

Pneumonia facts and figures

Pneumonia is the leading killer of children under 5 years old.

- In 2011 alone, 1.3 million children died from this preventable and treatable illness, accounting for 18% of child mortality.¹
- In 2008, there were an estimated 203,000 deaths due to *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and 541,000 deaths due to *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (pneumococcus) in children under five.²
- 99% of child pneumonia deaths occur in developing countries.³
- Pneumonia control and other child health interventions must be accelerated to meet Millennium Development Goal 4: Reduce under five mortality by two-thirds by 2015.¹

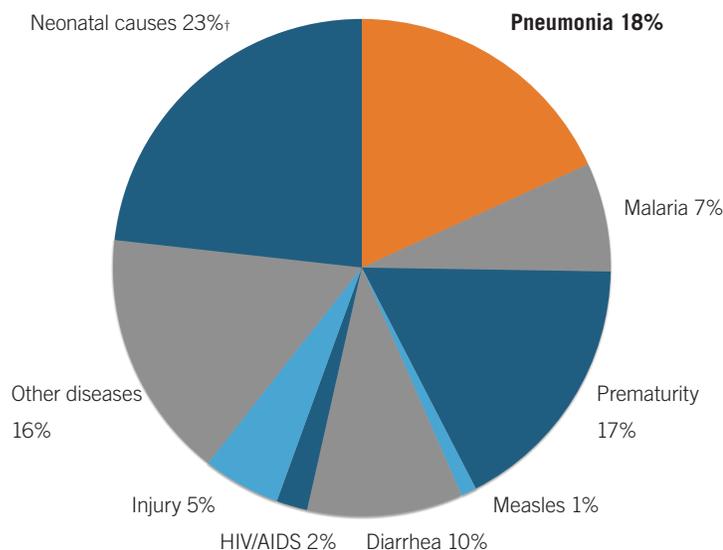


Pneumonia creates an economic burden for families, communities, and governments.



- Preventing pneumonia averts treatment costs, other losses due to illness, and allows children to become healthy, productive adults.
- Scaling up coverage of vaccines against Hib and pneumococcus in the world's 73 poorest countries (2011-2020) would avert \$51 billion dollars in treatment costs and productivity losses.⁴
- This increase in vaccine coverage would also save 2.9 million lives and prevent 52 million cases of illness.⁴

Global Causes of Childhood Mortality in 2010*



† Neonatal causes include birth asphyxia, sepsis, and congenital abnormalities.

Protect Against Pneumonia

- Exclusive breast feeding during the first six months of life and adequate nutrition through age five protect babies from pneumonia, diarrhea, malnutrition, and other diseases.
- Regular hand washing and access to clean water and sanitation protect children against pathogens that cause pneumonia, diarrhea, and other diseases.
- Eliminating household air pollution, especially smoke from unsafe cookstoves, reduces the risk of severe pneumonia in children.



Prevent Pneumonia

- Vaccines against pneumococcus, Hib, pertussis, and measles can prevent a significant portion of pneumonia cases from ever occurring.⁵
- Other preventative strategies include: zinc supplementation for children with diarrhea, prevention of HIV infection in children & antibiotic prophylaxis for HIV-infected children.⁵

Treat Pneumonia

- Antibiotics, such as amoxicillin, can prevent the majority of pneumonia deaths, and cost only about \$US 0.21-0.42 per treatment course.⁶
- Effective, integrated case management strategies ensure that children receive proper and timely treatment for pneumonia.⁵
- Improving access to services and increasing awareness and demand for services within communities is crucial to controlling pneumonia.⁵



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How can you help fight pneumonia?

- Raise awareness about the global impact of pneumonia among policy makers, health care providers, and the public.
- Advocate for increased funding for programs that protect against, prevent & treat pneumonia.
- Hold a World Pneumonia Day event (November 12th).
- Follow us! Twitter: **@NoMorePneumo**
- Like us! Facebook: **Prevent Pneumonia**
- Visit our website for more information about pneumonia:
www.worldpneumoniaday.org



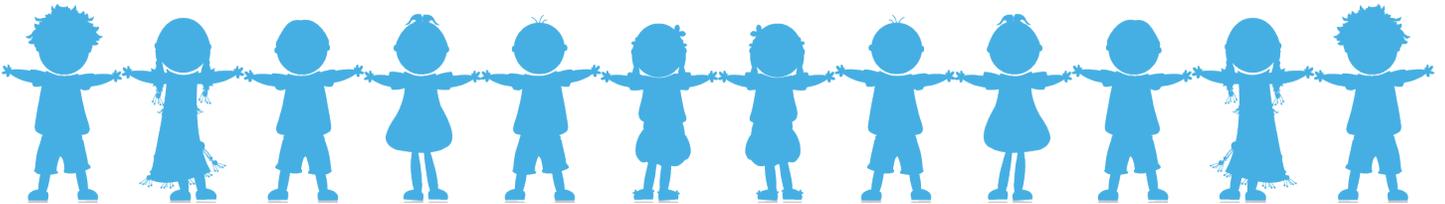
global coalition against child pneumonia

The Global Coalition Against Child Pneumonia was established in April 2009 to raise awareness about the toll of pneumonia, the world's leading killer of children, and to advocate for global action to protect against, prevent, and treat this deadly disease.

The Coalition is a global network of more than 140 NGOs, community based organizations, academic institutions, government agencies and foundations who together provide leadership for World Pneumonia Day, marked each year on November 12, to encourage efforts to combat the disease among donors, policy makers, healthcare professionals and the general public.

References

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 6. United Nations Foundation. Every Woman, Every Child. Commission on Life-Saving Commodities. 2012. Available at: <http://www.everywomaneverychild.org/resources/un-commission-on-life-saving-commodities/life-saving-commodities>. Accessed on November 6, 2012.
- * WHO World Health Statistics 2012. Global Health Indicators. 2012.



World Pneumonia Day 2011 rally in Dhaka Bangladesh
(Photo courtesy of Save the Children)

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