

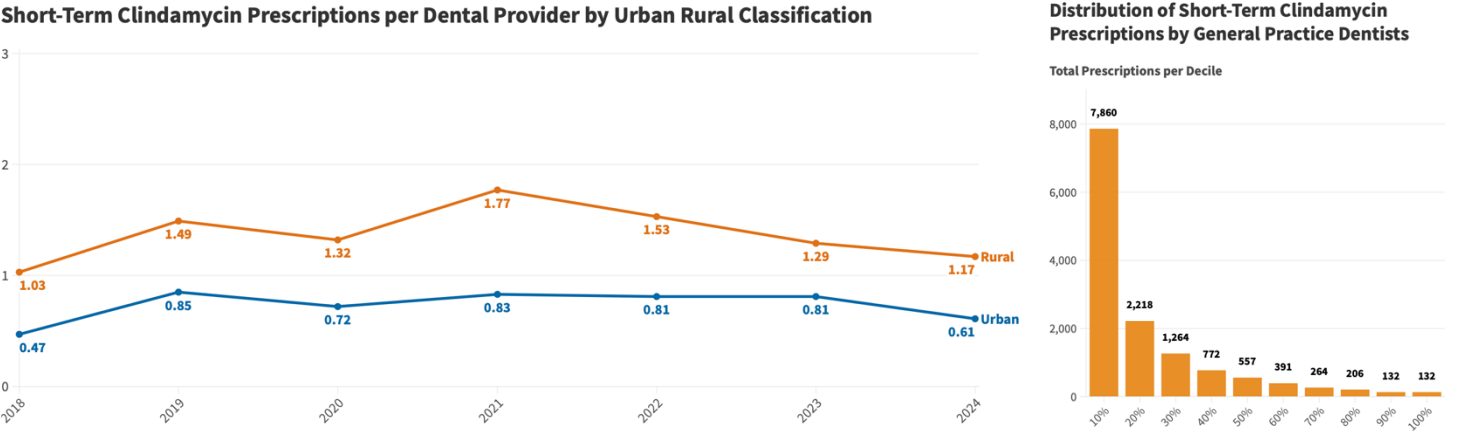
# DENTAL ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP

2018-2024

Antibiotic stewardship is the practice of ensuring appropriate use of antibiotics to reduce adverse effects, minimize resistance, and preserve effectiveness. According to recent guidelines from Georgia Department of Public Health, clindamycin is not recommended for prophylaxis.<sup>1</sup> Clindamycin use is a well-known risk factor for *Clostridioides difficile* infection, a serious bacterial infection that can cause diarrhea and life-threatening complications.

## DENTAL PROVIDERS’ USE OF SHORT-TERM CLINDAMYCIN

Short-term clindamycin is still being prescribed by dental providers throughout Georgia, with an average rate of 0.66 prescriptions per provider in 2024. Rural areas saw higher rates, 1.17, than urban areas, 0.61, although the gap is closing.<sup>2</sup>

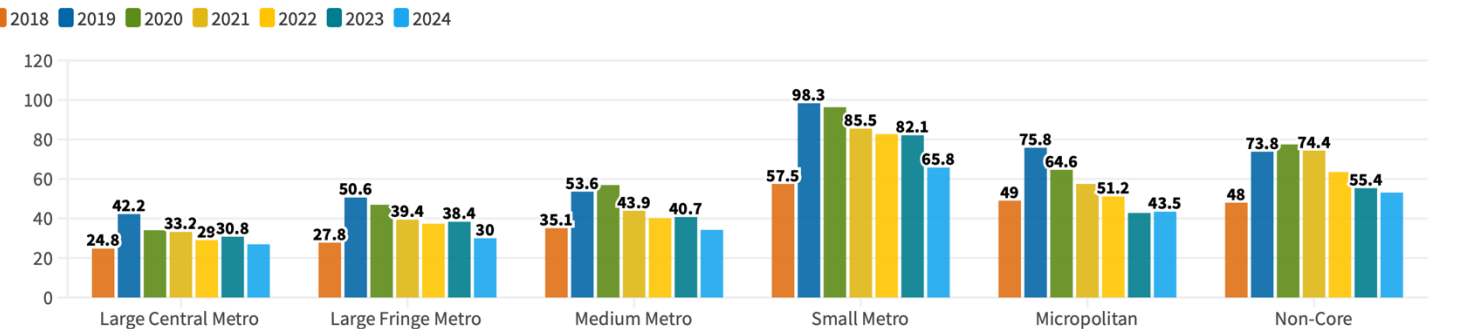


## PATIENT-LEVEL PERSPECTIVES

A provider's licensed practice location alone may not fully capture prescribing behavior or where care is being delivered. Often, a patient's geographical location and demographics can, in turn, reveal important prescribing patterns. Analyzing this data helps us understand how different patient populations are being treated.

The top 10% of Dental Providers who prescribed clindamycin after a preventative dental claim accounted for about 57% of all clindamycin prescriptions in the GA APCD from 2018 to 2024.

### Short-Term Dental Clindamycin Rates per 100,000 by Urban Rural Classification

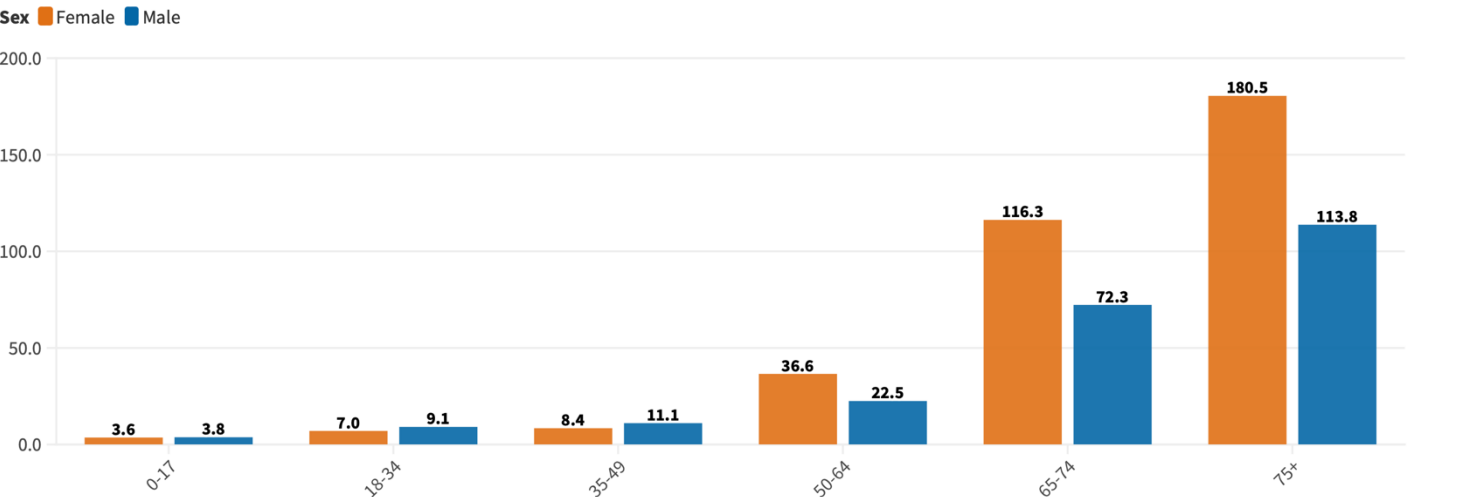


Patients in small metro and rural areas saw higher rates of short-term clindamycin prescriptions than more urban areas.

## DEMOGRAPHIC INSIGHTS

Data from the Georgia APCD indicates that **women older than 75 were much more likely to be prescribed short-term clindamycin by dental providers than any other demographic.** Overall, short-term clindamycin prescriptions are trending downward but targeted outreach may help reinforce best practices and reduce unnecessary prescribing.

### Short-Term Dental Clindamycin Rates per 100,000 by Age and Sex in 2024



## REFERENCES

- Antibiotic Stewardship. Georgia Department of Public Health. Accessed June 30, 2025. <https://dph.georgia.gov/epidemiology/healthcare-associated-infections/antibiotic-stewardship>
- Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics. March 11, 2025. Accessed June 30, 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-analysis-tools/urban-rural.html>