



Respiratory disease in Portugal



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 Portuguese IRC Coalition was established in 2023, with the overarching goal of developing a strategic framework to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of respiratory disorders in Portugal.

Based on analyses of national data, the coalition identified sleep apnoea as a significant national problem requiring immediate attention and chose it as its initial focus area.

It is now developing a project to enhance the response to sleep apnoea, given its prevalence and impact. The strategy will be piloted, evaluated and refined before being scaled up for nationwide implementation.

Societal economic cost by disease:



Asthma
€1 billion



COPD
€2.7 billion



Lung cancer
€2.8 billion



Lower respiratory
tract infections
€2.2 billion



Mesothelioma
€33.4 million



Tuberculosis
€109.4 million



Interstitial lung
disease
€369.9 million



COVID-19
€992.4 million



Pulmonary arterial
hypertension
€23.2 million

21
thousand
deaths from
respiratory
diseases

405
thousand
healthy life years
lost to respiratory
diseases

€10.3
billion
societal
economic cost
of respiratory
diseases

2
million
people living with
respiratory
diseases