | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I  | %S   |
| Amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid             | AMC  | 15,180      | 63.3 | 0.4 | 36.2 |
| Piperacillin/Tazobactam                 | TZP  | 20,459      | 34.1 | 2.2 | 63.7 |
| Cefuroxime                              | CXM  | 13,943      | 71.8 | 0.0 | 28.2 |
| Ceftazidime                             | CAZ  | 2,106       | 61.1 | 0.9 | 38.1 |
| Ceftriaxone                             | CRO  | 26,087      | 66.4 | 0.2 | 33.4 |
| Cefotaxime                              | CTX  | 7,656       | 73.2 | 0.0 | 26.8 |
| Cefepime                                | FEP  | 3,156       | 70.0 | 2.9 | 27.1 |
| Ertapenem                               | ETP  | 7,270       | 20.6 | 0.2 | 79.1 |
| Imipenem                                | IPM  | 15,668      | 32.2 | 1.2 | 66.6 |
| Meropenem                               | MEM  | 19,502      | 30.7 | 0.4 | 68.9 |
| Amikacin                                | AMK  | 19,997      | 24.0 | 2.0 | 74.0 |
| Gentamicin                              | GEN  | 14,765      | 34.2 | 1.4 | 64.4 |
| Tobramycin                              | TOB  | 6,466       | 39.6 | 1.8 | 58.6 |
| Ciprofloxacin                           | CIP  | 21,126      | 54.0 | 3.8 | 42.3 |
| Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole           | SXT  | 20,313      | 57.0 | 0.1 | 42.9 |
| Nitrofurantoin                          | NIT  | 9,344       | 26.0 | 1.7 | 72.3 |

<sup>a</sup>Nitrofurantoin: Isolates from the urinary tract only.

Figure 4.6: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

### 4.3 *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*:

In 2022, a total of 26 sentinel sites reported 17,263 isolates of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Of these isolates, over 35% (6,100) were obtained from pus specimens, while around 22% (3,848) were from urine. The age distribution shows a non-significant variation among age categories, with almost equal proportions of *P. aeruginosa* isolated across all age groups (15–74 years), with slightly higher proportion in age group (25–34 years) 13.5% and (55–64 years) 14%.

Among these, the most tested and reported antimicrobials are piperacillin–tazobactam (90%), ceftazidime (85%), amikacin (84%), ciprofloxacin (78%), and gentamicin (74%) of isolates from all specimen sources. Resistance in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ranges from 21% for piperacillin–tazobactam to 37% for ciprofloxacin and 34% for cefepime.

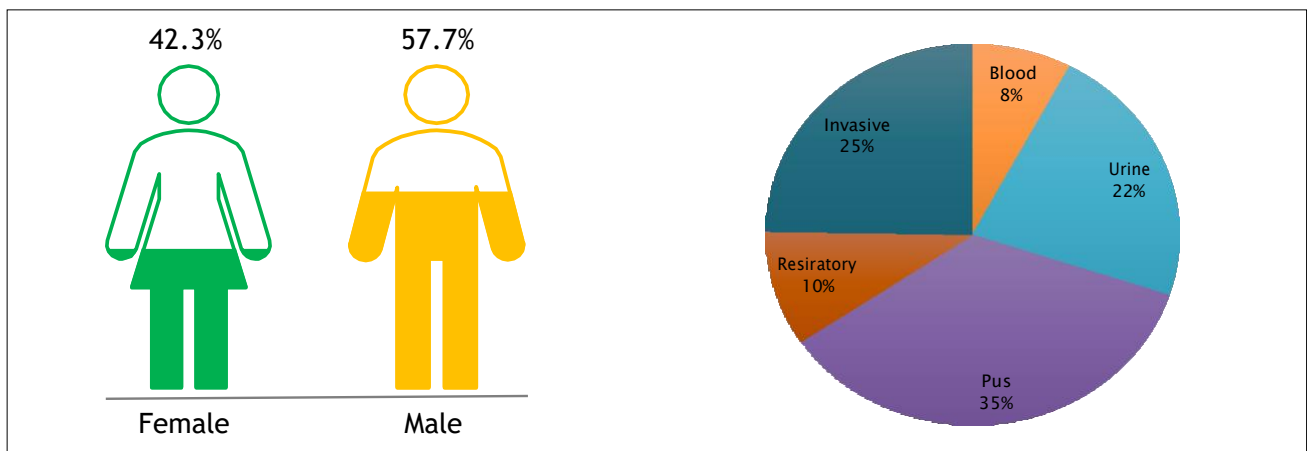


Figure 4.7: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2022

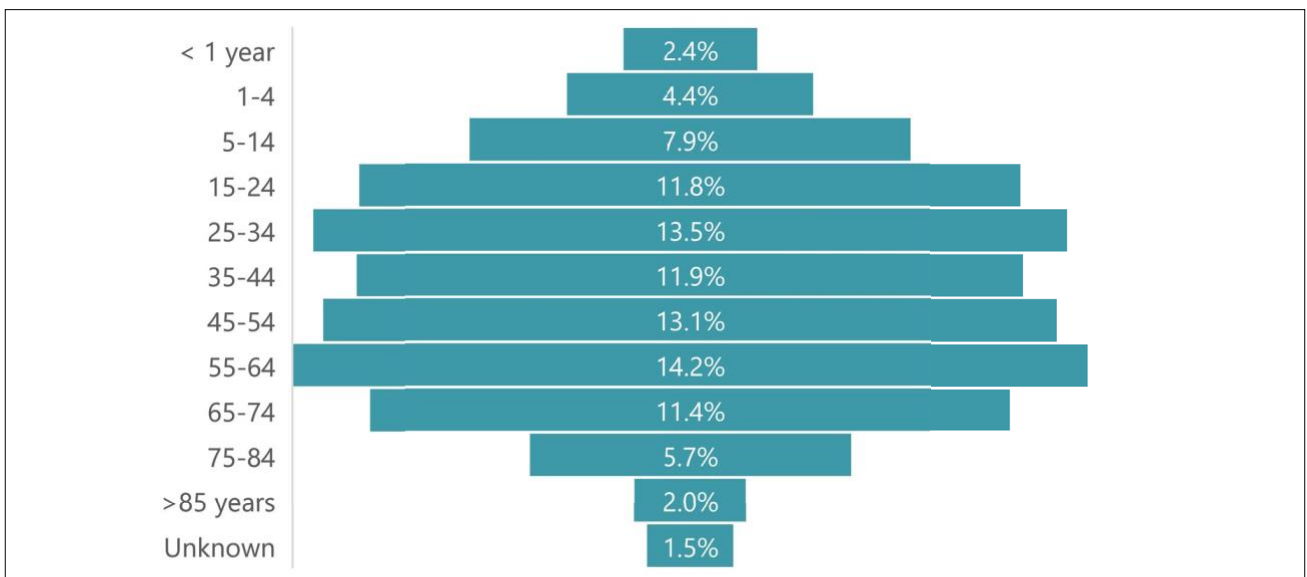
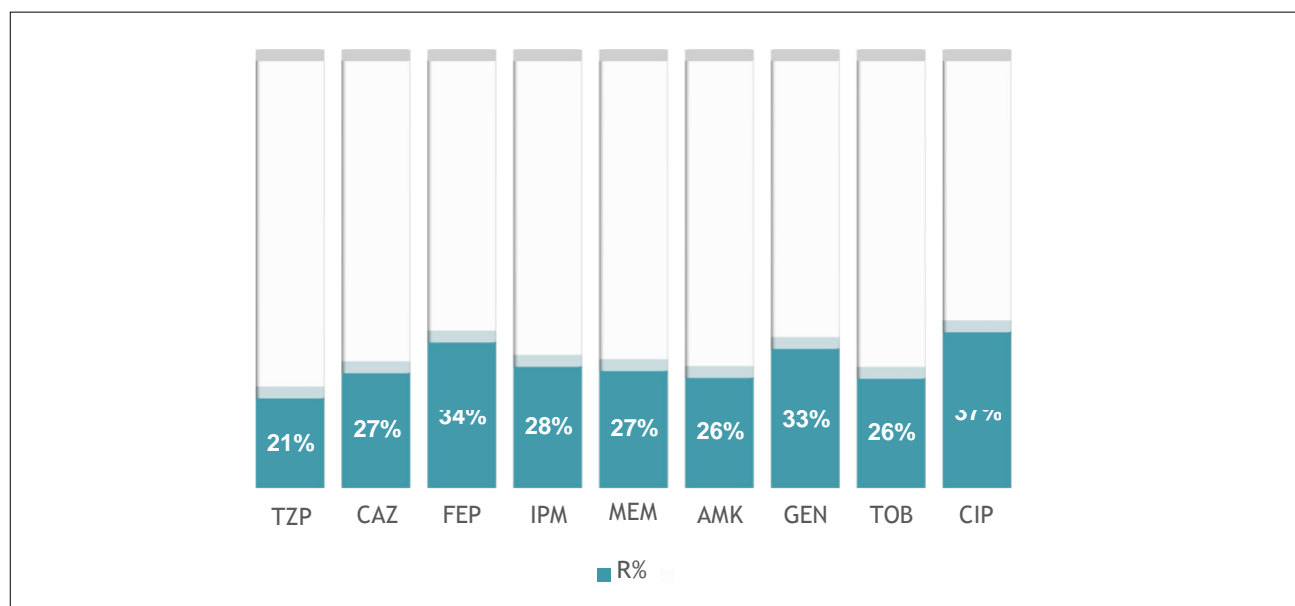


Figure 4.8: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*: Gender wise distribution, 2022

Table 4.3: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

| <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (n=17,263) |      |             |      |     |      |
|--|------|-------------|------|-----|------|
| Antibiotic                               | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I  | %S   |
| Piperacillin/Tazobactam                  | TZP  | 15,339      | 21.0 | 2.2 | 76.9 |
| Ceftazidime                              | CAZ  | 14,724      | 26.9 | 0.4 | 72.7 |
| Cefepime                                 | FEP  | 10,591      | 34.1 | 1.1 | 64.8 |
| Imipenem                                 | IPM  | 11,799      | 28.4 | 0.9 | 70.7 |
| Meropenem                                | MEM  | 10,899      | 27.4 | 0.7 | 71.9 |
| Amikacin                                 | AMK  | 14,493      | 25.8 | 0.6 | 73.5 |
| Gentamicin                               | GEN  | 12,855      | 32.6 | 0.5 | 66.9 |
| Tobramycin                               | TOB  | 9,276       | 25.6 | 3.6 | 70.8 |
| Ciprofloxacin                            | CIP  | 13,526      | 36.5 | 1.7 | 61.8 |

Figure 4.9: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022



### 4.4 Staphylococcus aureus:

In the year 2022, a total of 23,087 isolates of *Staphylococcus aureus* were reported. The majority of these isolates were from pus specimens, accounting for 55% (n=12,624) of the total, followed by blood samples at 16% (3,584). Regarding age distribution, it is more prevalent among males, constituting 55% (n=12,723) of the cases. In age wise distribution, a higher proportion of cases observed in age group of (15-34 years).

Among these, the most tested and reported antimicrobials are oxacillin (74%), clindamycin (78%), erythromycin (74%), and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (69%) of isolates from all specimen sources. *Staphylococcus aureus* showed resistance ranging from 0% for vancomycin to 76% for ciprofloxacin. Additionally, resistance against oxacillin is 66%, and for ceftaxitin, it is 68%.

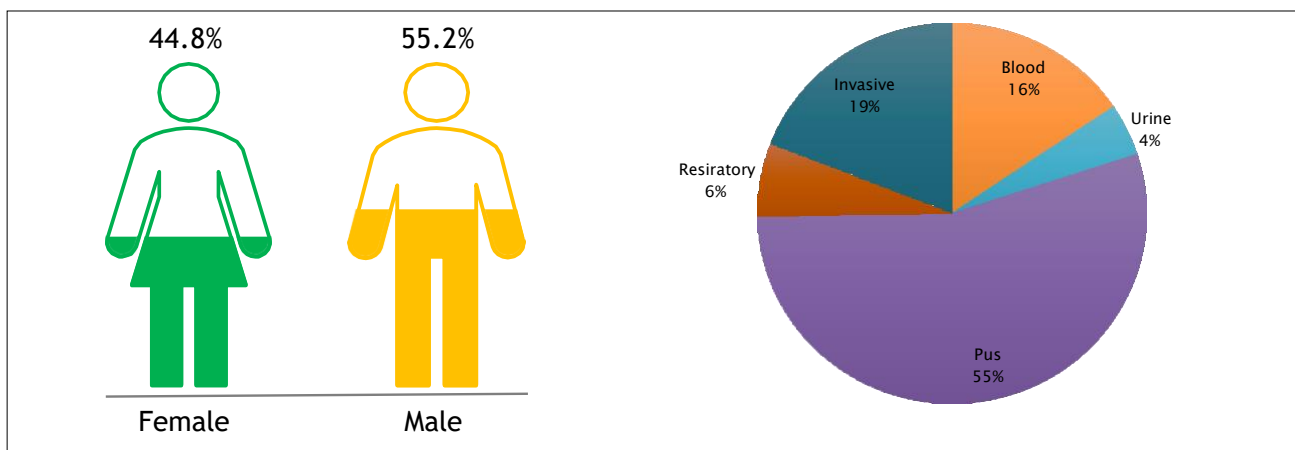


Figure 4.10: *Staphylococcus aureus*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types & gender wise, 2022

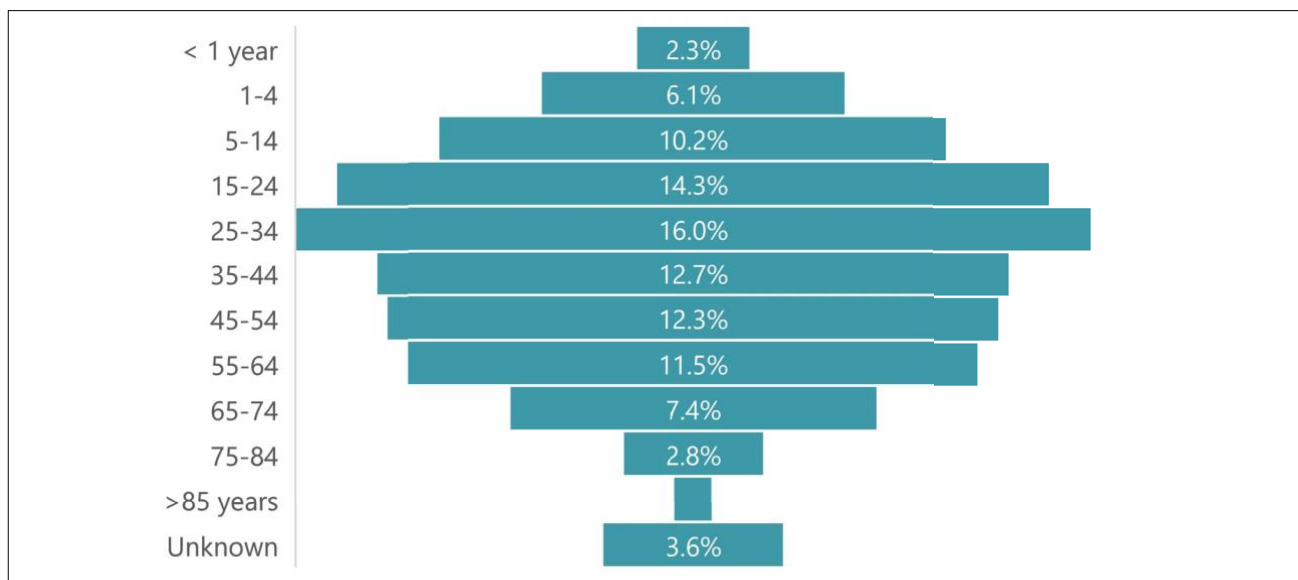
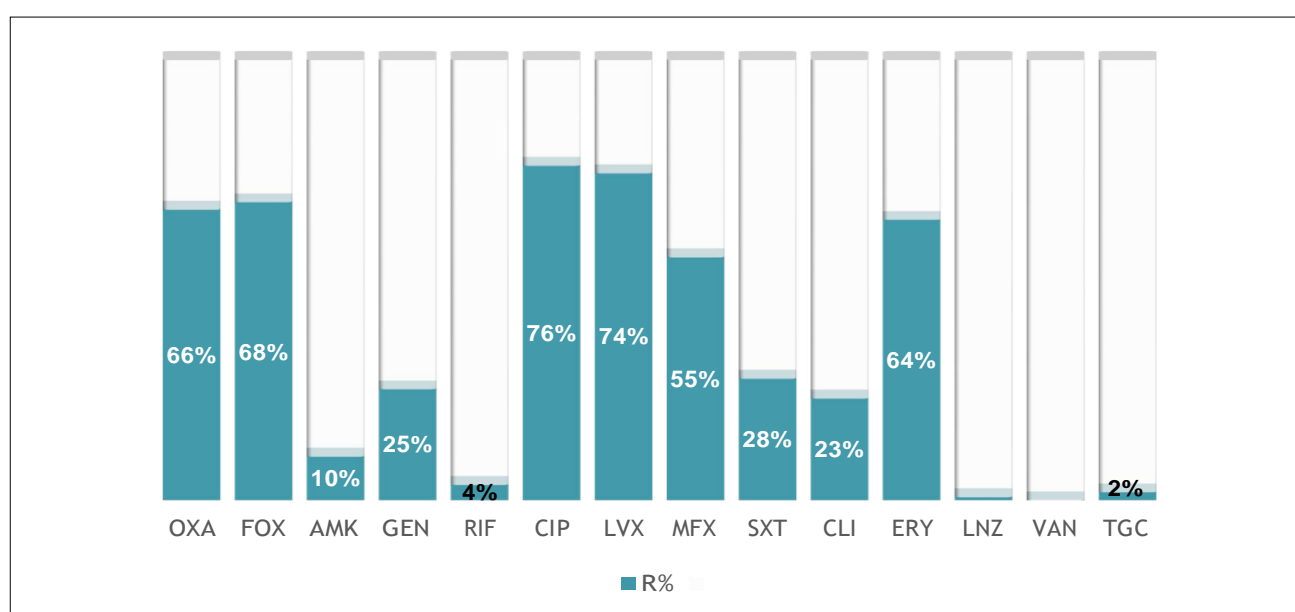


Figure 4.11: *Staphylococcus aureus*: Age wise distribution, 2022

Table 4.4: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *staphylococcus aureus* isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (n=20,633) |      |             |      |     |      |
|---|------|-------------|------|-----|------|
| Antibiotic                              | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I  | %S   |
| Oxacillin                               | OXA  | 15,182      | 66.0 | 0.0 | 35.0 |
| Cefoxitin                               | FOX  | 3,676       | 67.7 | 0.1 | 32.2 |
| Amikacin                                | AMK  | 5,932       | 9.9  | 0.5 | 89.7 |
| Gentamicin                              | GEN  | 12,152      | 25.2 | 0.4 | 74.3 |
| Rifampin                                | RIF  | 1,747       | 3.5  | 0.2 | 96.3 |
| Ciprofloxacin                           | CIP  | 13,928      | 76.0 | 0.6 | 23.4 |
| Levofloxacin                            | LVX  | 3,128       | 74.3 | 1.3 | 24.4 |
| Moxifloxacin                            | MFX  | 875         | 55.2 | 3.7 | 41.1 |
| Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole           | SXT  | 15,811      | 27.6 | 0.3 | 72.1 |
| Clindamycin                             | CLI  | 17,936      | 23.1 | 1.7 | 75.2 |
| Erythromycin                            | ERY  | 17,166      | 63.7 | 1.3 | 35.0 |
| Linezolid                               | LNZ  | 14,471      | 0.7  | 0.1 | 99.2 |
| Vancomycin                              | VAN  | 14,501      | 0    | 0   | 100  |
| Tigecycline                             | TGC  | 1,188       | 1.8  | 0.5 | 97.7 |

Figure 4.12: Percentages of resistant isolates for *staphylococcus aureus* isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

### 4.5 Salmonella Typhi:

In the year 2022, a total of 26 sentinel sites reported 16,418 isolates of *Salmonella Typhi*. *Salmonella Typhi* is predominantly associated with bloodstream infections, with a higher prevalence among males (n=9,910, 60.4%) compared to females. The age distribution follows a typical pattern, with typhoid infection being more common in younger age groups. Data reveals that over 44% (n=7,243) of isolates are reported from the age group of 1–14 years, with 28% (n=4,605) specifically from the 1–4 age bracket.

Among these, the most tested and reported antimicrobials are Ceftriaxone (98%), Ampicillin (97%), Cefixime (92%), Azithromycin (90%), Ciprofloxacin (83%), Trimethoprim–sulfamethoxazole (82%), and Chloramphenicol (80%) of isolates from all specimen sources.

*S. Typhi* isolates showed high-level resistance to the first-line antibiotics (Ampicillin 82.6%, Chloramphenicol 81%, Trimethoprim–sulfamethoxazole 79%) previously used for the treatment of typhoid. Similarly, 76% of isolates are resistant to Ciprofloxacin, and 72% are resistant to Ceftriaxone.

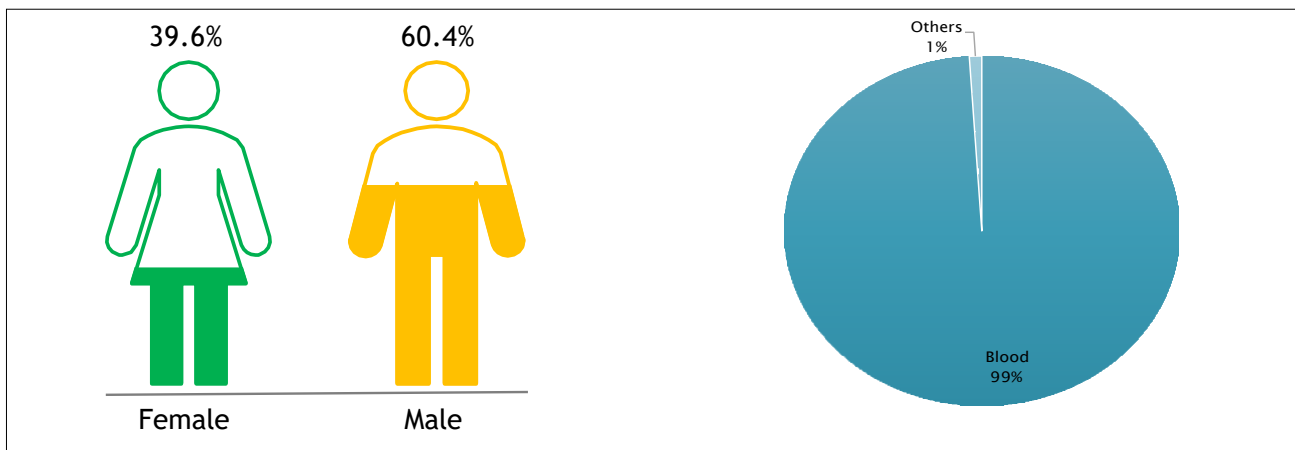


Figure 4.13: *Salmonella Typhi*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2022

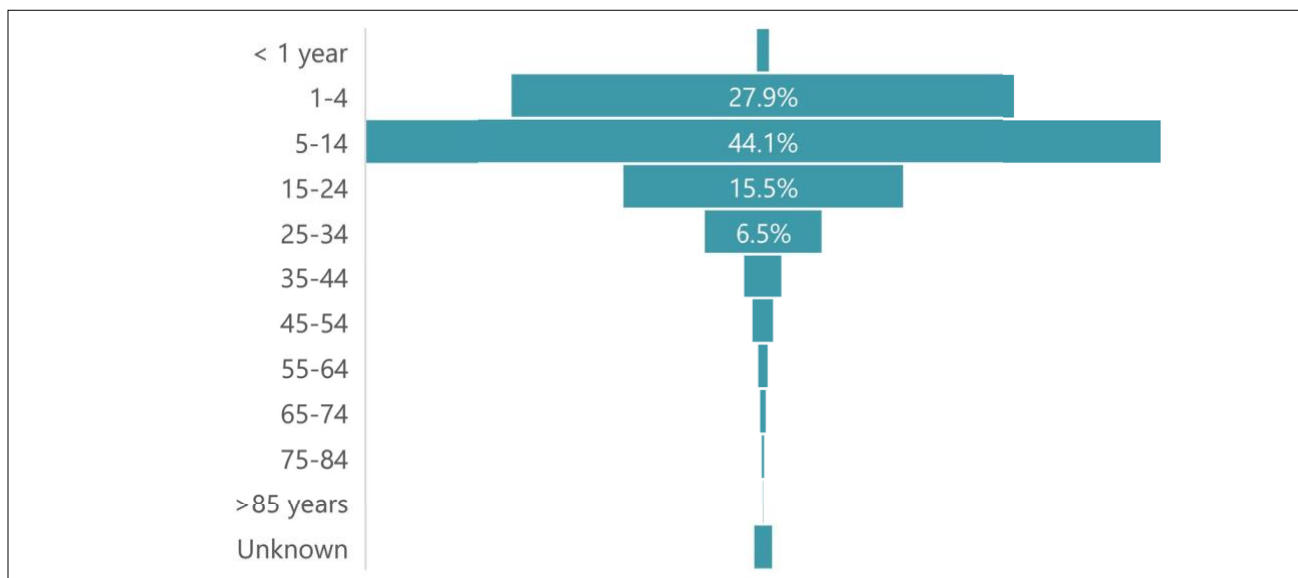
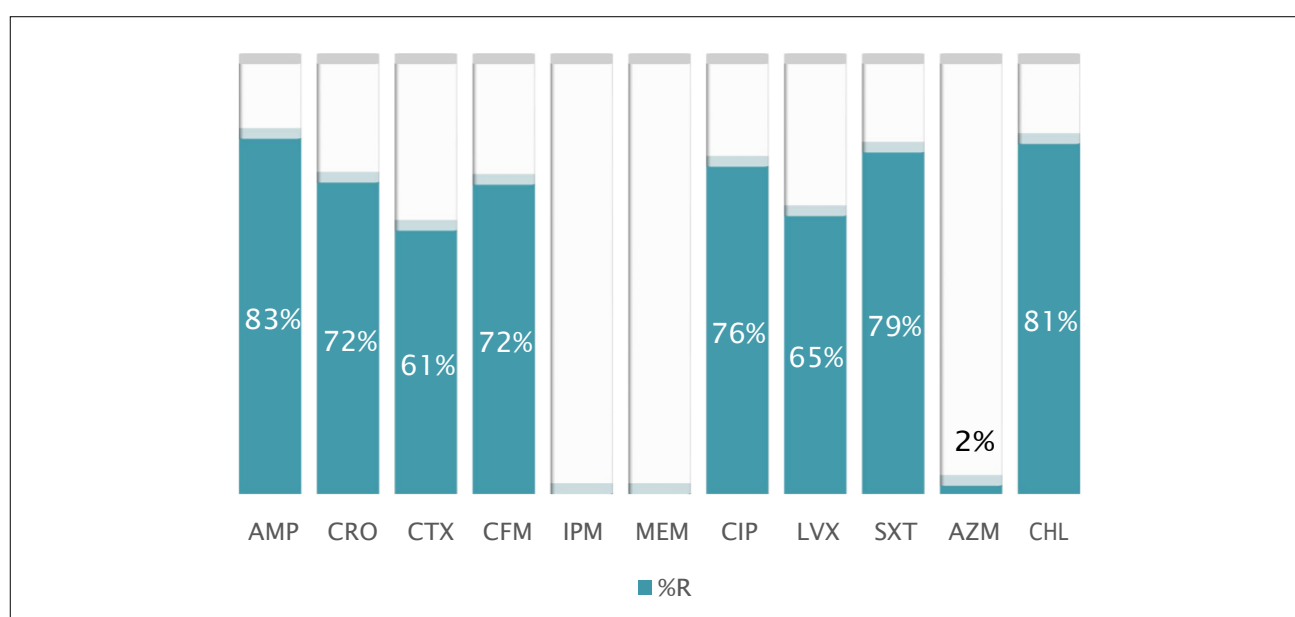


Figure 4.14: *Salmonella Typhi*: gender wise Distribution, 2022

Table 4.5: Percentages of resistant, susceptible and intermediate isolates for *Salmonella Typhi*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

| <i>Salmonella Typhi</i> (n=16,418) |      |             |      |      |      |
|------------------------------------|------|-------------|------|------|------|
| Antibiotic                         | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I   | %S   |
| Ampicillin                         | AMP  | 15,943      | 82.6 | 0.0  | 17.4 |
| Ceftriaxone                        | CRO  | 16,121      | 72.4 | 0.1  | 27.5 |
| Cefotaxime                         | CTX  | 580         | 61.2 | 0.3  | 38.4 |
| Cefixime                           | CFM  | 15,085      | 71.9 | 0.0  | 28.1 |
| Imipenem                           | IPM  | 8,728       | 0.0  | 0.0  | 100  |
| Meropenem                          | MEM  | 8,801       | 0.0  | 0.0  | 100  |
| Ciprofloxacin                      | CIP  | 13,629      | 76.1 | 21.5 | 2.4  |
| Levofloxacin                       | LVX  | 311         | 64.6 | 3.9  | 31.5 |
| Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole      | SXT  | 13,392      | 79.4 | 0.0  | 20.6 |
| Azithromycin                       | AZM  | 14,702      | 1.9  | 0.0  | 98.1 |
| Chloramphenicol                    | CHL  | 13,150      | 81.4 | 0.0  | 18.6 |

Figure 4.15: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Salmonella Typhi*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

### 4.6 Acinetobacter species:

In the year 2022, a total of 9,685 isolates of *Acinetobacter* species were reported. More than 45% (n=3,172) of the *Acinetobacter spp.* were isolated from blood specimens, followed by respiratory samples at 24% (n=1,711). The prevalence is higher in male patients (n=4,121) compared to females. Age-wise distribution doesn't show any significant variation among age categories.

Among these, the most tested and reported antimicrobials are Amikacin in 92%, Gentamicin at 82%, Meropenem and Imipenem at 76% and 74% respectively, Piperacillin-tazobactam in 63%, and colistin in 58% of isolates from all specimen sources. *Acinetobacter spp* isolates showed a high level of resistance to the antibiotics reported, ranging from 99% against ampicillin, 98% resistance to Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, ceftriaxone at 89%, and ceftazidime at 85%. Likewise, resistance in carbapenems (Imipenem and Meropenem) is 74% to 73%.

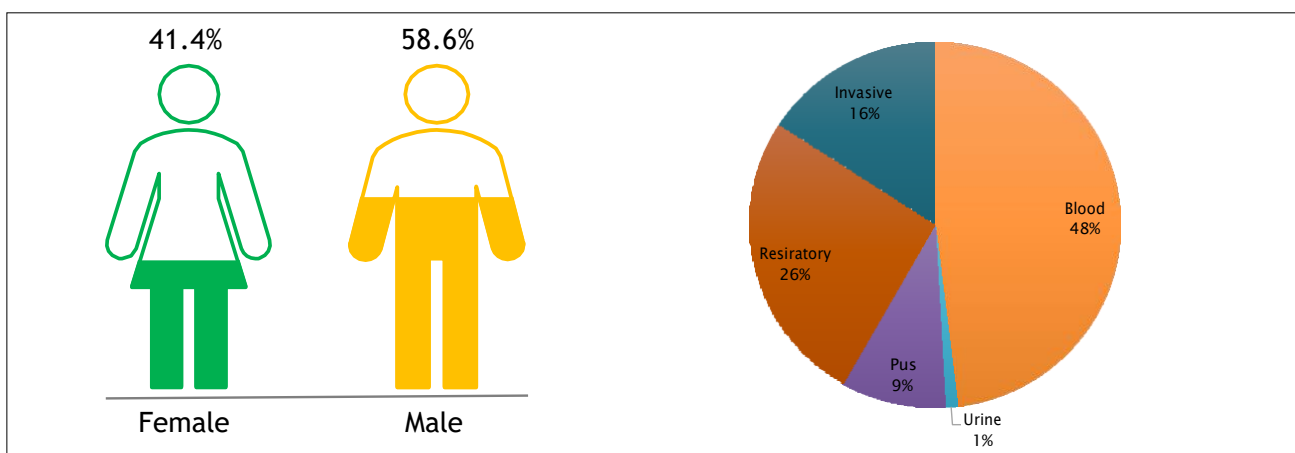


Figure 4.16: *Acinetobacter species*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2022

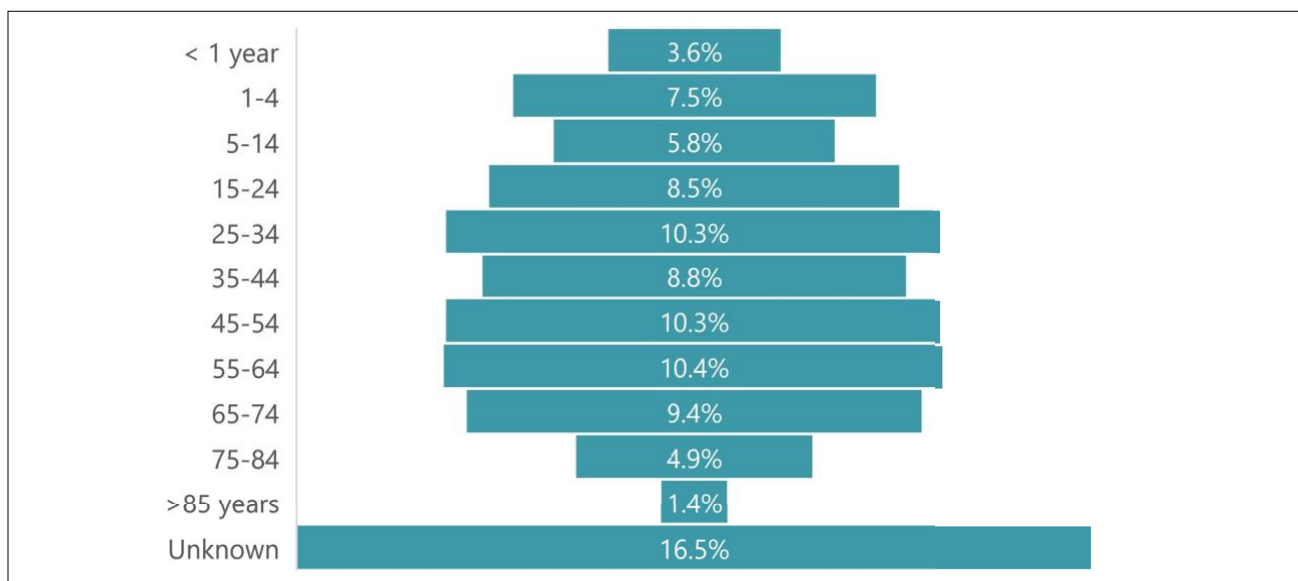
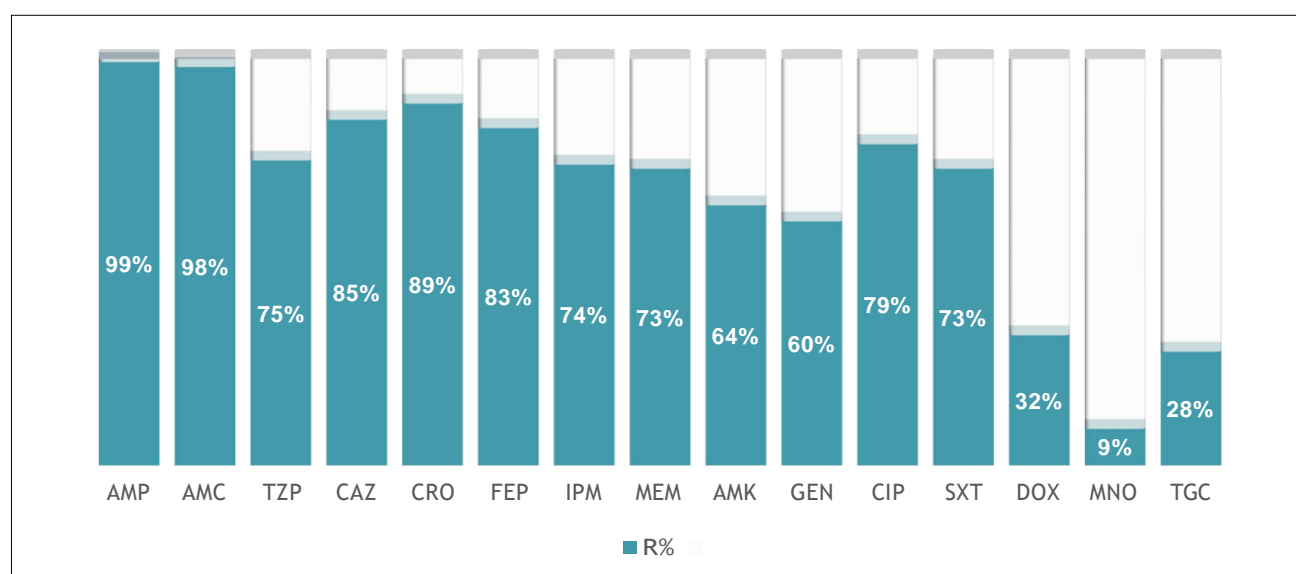


Figure 4.17: *Acinetobacter species*: age wise Distribution, 2022

Table 4.6: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *Acinetobacter spp.*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

| <i>Acinetobacter Spp</i> (n=9,685) |      |             |      |      |      |
|------------------------------------|------|-------------|------|------|------|
| Antibiotic                         | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I   | %S   |
| Ampicillin                         | AMP  | 943         | 99.2 | 0.1  | 0.7  |
| Amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid        | AMC  | 977         | 98   | 0.1  | 1.9  |
| Piperacillin /tazobactam           | TZP  | 6,508       | 75   | 0.7  | 24.2 |
| Ceftazidime                        | CAZ  | 4,433       | 85   | 0.5  | 14.5 |
| Ceftriaxone                        | CRO  | 3,758       | 89   | 0.6  | 10.3 |
| Cefepime                           | FEP  | 3,525       | 83   | 0.7  | 16.2 |
| Imipenem                           | IPM  | 7,336       | 74   | 0.8  | 25.3 |
| Meropenem                          | MEM  | 7,455       | 73   | 0.9  | 26.5 |
| Amikacin                           | AMK  | 8,712       | 64   | 1.8  | 34.0 |
| Gentamicin                         | GEN  | 8,001       | 60   | 3.3  | 37.1 |
| Ciprofloxacin                      | CIP  | 5,871       | 79   | 0.8  | 19.7 |
| Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole      | SXT  | 5,350       | 73   | 0.3  | 27.2 |
| Doxycycline                        | DOX  | 2,185       | 32   | 0.5  | 67.7 |
| Minocycline                        | MNO  | 3,262       | 9    | 3.0  | 88.3 |
| Tigecycline                        | TGC  | 2,452       | 28   | 10.3 | 61.3 |

Figure 4.18: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Acinetobacter spp.*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

### 4.7 Streptococcus pneumoniae:

In the year 2022, a total of 788 isolates of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* were reported. *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is predominantly isolated from the blood and invasive specimen category. The prevalence is comparatively higher in male patients, accounting for 60% (n=469). The age-wise distribution shows a comparatively higher frequency in the children age group of 1-14 years (n=200) and the older age group of 55-64 years (n=182).

Among these, the most tested and reported antimicrobials are ceftriaxone 71%, Penicillin G 68.7 %, and Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole 66% isolates from all specimen sources.

Resistance to *Streptococcus pneumoniae* ranged from 0% for vancomycin and linezolid 74% for Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole. Around 46% and 43% resistance against erythromycin and Tetracycline respectively.

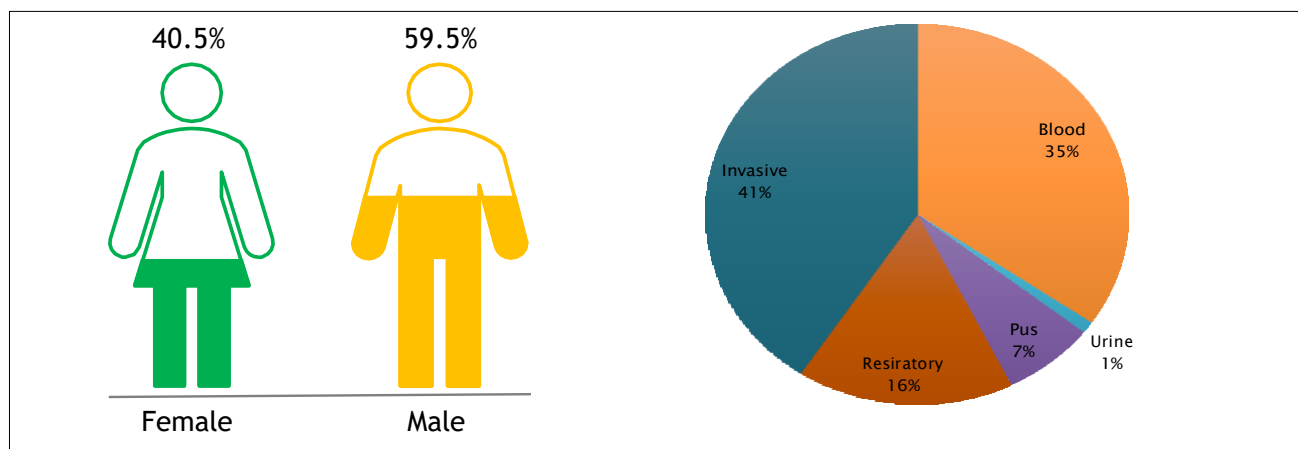


Figure 4.19: *Streptococcus pneumoniae*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2022

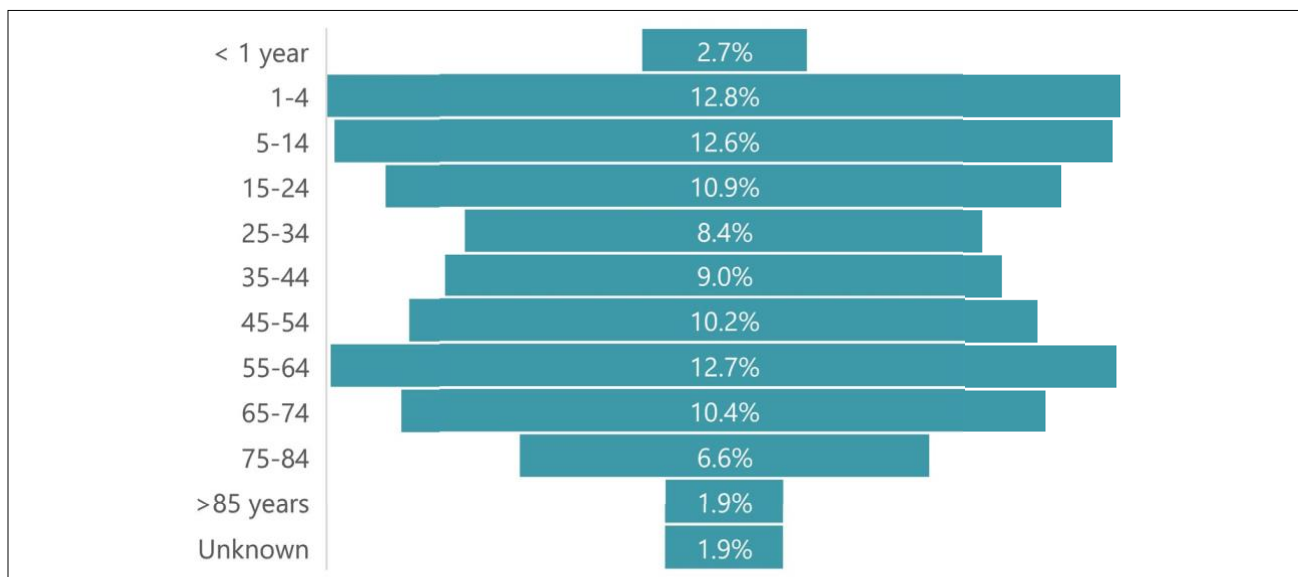
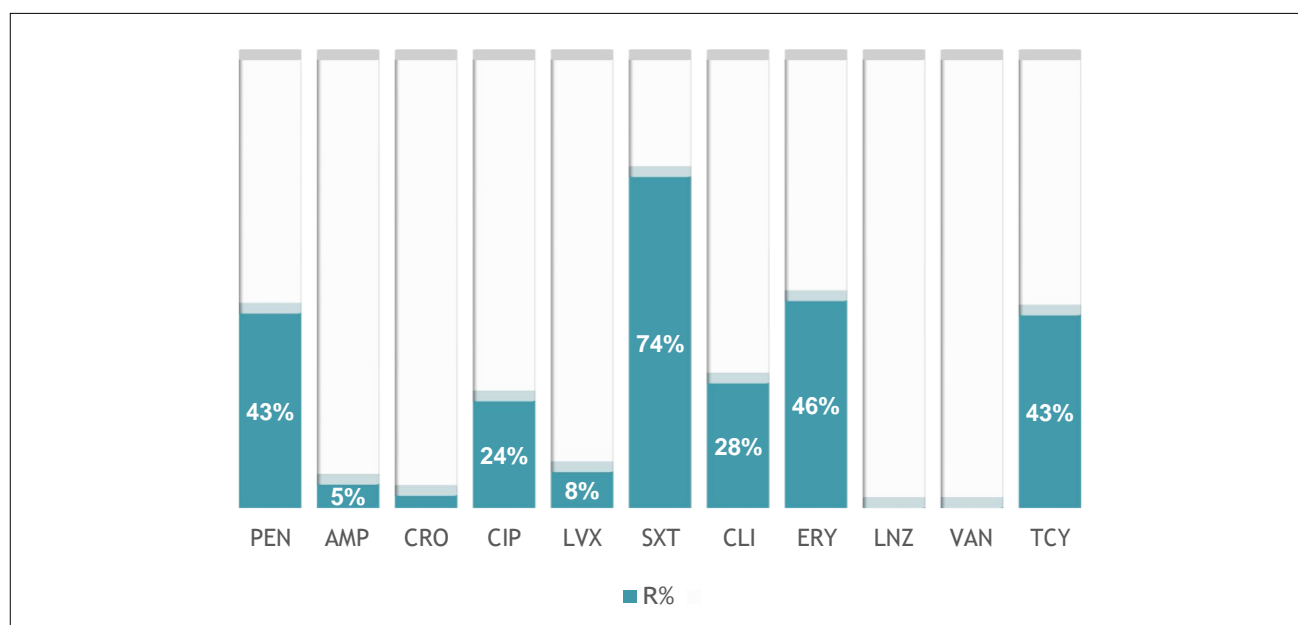


Figure 4.20: *Streptococcus pneumoniae*: gender wise Distribution, 2022

Table 4.7: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

| <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> (n=788) |      |             |      |     |      |
|---|------|-------------|------|-----|------|
| Antibiotic                              | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I  | %S   |
| Penicillin G                            | PEN  | 541         | 43.4 | 0   | 53.0 |
| Ampicillin                              | AMP  | 289         | 5.2  | 0.7 | 94.1 |
| Ceftriaxone                             | CRO  | 558         | 2.7  | 0.2 | 94.3 |
| Ciprofloxacin                           | CIP  | 21          | 23.8 | 4.8 | 71.4 |
| Levofloxacin                            | LVX  | 323         | 8.0  | 0   | 92.0 |
| Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole           | SXT  | 521         | 73.9 | 2.1 | 24.0 |
| Clindamycin                             | CLI  | 363         | 27.8 | 0.6 | 71.6 |
| Erythromycin                            | ERY  | 325         | 46.2 | 0.3 | 53.5 |
| Linezolid                               | LNZ  | 93          | 0    | 0   | 100  |
| Vancomycin                              | VAN  | 289         | 0    | 0   | 100  |
| Tetracycline                            | TCY  | 242         | 43.0 | 1.7 | 55.4 |

Figure 4.21: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022



### 4.8 *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*:

In 2022, a total of 50 isolates of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* were reported. The usual trend persists, with over 95% of isolates originating from urethral swabs. Prevalence is notably higher in the adult age group of 25–34 years, accounting for 27 cases.

Among these, the most tested and reported antimicrobials are ceftriaxone and ciprofloxacin, cefixime, and azithromycin, tested across all specimen sources.

In the year 2022, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* isolates showed a 90% resistance rate to ciprofloxacin. However, isolates remained sensitive to ceftriaxone and cefixime.

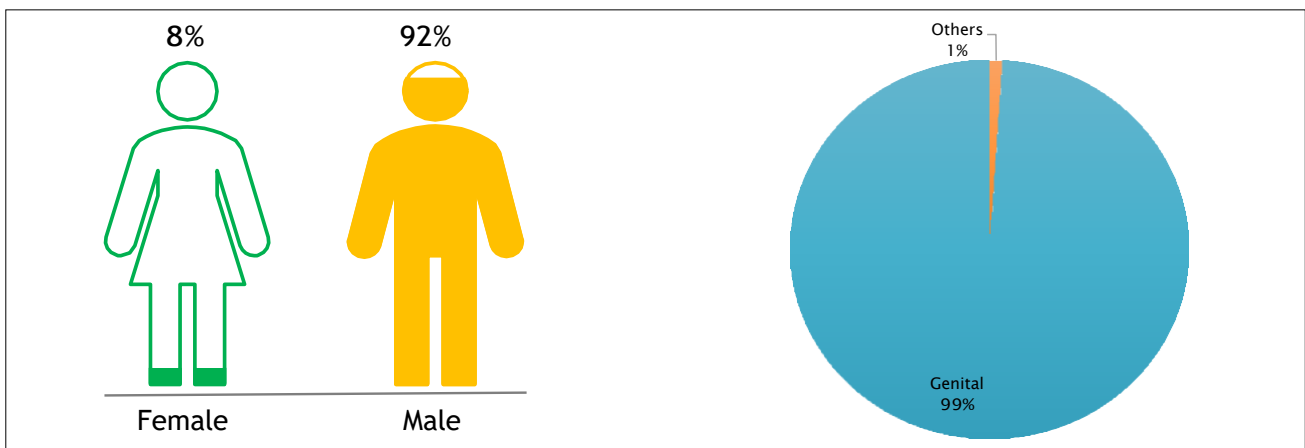


Figure 4.22: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2022

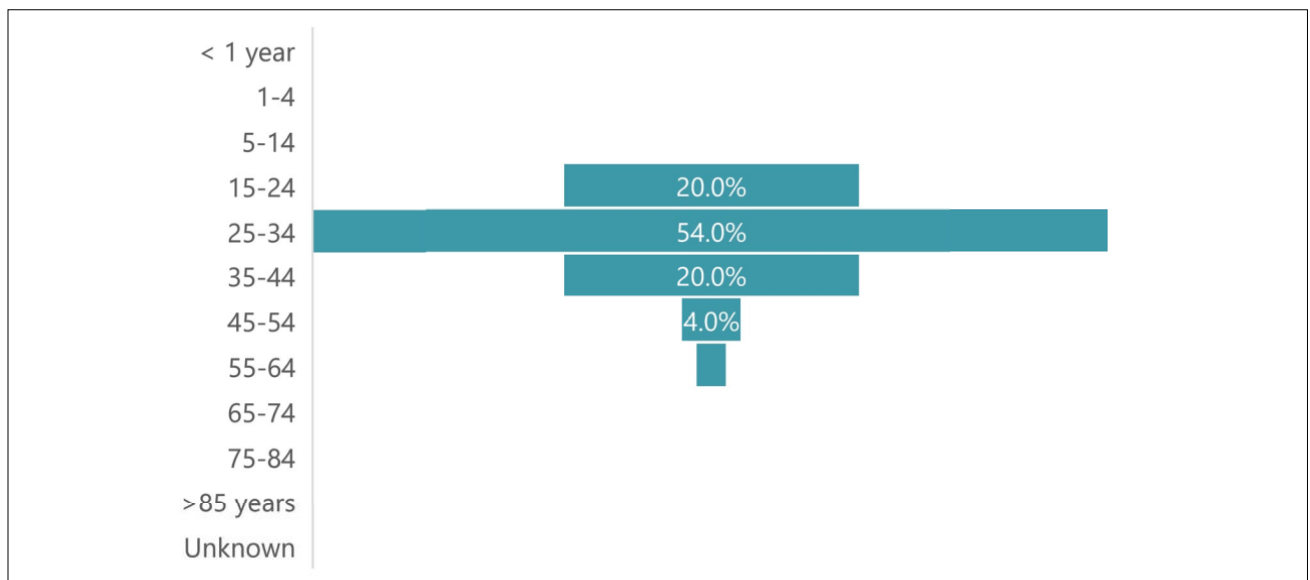
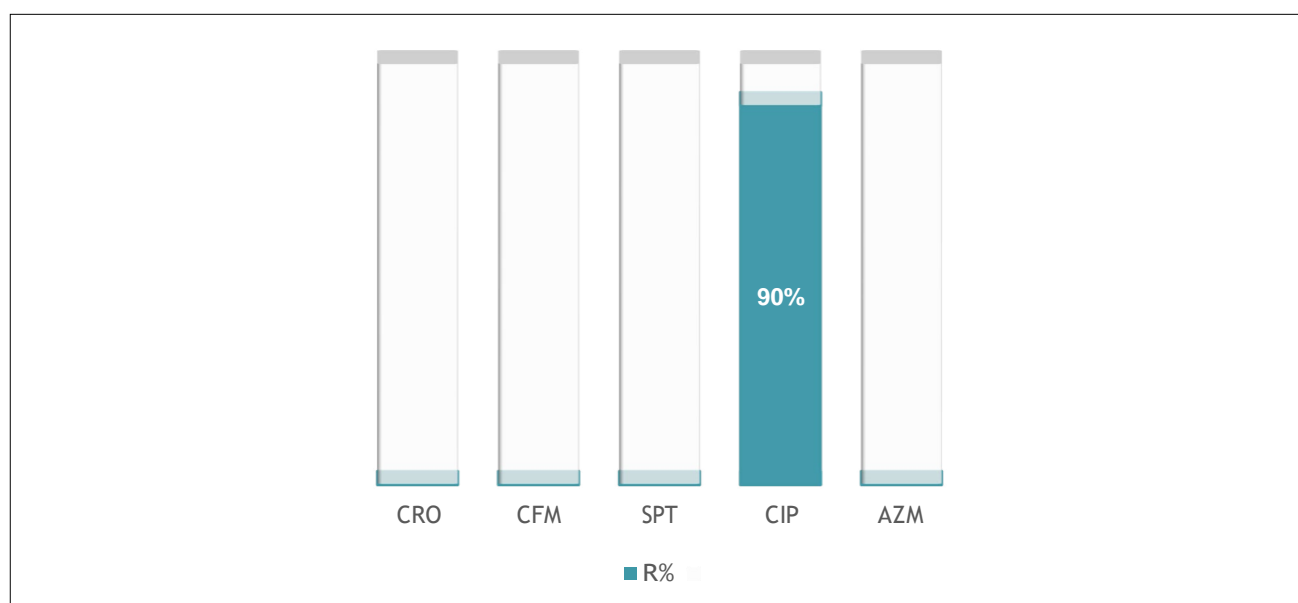


Figure 4.23: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: gender wise Distribution, 2022

Table 4.8: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

| <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> (n=50) |      |             |    |    |     |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------|----|----|-----|
| Antibiotic                          | Code | Isolates(n) | R% | I% | S%  |
| Ceftriaxone                         | CRO  | 41          | 0  | 0  | 100 |
| Cefixime                            | CFM  | 40          | 0  | 0  | 100 |
| Spectinomycin                       | SPT  | 4           | 0  | 0  | 100 |
| Ciprofloxacin                       | CIP  | 40          | 90 | 5  | 5   |
| Azithromycin                        | AZM  | 39          | 0  | 0  | 100 |

Figure 4.24: Percentages of resistant isolates for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

### 4.9 *Shigella species:*

In 2022, a total of 166 isolates of *Shigella spp* were reported. The majority of these isolates were from stool samples, comprising around 82%, while approximately 9% were from blood samples. In terms of age distribution, the under-15 age group exhibited a higher number of cases compared to the elder age group.

The most tested and reported antimicrobials among these are ciprofloxacin, ceftriaxone, and azithromycin, tested across all isolates from various specimen sources. *Shigella spp* isolates exhibit 85% and 78% resistance to ampicillin and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, respectively. Additionally, 29% of isolates demonstrate resistance to ciprofloxacin. Carbapenems remain effective against all reported isolates.

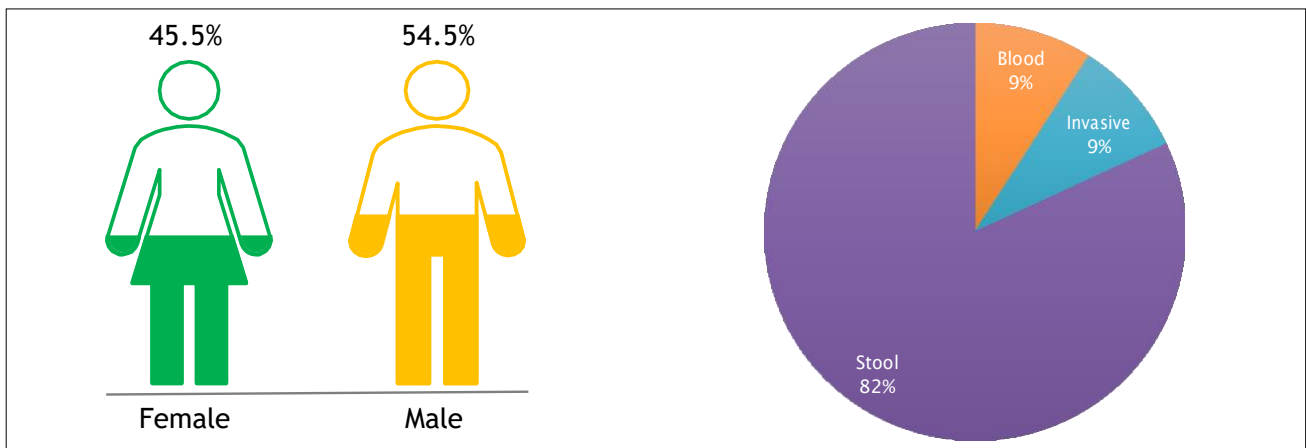


Figure 4.25: *Shigella species:* proportion of isolates among different specimen types, 2022

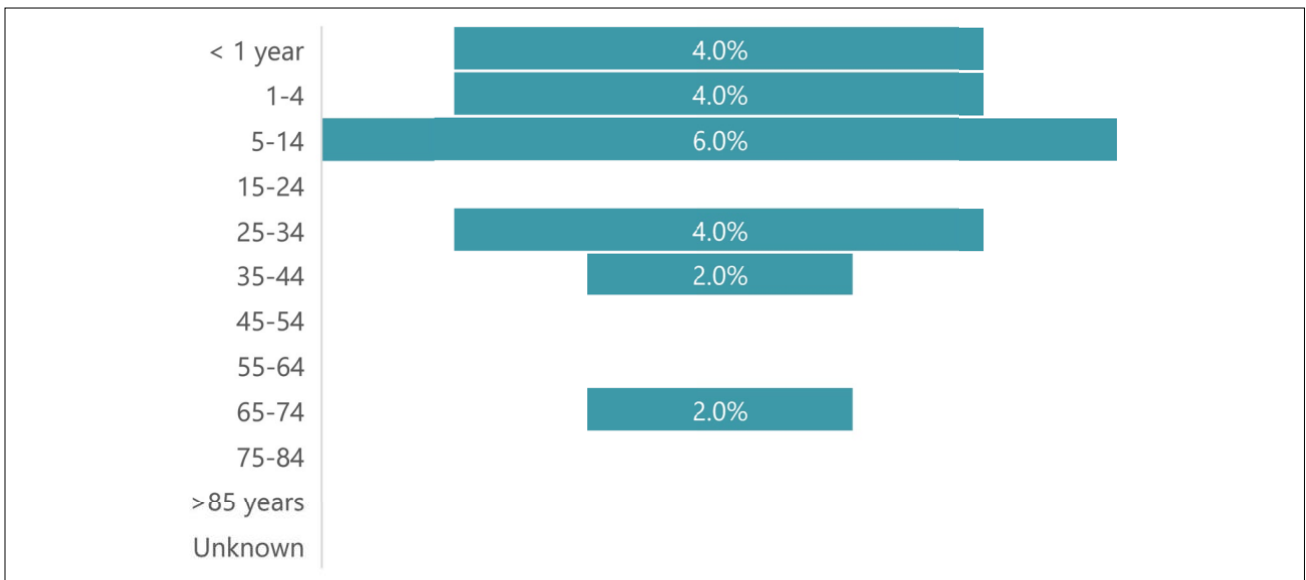
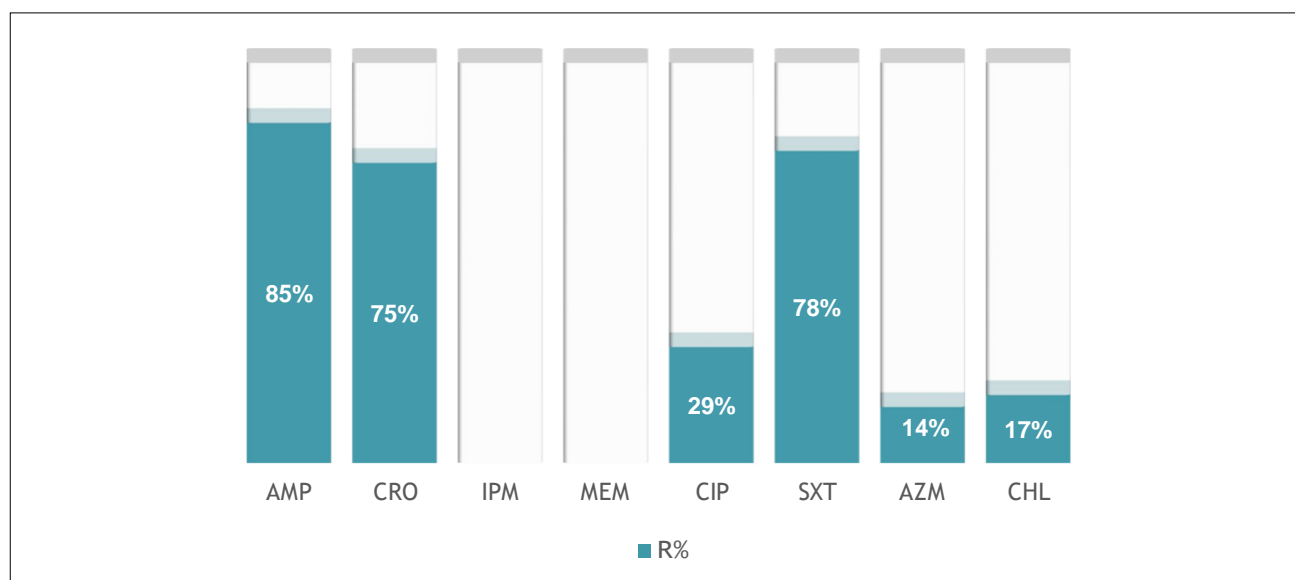


Figure 4.26: *Shigella species:* gender wise Distribution, 2022

Table 4.9: Percentages of resistant, intermediate, and susceptible isolates for *shigella spp.* isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

| <i>Shigella spp.</i> (n=166)  |      |             |      |      |      |
|-------------------------------|------|-------------|------|------|------|
| Antibiotic                    | Code | Isolates(n) | %R   | %I   | %S   |
| Ampicillin                    | AMP  | 68          | 85.3 | 0    | 14.7 |
| Ceftriaxone                   | CRO  | 103         | 74.8 | 0    | 25.2 |
| Imipenem                      | IPM  | 47          | 0    | 0    | 100  |
| Meropenem                     | MEM  | 34          | 0    | 0    | 100  |
| Ciprofloxacin                 | CIP  | 158         | 28.5 | 20.9 | 50.6 |
| Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole | SXT  | 72          | 77.8 | 0    | 22.2 |
| Azithromycin                  | AZM  | 108         | 13.9 | 0    | 86.1 |
| Chloramphenicol               | CHL  | 46          | 17.4 | 0    | 82.6 |

Figure 4.27: Percentages of resistant isolates for *shigella spp.* isolates from all sources, Pakistan, 2022

#### 4.10 MDR, XDR & PDR summary, Pakistan-2022:

Table 4.10: MDR, XDR &amp; PDR summary, 2022

| Organism                        | Number of isolates | MDR          | Possible XDR | Possible PDR |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>E. coli</i>                  | 82679              | 42277(51%)   | 12082(14.6%) | 1770(2.1%)   |
| <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>    | 27617              | 14012(50.7)  | 8404(30.4%)  | 1826(6.6%)   |
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>    | 23087              | 12423(53.8%) | 1863(8.1%)   | (0%)         |
| <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>   | 17263              | 4664(27.0%)  | 4335(25.1%)  | 1771(10.25%) |
| <i>Salmonella Typhi</i>         | 16418              | 9221(56.16%) | 7156(43.58%) | 0(0%)        |
| <i>Acinetobacter sp.</i>        | 7027               | 5038 (71.7%) | 4853(69.1%)  | 1204(17.13%) |
| <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> | 788                | 0(0%)        | 0(0%)        | 0(0%)        |
| Total                           | 174,879            | 87,635       | 38,693       | 6,592        |

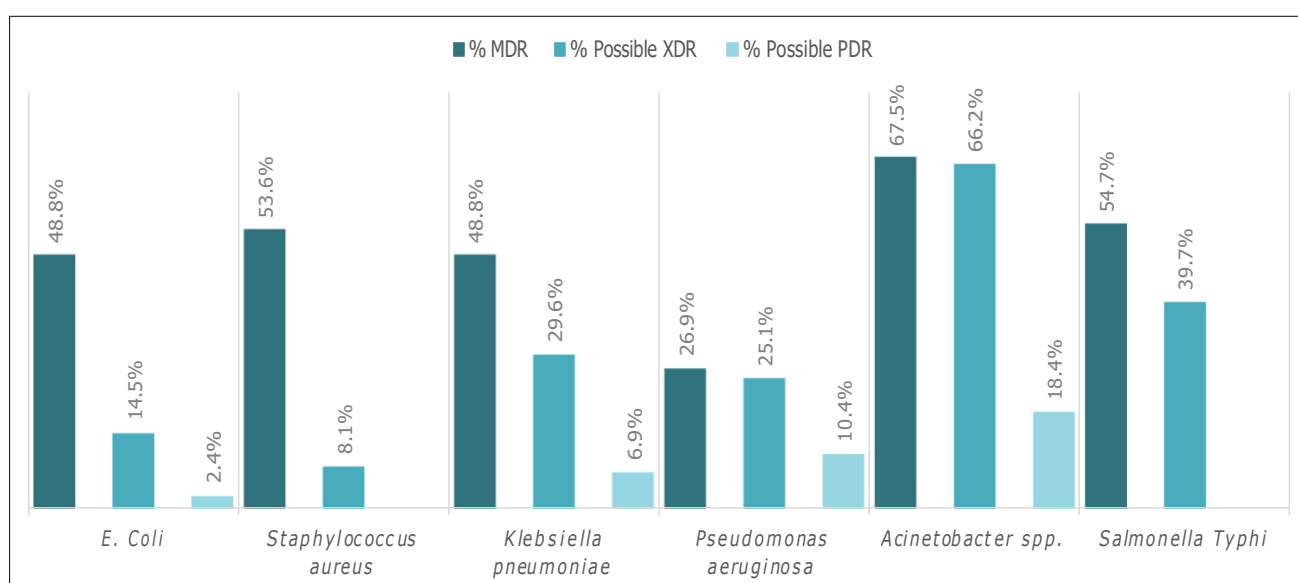


Figure 4.28: MDR, XDR &amp; PDR summary, 2022

## 5. Limitations and challenges:

1. Inconsistencies in data sharing formats and incomplete data across various sentinel sites pose significant challenges. Furthermore, there is a lack of standardized methods for testing certain antibiotics, particularly those requiring MIC testing for antimicrobial susceptibility.
2. Timely reporting of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) data is hindered by delays in submission to the National Coordination Centre (NCC), leading to further delays in data compilation and analysis for the national AMR report.
3. Currently, only isolate-based surveillance data is available, providing information solely on laboratory-confirmed infections caused by specified target pathogens. However, this approach limits the ability to conduct sample-based or population-based analysis of the AMR burden, as it excludes data on the broader population with suspected infections from whom clinical specimens are not available.
4. Additionally, crucial demographic parameters such as location type and specialty/department are frequently missing from the data, precluding their inclusion in the data analysis process.
5. Use of digital platform for data collection and analysis for timely reporting and ensuring data quality

## 6. Conclusion:

- ▶ The National AMR Surveillance Report highlights the ongoing efforts and achievements of the surveillance system in estimating the burden of AMR in Pakistan. Through effective data collection, analysis, and dissemination, the system has played a crucial role in informing evidence-based decision-making, raising awareness, and implementing interventions to combat AMR. By continuing to strengthen the pillars of the surveillance system and implementing the recommended strategies, Pakistan can further enhance its capacity to tackle the growing threat of AMR and safeguard public health.
- ▶ Furthermore, it is imperative to emphasize the importance of continued political commitment and sustained financial investment in AMR surveillance. Adequate resources should be allocated to support the expansion and maintenance of the surveillance system, including the establishment of additional sentinel sites, procurement of advanced laboratory equipment, and recruitment of skilled personnel.
- ▶ Sharing data, best practices, and lessons learned can contribute to a comprehensive understanding of AMR at both national and international levels and enable the development of coordinated strategies to combat this global health threat.
- ▶ Regular evaluation and monitoring of the surveillance system's performance are essential to ensure its effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. Conducting periodic assessments, engaging in external audits, and seeking feedback from stakeholders can provide valuable insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the system, allowing for timely adjustments and enhancements.
- ▶ In conclusion, the National AMR Surveillance Report underscores the significance of the AMR Surveillance System in Pakistan and its contributions to estimating the burden of AMR, informing decision-making, and implementing interventions. By implementing the recommended measures and prioritizing sustained investment, collaboration, and quality improvement, Pakistan can strengthen its ability to combat AMR effectively and safeguard the effectiveness of antimicrobial agents for future generations.

## 7. Recommendations:

### 7.1 Recommendations on the surveillance system:

1. Efforts should be directed towards enhancing the representativeness of the data. Currently, there is no differentiation between hospital and community-acquired infections. Data appears to be collected based on the dates of patient admission and specimen collection. Therefore, it should be feasible to distinguish between infections occurring within 48 hours of admission – serving as a proxy for community-acquired cases – and those occurring after 48 hours, which are likely to be healthcare-associated. Without this distinction, especially if a majority of specimens come from ICU or patients with treatment failure, the system is significantly biased and may only be applicable for informing treatment decisions within this specific population, rather than guiding broader guidelines.
2. Concurrently with supporting the laboratory, efforts should be directed towards diagnostic stewardship to ensure appropriate investigation of patients in accordance with clinical needs.
3. The data on urine clearly indicates very high resistance to most drugs except nitrofurantoin and fosfomycin. Nitrofurantoin, listed as the drug of choice in the WHO Antibiotic book, is cheap and falls under the Access category. This gives a very clear indication of the need to widely roll out this guidance and ensure access to effective first-line therapies.

### 7.2 Recommendations on policy guidance:

1. The levels of resistance for many pathogens, such as *Acinetobacter baumannii*, are very alarming, highlighting the absolute imperative to strengthen infection control measures and control of multi-drug-resistant organisms in hospitals. It appears that most infections being transmitted are highly resistant and extremely difficult and costly to treat.
2. The high levels of resistance are being driven by inappropriate use of antibiotics at all levels of the health system. Given the very high levels of resistance, for example, to third-generation cephalosporins, their indiscriminate use is a waste of money in most instances, as well as contributing to the problem.
3. Approximately 50% of the specimens in the system are urine samples. Given resource constraints, prioritizing blood cultures would be more prudent, with intermittent urine sampling to monitor any significant changes in susceptibility patterns.
4. Although there is limited information on *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, it will still be a high-burden pathogen in respiratory infections, and it is encouraging that the data indicates good susceptibility to amoxicillin, the first-line treatment. It is reassuring guidance to clinicians that amoxicillin is still the treatment of choice.

## 8. Annexures:

### Annex I: GLASS Target pathogens and specimen types

| Target pathogens                       | Blood | CSF | Urine | Stool | Lower respiratory tract | Urethral, cervical, rectal, pharyngeal swabs |
|--|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Acinetobacter spp.</i>              | ●     | ○   |       |       | ●                       |  |
| <i>Escherichia coli</i>                | ●     | ○   | ●     |       | ○                       |  |
| <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>           | ●     | ○   | ●     |       | ●                       |  |
| <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>          | ●     | ○   |       |       | ●                       |  |
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>           | ●     | ○   |       |       | ●                       |  |
| <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>        | ●     | ●   |       |       | ●                       |  |
| <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>          | ●     | ●   |       |       |                         |  |
| <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>          | ○     | ●   |       |       | ●                       |  |
| <i>Salmonella spp. (non-typhoidal)</i> | ●     | ○   | ●     |       |                         |  |
| <i>S. enterica serovar Typhi</i>       | ●     |     | ○     |       |                         |  |
| <i>S. enterica serovar Paratyphi A</i> | ●     |     |       |       |                         |  |
| <i>Shigella spp.</i>                   |       |     |       |       |                         |  |
| <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>           |       |     |       |       |                         | ●  |

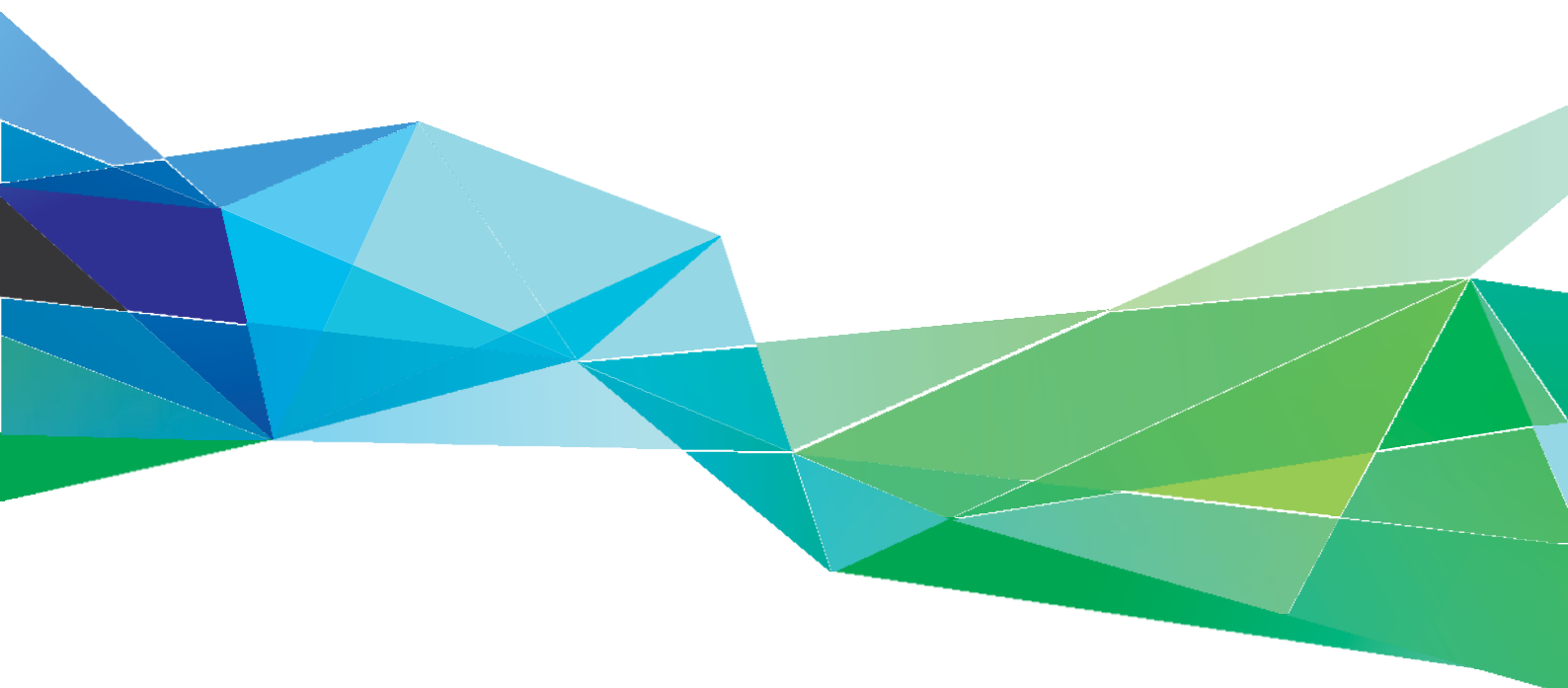


## Annex II: List of Surveillance Sites contributed in year 2021

| Sr. # | Province/<br>Region            | Name of sentinel site   | Type of<br>sentinel site | Ownership      |
|-------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1     | Azad and Jammu<br>Kashmir      | Abbas Institute of Medical Science, Muzaffarabad                                  | Hospital                 | Public Sector  |
| 2     | Baluchistan                    | Bolan Medical Complex, Quetta   | Hospital                 | Public Sector  |
| 3     | Islamabad<br>Capital Territory | Excel Laboratories (>120 collection centers<br>across)                            | Clinical<br>Laboratory   | Private Sector |
| 4     |                                | Islamabad Diagnostic Center Laboratories (> 110<br>collection centers across)     | Clinical<br>Laboratory   | Private Sector |
| 5     |                                | Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS)                                     | Hospital                 | Public Sector  |
| 6     |                                | Quaid e Azam International Hospital, Islamabad                                    | Hospital                 | Private Sector |
| 7     |                                | Shifa International Hospital Islamabad  | Hospital                 | Private Sector |
| 8     | Khyber<br>Pakhtunkhwa          | Peshawar Medical College, Peshawar  | Hospital                 | Private Sector |
| 9     |                                | Rehman Medical Complex, Peshawar  | Hospital                 | Private Sector |
| 10    | Punjab                         | Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore  | Hospital                 | Public Sector  |
| 11    |                                | Chughtai Laboratories, Lahore (> 300 collection<br>centers across country)        | Clinical<br>Laboratory   | Private Sector |
| 12    |                                | Mayo Hospital, Lahore   | Hospital                 | Public Sector  |
| 13    |                                | Shaukat Khanum Hospital, Lahore (>109 collec-<br>tion centers across country)     | Hospital                 | Private Sector |
| 14    |                                | Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Lahore   | Hospital                 | Public Sector  |
| 15    | Sindh                          | Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi (>240<br>collection centers across country) | Hospital                 | Private Sector |
| 16    |                                | Dr. Ruth K. M. Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi  | Hospital                 | Public Sector  |
| 17    |                                | Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Center, Karachi                                      | Hospital                 | Public Sector  |
| 18    |                                | Reliance Laboratories Karachi   | Clinical<br>Laboratory   | Private Sector |
| 19    |                                | PNS Shifa Hospital, Karachi   | Hospital                 | Public Sector  |

## Annex III: List of Surveillance Sites contributed in year 2022

| Sr. # | Province/<br>Region   | Name of sentinel site   | Type of<br>sentinel site  | Ownership      |
|-------|---|---|---|----------------|
| 1     | Azad and Jammu<br>Kashmir   | Abbas Institute of Medical Science, Muzaffarabad                              | Hospital  | Public Sector  |
| 2     | Baluchistan   | Bolan Medical Complex, Quetta   | Hospital  | Public Sector  |
| 3     | Gilgit Baltistan  | Provincial Headquarter hospital, Gilgit                                       | Hospital  | Public Sector  |
| 4     | Islamabad<br>Capital Territory                                    | Excel Laboratories (>120 collection centers<br>across)                        | Clinical<br>Laboratory  | Private Sector |
| 5     |   | Islamabad Diagnostic Center Laboratories (> 110<br>collection centers across) | Clinical<br>Laboratory  | Private Sector |
| 6     |   | Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS)                                 | Hospital  | Public Sector  |
| 7     |   | Quaid e Azam International Hospital, Islamabad                                | Hospital  | Private Sector |
| 8     |   | Shifa International Hospital Islamabad  | Hospital  | Private Sector |
| 9     |   | Khyber<br>Pakhtunkhwa   | Peshawar Medical College, Peshawar  | Hospital       |
| 10    | Rehman Medical Complex, Peshawar                                  |   | Hospital  | Private Sector |
| 11    | Khyber Teaching Hospital, Peshawar                                |   | Hospital  | Private Sector |
| 12    | Hayatabad Medical Complex, Peshawar                               |   | Hospital  | Private Sector |
| 13    | Saidu Group of Teaching hospitals, Swat                           |   | Hospital  | Private Sector |
| 14    | Punjab  | Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore  | Hospital  | Public Sector  |
| 15    |   | Chughtai Laboratories, Lahore (> 300 collection<br>centers across country)    | Clinical<br>Laboratory  | Private Sector |
| 16    |   | Mayo Hospital, Lahore   | Hospital  | Public Sector  |
| 17    |   | Shaukat Khanum Hospital, Lahore (>109 collec-<br>tion centers across country) | Hospital  | Private Sector |
| 18    |   | Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Lahore   | Hospital  | Public Sector  |
| 19    |   | Sindh   | Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi (>240<br>collection centers across country) | Hospital       |
| 20    | Dr. Ruth K. M. Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi                        |   | Hospital  | Public Sector  |
| 21    | Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Center, Karachi                      |   | Hospital  | Public Sector  |
| 22    | Reliance Laboratories Karachi                                     |   | Clinical<br>Laboratory  | Private Sector |
| 23    | Dow University of Health Sciences Karachi                         |   | Hospital  | Private Sector |
| 24    | Liaquat National Hospital Karachi                                 |   | Hospital  | Private Sector |
| 25    | Indus Hospital and Health Network Karachi                         |   | Hospital  | Private Sector |
| 26    | Liaquat University of Medical and Health Scienc-<br>es, Hyderabad |   | Hospital  | Private Sector |



National Institutes of Health (NIH)  
MoNHSR&C Pakistan

Park Road, Chak Shahzad,  
Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel. +92 (51) 9255099  
[www.nih.org.pk](http://www.nih.org.pk)

Contact Us  
[info@nih.org.pk](mailto:info@nih.org.pk)