

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.**