

Speaking with: Dr Mark Blaskovich on antibiotic-resistant bacteria and the threat of superbugs

Written by William Isdale, Research Assistant, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne

Since the discovery of antibiotics in the mid-20th century, millions of lives have been saved from bacterial infections. But the over-prescription of these drugs has led to some types of bacteria becoming resistant to treatment.

It's [estimated](#) at least two million people are infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the United States each year. These "superbugs" can spread rapidly and stopping them is increasingly challenging as new antibiotics need to be developed to treat them.

William Isdale spoke to Dr Mark Blaskovich about the the overuse of antibiotics and the risks superbugs pose to communities.

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William Isdale does not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organization that would benefit from this article, and has disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond the academic appointment above.

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