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The rise of carbapenem resistance in Europe: just the tip of the iceberg?

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The European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net) collects data on carbapenem resistance from invasive bacterial infections. Increasing percentages of carbapenem resistance in *K. pneumoniae* isolates were reported from progressively more countries in Europe between 2005 and 2010. A trend analysis showed increasing trends for Greece, Cyprus, Hungary and Italy ($p < 0.01$).

EARS-Net collects data on invasive bacterial isolates, which likely correspond to a fraction of the total number of infections. Increasing reports of community cases suggest that dissemination of carbapenem-resistant *K. pneumoniae* has penetrated into the community. Good surveillance and infection control measures are urgently needed to contain this spread.