

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

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Key facts

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is the third leading cause of death worldwide, causing 3.23 million deaths in 2019.
- Nearly 90% of COPD deaths in those under 70 years of age occur in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC).
- COPD is the seventh leading cause of poor health worldwide (measured by disability-adjusted life years)
- Tobacco smoking accounts for over 70% of COPD cases in high-income countries. In LMIC tobacco smoking accounts for 30–40% of COPD cases, and household air pollution is a major risk factor.

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Related

- WHO Global health estimates
- NCD country capacity survey
- Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2013.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- WHO package of essential noncommunicable (PEN) disease interventions for primary health care
- WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco