

FDA Notes & News

FDA Releases National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) Strategic Plan for 2026 - 2030



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) remains one of the top national and global threats to public health. According to the CDC's Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2019 Report, more than 2.8 million antimicrobial-resistant infections occur each year and more than 35,000 people die as a result.

As part of the national strategy to combat AMR, the U.S. National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) was established in 1996 as a collaboration of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and state and local health departments to track AMR in enteric bacteria from humans, meats, and food-producing animals using an integrated One Health approach.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the NARMS program. Since its inception in 1996, NARMS has evolved from antibiotic susceptibility testing of human *Salmonella* isolates to a modern One Health integrated surveillance system utilizing whole genome sequencing. Today, NARMS equips stakeholders, partners, the scientific community, and the public with critical data and insights that drive coordinated action against antimicrobial resistance worldwide. As we close out the 2021–2025 NARMS Strategic Plan, we provide a summary of NARMS accomplishments at the end of this document.

In preparation for this strategic plan, a public call for input was made to solicit recommendations on the strategic direction of the program. The resulting 2026-2030 Strategic Plan reflects the collective insights of diverse stakeholders, federal priorities, and over 30 years of NARMS expertise. The new strategic plan is anchored in three themes:

- 1) **Strengthening Core Surveillance:** Reinforcing our commitment to rigorous, science based monitoring of antimicrobial resistance trends;
- 2) **Expanding Collaborative Networks:** Deepening partnerships across public, private, and academic sectors to drive unified action;
- 3) **Embracing Innovation:** Actively exploring and integrating emerging technologies to stay ahead of evolving threats. Together, these focus areas will help NARMS to accomplish its mission to protect public health.

To accomplish its mission, NARMS currently conducts the following activities:

Monitors trends in antimicrobial resistance among enteric bacteria from humans, retail meats, animals at the time of slaughter, and other sources;

Disseminates timely information on resistance in pathogenic and commensal microorganisms to stakeholders in the United States and abroad to promote interventions that reduce AMR among foodborne bacteria;

Conducts in depth analyses and promotes extramural collaboration to better understand the emergence, persistence, and spread of AMR;

Contributes timely AMR data for outbreak investigations; and

Provides data to assist the FDA in making decisions to ensure the availability of safe and effective antimicrobial drugs.