



# Chronic respiratory diseases

Credits

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- Overview
- Symptoms
- Treatments


Chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs) affect the airways and other structures of the lungs. Some of the most common are chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, occupational lung diseases and pulmonary hypertension. In addition to tobacco smoke, other risk factors include air pollution, occupational chemicals and dusts, and frequent lower respiratory infections during childhood. CRDs are not curable; however, various forms of treatment that help open the air passages and improve shortness of breath can help control symptoms and improve daily life for people living with these conditions. The WHO Global Alliance against CRDs (GARD) vision is “a world in which all people breathe freely”. GARD focuses on the needs of people with CRDs in low- and middle-income countries.

The aim of the WHO Chronic Respiratory Diseases Programme is to support Member States in their efforts to reduce the toll of morbidity, disability and premature mortality related to chronic respiratory diseases, specifically asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.


- Fact sheets
- Questions and answers
- Initiatives and Groups
- Resolutions and decisions
- Technical work

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**Mr José Luis Castro appointed as WHO Director-General Special Envoy for Chronic Respiratory Diseases**



7 May 2024 | Departmental update  
**World Asthma Day: WHO calls for better education to empower people living with asthma**



15 November 2023 | Departmental update  
**Smoking is the leading cause of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**



2 November 2023 | Departmental update  
**Climate change and noncommunicable diseases: connections**

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Integrated management of NCDs

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