

Fungal diseases kill more than 1.5 million and affect over a billion people. However, they are still a neglected topic by public health authorities even though most deaths from fungal diseases are avoidable. Serious fungal infections occur as a consequence of other health problems including asthma, AIDS, cancer, organ transplantation and corticosteroid therapies. Early accurate diagnosis allows prompt antifungal therapy; however this is often delayed or unavailable leading to death, serious chronic illness or blindness. Recent global estimates have found 3,000,000 cases of chronic pulmonary aspergillosis, ~223,100 cases of cryptococcal meningitis complicating HIV/AIDS, ~700,000 cases of invasive candidiasis, ~500,000 cases of *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia, ~250,000 cases of invasive aspergillosis, ~100,000 cases of disseminated histoplasmosis, over 10,000,000 cases of fungal asthma and ~1,000,000 cases of fungal keratitis occur annually (**Table 1**). Since 2013, the Leading International Fungal Education (LIFE) portal has facilitated the estimation of the burden of serious fungal infections country by country for over 5.7 billion people (>80% of the world's population) (**Figure 1**). The estimates were not intended as a substitute for high quality epidemiological study or comprehensive surveillance, but do provide a rough approximation of the size of each fungal disease by country and therefore a means of comparing countries. The diagnostic gap between estimated burden and recorded cases numbers provides a clear cut target to close, to improve patient outcomes. The recognition of fungal infections as a major contributor to mortality of several conditions emphasizes the need for public health efforts in reducing the incidence and mortality of these infectious diseases.

Fungal Disease	Annual Incidence	Global Burden
Superficial		
Skin, hair, nail		~1,000,000,000
Fungal keratitis		~1,000,000
Mucosal		
Oral candidiasis	~2,000,000	
Oesophageal candidiasis	~1,300,000	
Vulvovaginal candidiasis episode	70% affected in their lifetime	
Recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis		~134,000,000
Allergic		
ABPA in asthma		~4,800,000
ABPA in cystic fibrosis		~6,675
Severe asthma with fungal sensitisation		~6,500,000
Fungal rhinosinusitis		~12,000,000
Chronic severe		
Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis		~3,000,000
Mycetoma		~9,000
Chromoblastomycosis		>10,000
Coccidioidomycosis		~25,000
Paracoccidioidomycosis		~4,000
Blastomycosis		~3,000
Histoplasma infection	~500,000	~25,000
Sporotrichosis	>40,000	
Acute invasive		
Invasive candidiasis	~750,000	
Invasive aspergillosis	>300,000	
PCP in AIDS and non-AIDS	~500,000	
Cryptococcosis in AIDS	~223,000	
Mucormycosis	>10,000	
Disseminated histoplasmosis	~100,000	
Talaromycosis	~8,000	

