

Respiratory disease in Spain



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 Spanish Respiratory Coalition joined the IRC in 2024. It is continuing to build its membership, and developing its national projects, aligned with Spain's Public Health Strategy 2022. Priorities include the prevention of disease by tackling behavioural and socio-environmental risk factors, notably those contributing to lung cancer and chronic respiratory conditions such as COPD.

A key focus of the coalition's work is the social determinants of health, exploring how social and environmental factors shape respiratory outcomes. The coalition also prioritises regional inequalities in healthcare access, underuse of spirometry in primary care, and stronger engagement with environmental and urban planning.

8.6
million

people living with
respiratory
diseases

Societal economic cost by disease:



Asthma

€5.1 billion



COPD

€12.9 billion



Lung cancer

€17.4 billion



Lower respiratory
tract infections

€4.5 billion



Mesothelioma

€304.1 million



Tuberculosis

€198.1 million



Interstitial lung
disease

€2.4 billion



COVID-19

€6.6 billion



Pulmonary arterial
hypertension

€125.1 million

78

thousand

deaths from
respiratory
diseases

1.6

million

healthy life years
lost to respiratory
diseases

€49.4
billion

societal
economic cost
of respiratory
diseases

The IRC is made possible with the contributions of various stakeholders: IRC leadership is provided by the European Respiratory Society and European Lung Foundation; Additional stakeholders include: the IRC National Coalitions and the Global Allergy and Airways Patient Platform; Funding support is provided by AstraZeneca, Chiesi Group, GSK, MSD, Sanofi and Regeneron.

Data taken from IRC Lung Facts <https://international-respiratory-coalition.org/lung-facts/>

Published:
September 2026