



## **One Health: Collaborative approach aims to protect health of humans, animals, environment**

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Food and Drug Administration

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The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is using a collaborative approach called One Health to address complex health challenges, including those affecting children, such as the rising incidence of zoonoses and infectious diseases, environmental threats to food safety and antimicrobial resistance.

One Health emphasizes the need for various disciplines and sectors to come together to promote human, animal and environmental health, recognizing that the health of children and adults is tied closely to the health of animals and our shared environment.

### **Reducing childhood exposure to environmental contaminants**

The FDA appreciates the unique vulnerability of children to the harmful effects of environmental contaminants. Using the One Health approach, it has made progress in reducing arsenic, lead, cadmium and mercury in foods commonly eaten by infants and young children through the Closer to Zero program. For example, the FDA works with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to encourage adoption of agricultural and processing practices by industry to lower the levels of contaminants in agricultural commodities.

## Preventing and monitoring antimicrobial resistance

More than 2.8 million antimicrobial-resistant infections occur in the U.S. each year, and more than 35,000 people, including children, die as a result, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <https://bit.ly/3VFLBuN>.

The FDA takes a One Health approach to addressing antimicrobial resistance by supporting the development and enhancement of tools that the agency and its partners can use to track, treat or respond to antimicrobial-resistant bacterial outbreaks.

For example, the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) tracks changes in the antimicrobial resistance of enteric bacteria found in retail meats (FDA), ill people (CDC) and food animals (USDA). NARMS then provides information about emerging bacterial resistance, how resistant infections differ from susceptible infections and the impact of interventions designed to limit the spread of resistance.

The FDA will continue collaborating with partners across disciplines and sectors to promote the health of humans, animals and the environment using science, technology and innovation.

*The FDA's Office of Pediatric Therapeutics, Center for Veterinary Medicine and Office of New Drug's Division of Pediatrics and Maternal Health contributed to this article.*

### Resources

- [One Health](#)
- [Closer to Zero](#)
- [Information on antimicrobial resistance from the FDA](#)