Chronic Lung Disease in Developing Countries.

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Chronic lung disease is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. Prevalence, morbidity and mortality vary across countries and across different groups within countries. Chronic lung disease [COPD] is the result of cumulative exposures over decades. In developing countries ambient, occupational and household air pollution, the latter resulting from biomass fuels for heating and cooking are major risk factors. Approximately 3 billion people worldwide use biomass fuels in poorly ventilated dwellings, so the population at risk worldwide is very large. In this paper we will discuss the economic and social burden of chronic lung disease in developing countries, diagnosis and assessment in developing countries, therapeutic options, management of exacerbations and comorbidities.