

Practice Essentials

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is the third leading cause of death worldwide, causing 3.23 million deaths in 2019. Tobacco smoking accounts for over 70% of COPD cases in high-income countries. In low- and middle-income countries, tobacco smoking accounts for only 30–40% of COPD cases, and household air pollution is a major risk factor.^[1]

Patients typically have symptoms of chronic bronchitis and emphysema, but the classic triad also includes [asthma](#) or a combination of the above (see the image below).