



Respiratory disease in Croatia



INTERNATIONAL
RESPIRATORY
COALITION

The International Respiratory Coalition (IRC) was founded to tackle one of global health's most overlooked challenges: the burden of respiratory disease.

We bring together national coalitions of health professionals, patient advocates and policymakers to develop and implement national respiratory health strategies that address prevention, treatment and care.

The ultimate goal is to reduce respiratory disease-related mortality by a third globally by 2030, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Croatian IRC was established in 2023 and has built collaborations with various patient and primary care organisations. The coalition is currently expanding its membership and strengthening its structure.

The coalition's key priorities include:

- Early detection of lung cancer in smokers
- Improvement of clinical guidelines for COPD, asthma and lung infections
- Prevention of respiratory infections in children and adults
- Improving air quality in larger Croatian cities
- Working to accelerate the renovation of hospitals damaged in the 2020 earthquake to provide better access to respiratory care

Societal economic cost by disease:


Asthma
€176.9 million


COPD
€895 million


Lung cancer
€1.3 billion


Lower respiratory tract infections
€340.7 million


Mesothelioma
€34.4 million


Tuberculosis
€18.8 million


Interstitial lung disease
€19 million


COVID-19
€369.1 million


Pulmonary arterial hypertension
€2 million

6.3
thousand
deaths from
respiratory
diseases

158
thousand
healthy life years
lost to respiratory
diseases

€3.2
billion
societal
economic cost
of respiratory
diseases

656
thousand
people living with
respiratory
diseases