

# Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians on the Continuing Amoxicillin Shortage

Online Survey Results  
February 9, 2023

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# Methodology

The survey was fielded February 2–9, 2023.

Email invitations were sent from Jackson Pharmacy Professionals to more than 50,000 pharmacists and pharmacy techs.

Total responses: 522

To qualify for the survey, pharmacists and pharmacy techs must have worked in their profession within the last 45 days.

Respondents work in 39 states

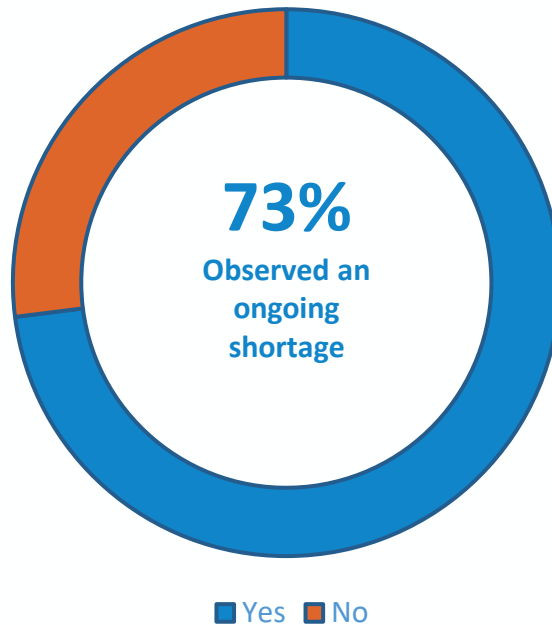
- 45% in the South
- 20% in the Midwest
- 12% in the North
- 10% in the West
- 13% Unknown

At the 95% confidence level, these results have an error range of +/- 3.8%.

# Amoxicillin Shortage Persists in January and February 2023

- The United States amoxicillin shortage was widely publicized in November and December of 2022.
- According to this survey, the shortage persists with 73% of respondents personally observing a shortage in their workplace in the last 45 days.

Have you personally observed an amoxicillin shortage where you work in the last 45 days?

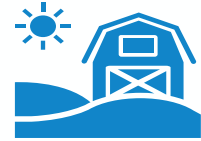


## Shortage More Pronounced in Rural Areas

While the majority of pharmacists and pharmacy techs in all geographic areas observed a shortage of amoxicillin in the last 45 days, the observed shortage was more pronounced in rural areas than in urban or suburban communities.



70%



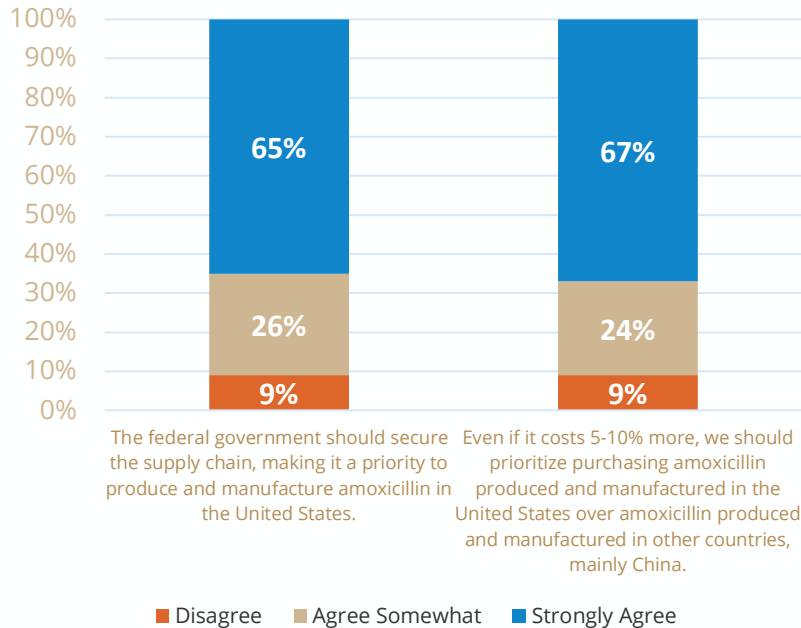
87%



68%

# Secure the Supply Chain and Manufacture Amoxicillin in the U.S.

Nine in ten surveyed pharmacists and pharmacy techs agree (two-thirds strongly agree) that the federal government should secure the supply chain, and that we should prioritize amoxicillin manufactured and produced in the United States, even if it costs 5-10% more.



## Respondents were passionate about this topic:

- “Any antibiotic that is that important should have at least a partial U.S. source.”
- “This country really needs to put more attention on securing healthcare needs for our citizens. Without the ability to acquire even the most basic of medications, how can patients have security in knowing we can help them with more complicated issues.”
- “Amoxicillin is not the only issue. We as a country need to prioritize returning medication production back to this country.”
- “As a pharmacy manager, my store was out of amoxil for months with minimum order been received between now and then. It is a disgrace to live in the greatest country in the world and out of necessary meds.”
- “Not just amox, every other thing is in short supply. We need production in America, period. We cannot be relying on other countries, even for basic Tylenol and amox.”

# In Respondents' Own Words

We asked pharmacist and pharmacy tech respondents for their own personal observations on the shortage. Some of the themes we observed are outlined below.

**The shortage led to a domino effect of other shortages, as prescribers sought alternative treatments.**

“It is absurd 100% of amoxicillin has been manufactured outside of the United States. As Americans we need to prioritize our businesses and make amoxicillin readily available. Our citizens are suffering. Amoxicillin plays a vital role in health care for it's the most commonly used antibiotic. Due to this antibiotic shortage, it has created a chain reaction leading us to shortages on all antibiotics.”

**Concerns about resistance and patient safety, as providers were forced to prescribe broader spectrum antibiotics that were less effective against patients' conditions.**

“By not having the amoxicillin available it forces providers to prescribe broader spectrum antibiotics thus adding to resistance issues and will lead to less antibiotics available to treat patients. The drug shortage problems facing pharmacies continues to be a source of frustration, increased workload, delay in treatment, and increased costs. Patient safety issues arise from having to substitute alternative treatment.”

“We will see resistance. I am only being able to get one bottle 250/5 ml daily. Children are being treated 4-5 days then not coming for the balance when I finally get it. I try to get other Rx prescribed but also having issues with Keflex, etc. This is critical!!”

**The shortage was particularly difficult for sick children and their parents, since suspension products were in shortest supply.**

“Having a mother come in to pick up an amoxicillin suspension 10 minutes before closing from urgent care and being unable to fill the prescription is heart breaking. The urgent care was closed by the time we got to the prescription.”

“The shortage lasted too long. I saw parents desperately looking for amoxicillin, cefdinir, and children's inorganic ibuprofen and Tylenol. They had been from store to store and called stores with no avail. Quite frustrating.”

# Additional Respondents' Quotes

"I find it appalling [that] we as a first world country choose to outsource medications that are necessities to control, sustain and treat American lives."

"It's cheap enough to be produced in the U.S. and even at the higher expense, it's still affordable. Especially suspensions for pediatrics."

"As a busy mom and pharmacist, I understand that your time is precious. For a parent to have a sick child, go to the doctor, finally get to the pharmacy and find out your medicine is unavailable is so frustrating. The back orders on these medications should not be happening in the United States. I believe the government needs to step in and prevent this, even if that means manufacturing these products in the United States at an increased cost, which should be covered by insurance."

"Many workflow delays in changing to an alternative medication. Many children without a much-needed antibiotic. Very sad that the almighty U.S. is at the mercy of outsourced medications for our most vulnerable population."

"It's hard to believe that in the United States of America there is a shortage of anything, especially an antibiotic that is old as the ages and used so frequently for all ages. Even though availability is more important than price, the problem then becomes an insurance reimbursement issue with higher costs. Thank you for looking into this situation."

"Shortages in ABX lead to delays in therapy that have strong potential to cause greater and more expensive care."

"It feels embarrassing when pharmacists can't provide basic medications. Patients became easily upset and frustrated."

"Retail pharmacists are experiencing sad moments every day when we are constantly turning away patients due to this shortage."

