


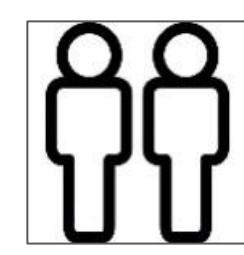
Antimicrobial Use in Belgian Acute Care Hospitals: Results of the 2022 ECDC Point Prevalence Survey

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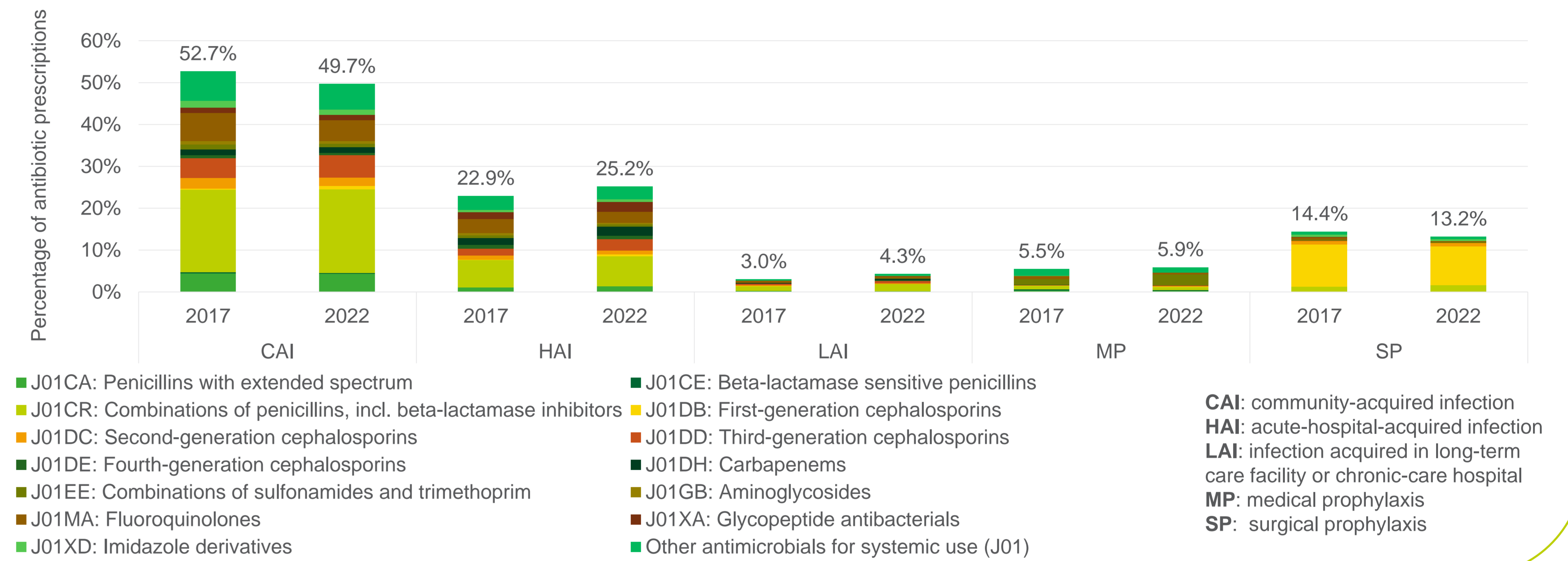
The third European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) point prevalence survey (PPS) of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use (AU) was performed in Belgian acute care hospitals between September and November 2022. This study aims to compare the AU prevalence between 2017 and 2022 PPS.

 Random selection of participating acute care hospitals
2017: 47 hospital sites accounting for 33 hospital groups: **Countrywide participation = 32.4%**
2022: 56 hospital sites accounting for 35 hospital groups: **Countrywide participation = 34.3%**

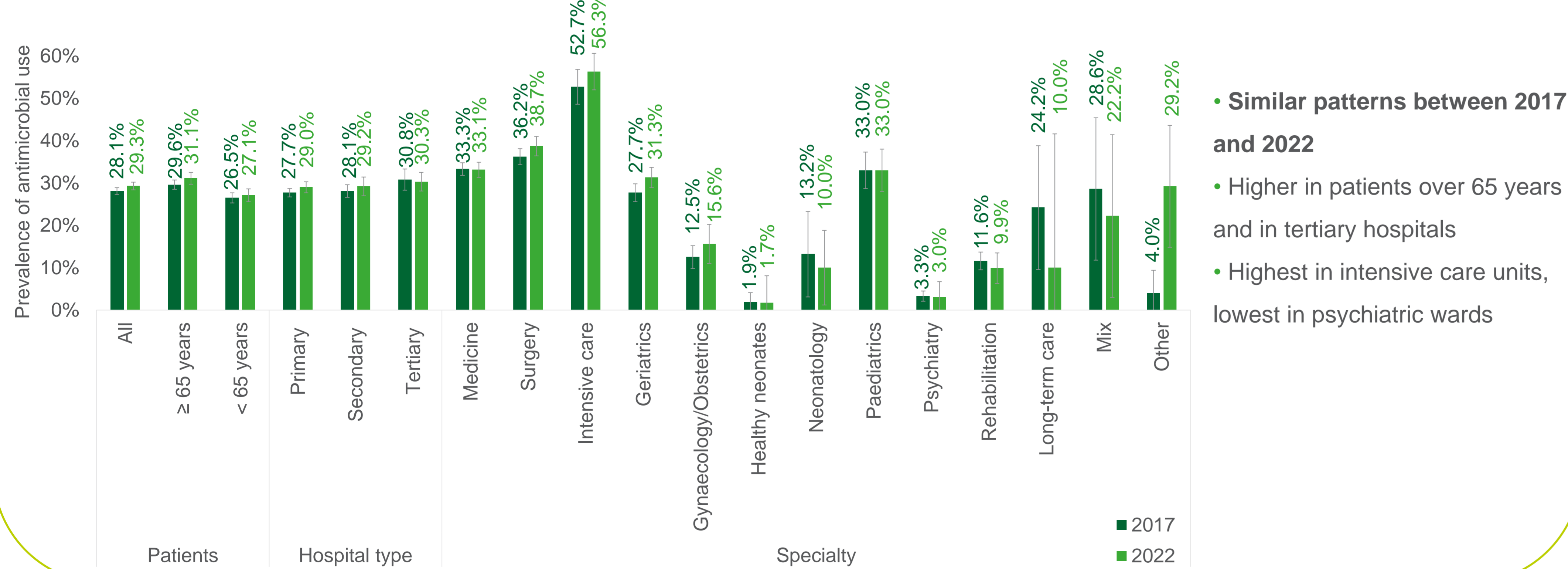
 All patients present on the wards at 8 a.m. on the day of the PPS were included.
A total of 11,800 and 10,142 patients were included in 2017 and 2022 respectively.

 Standardised methodology: ECDC PPS protocol version 5.3 (2017) and 6.0 (2022)

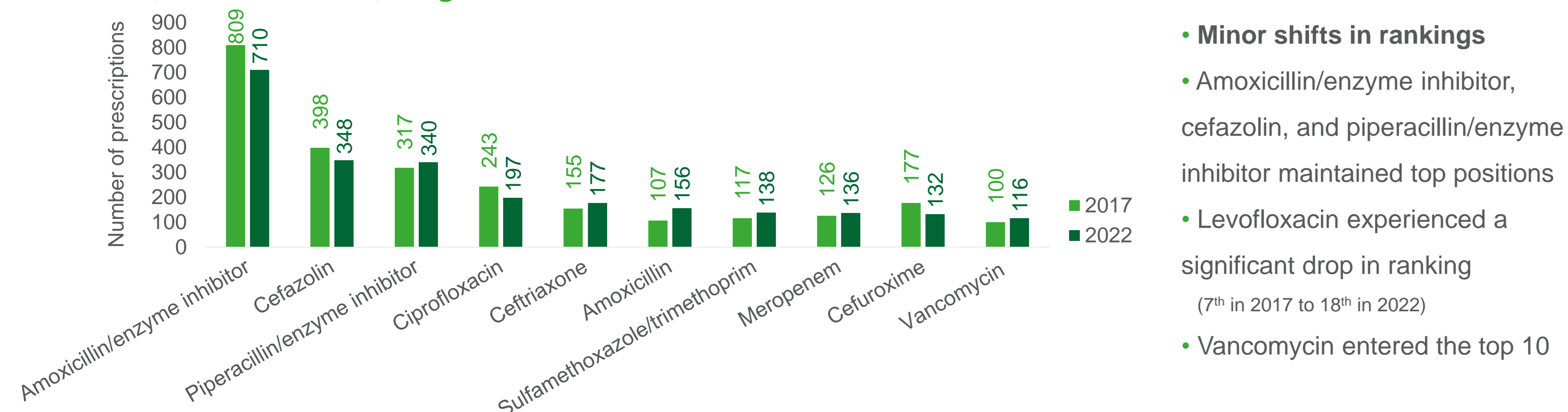
Percentage of antibiotic (J01) prescriptions per antibiotic subclass (ATC level 4) and per indication, ECDC PPS 2017 and 2022, Belgium



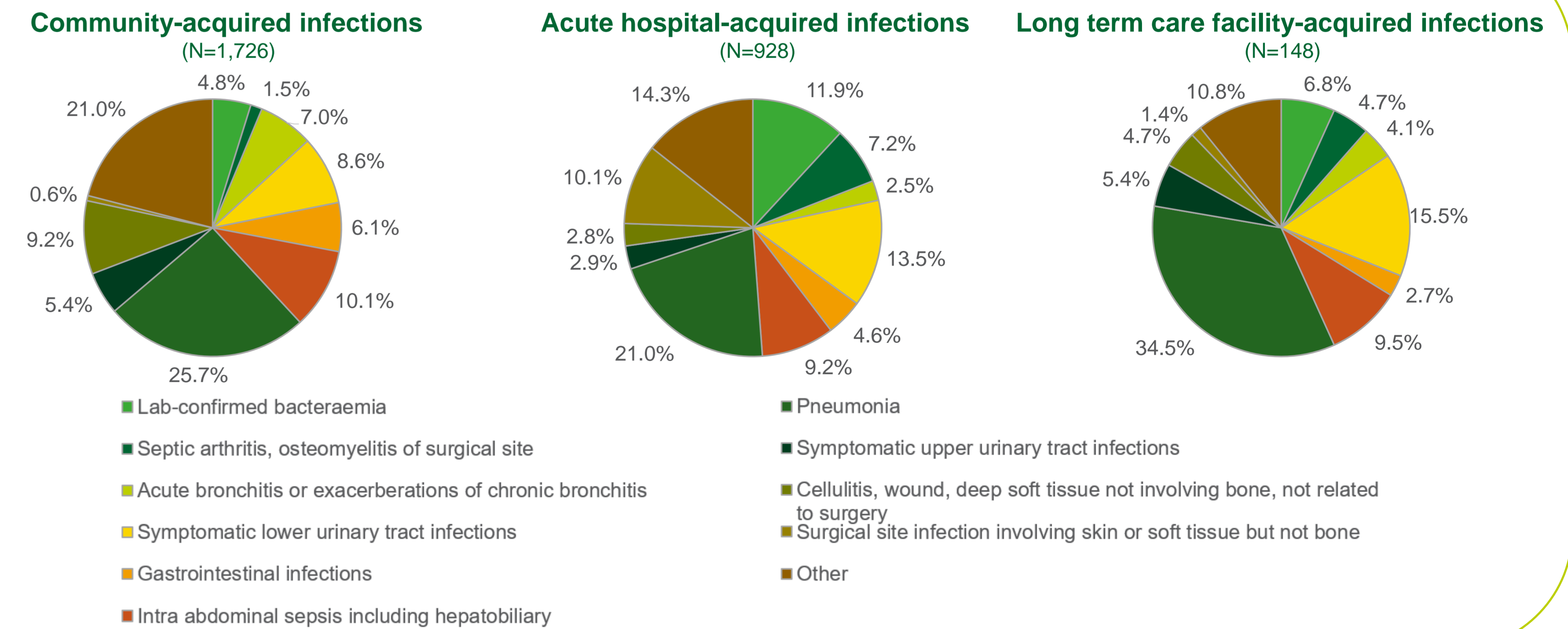
Crude prevalence of patients with at least one antimicrobial by age, hospital type and patient specialty, ECDC PPS, 2017 and 2022, Belgium



Top 10 of the most commonly prescribed antimicrobials showing the number of prescriptions, ECDC PPS, 2017 and 2022, Belgium



Distribution of the reported diagnoses for total antimicrobial use per indication, ECDC PPS 2022, Belgium



The 2022 PPS reveals an increased AU prevalence (+1.2%) in Belgian acute care hospitals, especially in patients over 65 years of age (+1.5%). The top three most used antimicrobial agents consisted of amoxicillin in combination with a beta-lactamase inhibitor (J01CR02, 20.0%), cefazolin (J01DB04, 9.8%) and piperacillin in combination with a beta-lactamase inhibitor (J01CR05, 9.6%). The most frequently reported diagnoses for medical antimicrobial treatment (CAI, HAI, LAI) were pneumonia (25.7%) and urinary tract infections (17.1%). Future investigations are crucial to delve into prescription attitudes and modifiable practices, emphasizing the urgent need for robust antimicrobial stewardship programs in these healthcare settings.