

Respiratory disease in The Netherlands



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 Lung Alliance Netherlands (LAN) is the federative association in the field of prevention and care of chronic lung diseases in the Netherlands. It joined the IRC in 2023, uniting stakeholders to reduce regional disparities and improve care for people living with chronic lung disease.

In 2026, the LAN adopted a four-year strategic programme with a primary focus on asthma and COPD.

At its centre is the 'Improvement Agenda for Transmural Interdisciplinary Lung Care', a shared reference framework identifying the critical transition points in the patient journey where collaboration between healthcare providers across care settings must improve.

2.9
million

people living with
respiratory
diseases

Societal economic cost by disease:



Asthma

€4.1 billion



COPD

€10.5 billion



Lung cancer

€15.2 billion



Lower respiratory
tract infections

€4.4 billion



Mesothelioma

€625.6
million



Tuberculosis

€76.3 million



Interstitial lung
disease

€1.2 billion



COVID-19

€4.2 billion



Pulmonary arterial
hypertension

€48.1 million

33.8
thousand

deaths from
respiratory
diseases

673

thousand
healthy life years
lost to respiratory
diseases

€40.3
billion

societal
economic cost
of respiratory
diseases

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