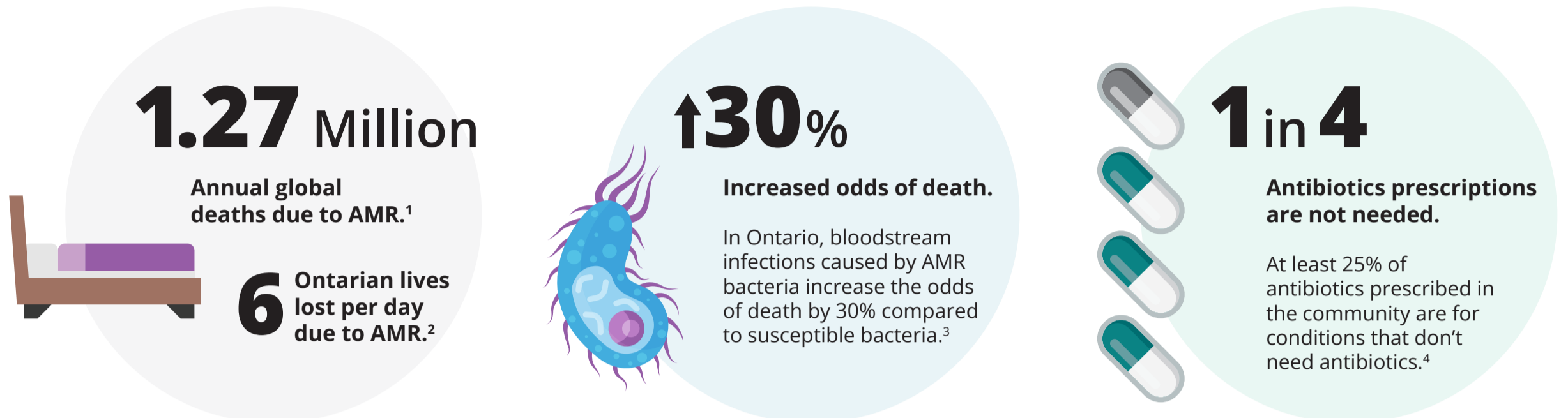


# Public Health can Help Reduce Antibiotic Prescribing Variability and Support Antimicrobial Stewardship

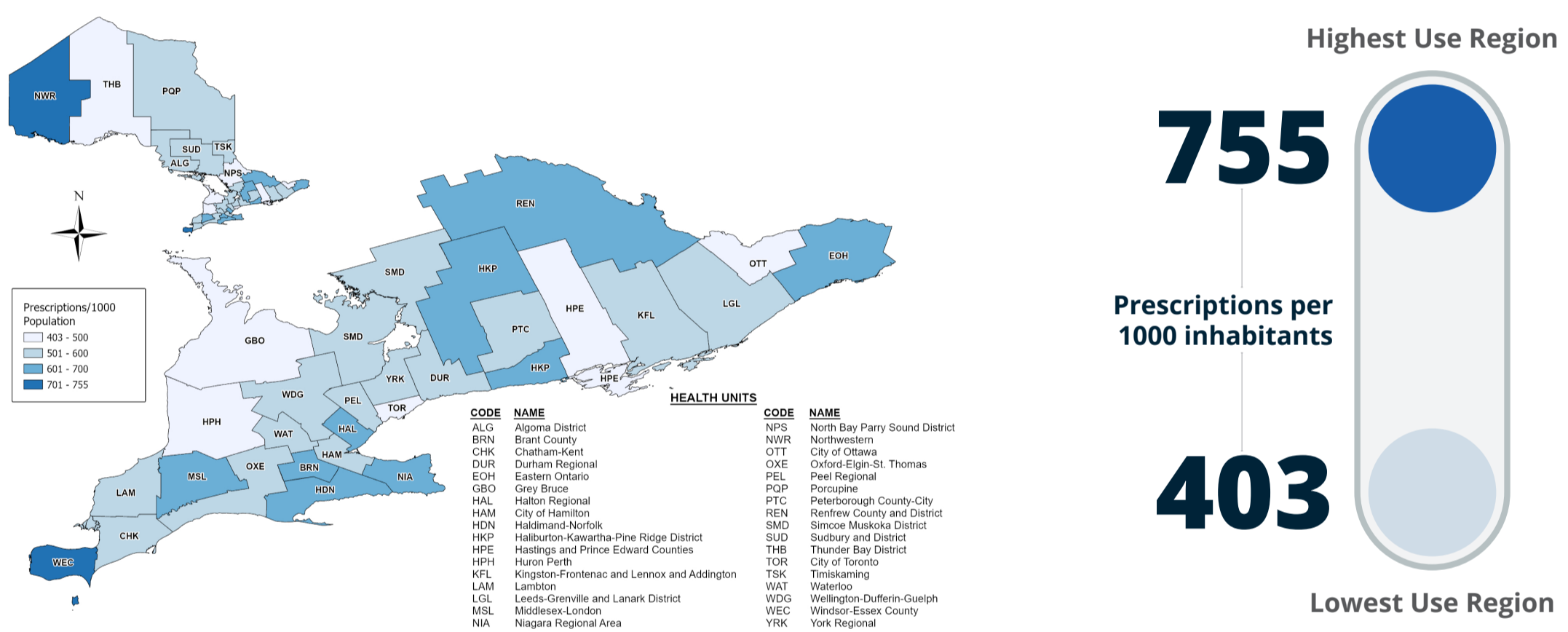
## Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a Threat to Public Health

AMR is undermining modern medicine as infections become more difficult to treat. The effectiveness of antibiotics to prevent infections is also reduced, making routine surgery and cancer therapy more risky. Overuse of antibiotics is contributing to rising antimicrobial resistance. Since many antibiotic prescriptions are unnecessary, AMR is a problem we can all help to address.



## Variability in Antibiotic Use Indicates Need for Stewardship

In 2022, there was wide variability in antibiotic use across public health units - ranging from as low as 403 to as high as 755 prescriptions per 1000 inhabitants per year. This suggests unnecessary prescribing may vary regionally. To reduce variability and prevent antibiotic resistance a joint effort is needed from public health practitioners, policy makers, prescribers, and the public.



For more information on this map, check out the [At A Glance](#)

## Public Health Can Support Antimicrobial Stewardship

To reduce variability, improve appropriateness, and prevent antibiotic resistance a joint effort is needed from public health practitioners, policy makers, prescribers, and the public. Antimicrobial stewardship is everyone's responsibility.

### How Can You Help?



#### Be a stewardship champion

Communicate to prescribers and patients about appropriate prescribing for upper respiratory tract infections. Antibiotics should be avoided for infections caused primarily by viruses like bronchitis, cold, and influenza-like illnesses.



#### Encourage awareness

During World AMR Awareness Week (November 18-24), share information about appropriate antimicrobial use as a way to protect the public and those around them from antimicrobial resistance.



#### Reach out

Share ideas, questions, and success stories! Contact Public Health Ontario's Antimicrobial Resistance and Stewardship Team at [ASP@oahpp.ca](mailto:ASP@oahpp.ca).

### Key Resources

**Choosing Wisely Canada** include practice change recommendations for respiratory tract infections in primary care.

**AntimicrobialAwareness.ca** includes information for health care providers and the public on how to fight antimicrobial resistance.

**Public Health Ontario** provides tools and resources for antimicrobial stewardship in all healthcare settings.

For more information, visit [publichealthontario.ca](http://publichealthontario.ca)

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