

Acute lower respiratory infections

europeanlung.org/acute-lower-respiratory-infections/

Acute lower respiratory infections include pneumonia (infection of the lung or alveoli), as well as infections affecting the airways such as acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis, influenza and whooping cough. They are a leading cause of illness and death in children and adults across the world. The importance of lower respiratory infections may be underestimated.



Areas for action

- The responsible and prudent use of antibiotics is vitally important to help stop cases of infections that are resistant to antibiotics
- There is a need to develop new or more effective vaccines against lung infections and viruses, involving greater international cooperation
- Innovative strategies against drug-resistant bacteria must be developed



Bronchiolitis is the most **common cause of admission to hospital in the first 12 months of life**



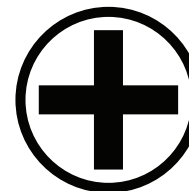
In the EU, about **3,370,000 cases of diagnosed pneumonia** are expected every year



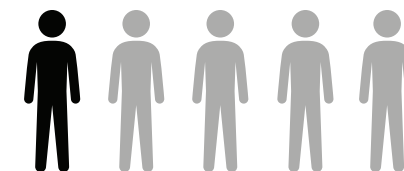
More than **90% of influenza-related deaths** occur in patients in the **older age group**



In Europe, approximately **16,500,000 cases of acute bronchitis** are seen each year



In children, **acute respiratory infections** account for almost **50% of visits to the doctor and hospitalisations**



Influenza viruses can affect up to **20%** of the global population each year