

Infectious Agents of Disease

Infectious Disease

- result from the infection, presence and growth of biological agents in a host organism
- aka communicable, contagious or transmissible diseases
 - communicable pathogens are transmitted from host to host (cannot live outside a host)
 - non-communicable pathogens normally live in an abiotic environment
 - contagious pathogens are those that are easily transmitted
- ~25% of worldwide deaths
- underprivileged, elderly, children, debilitated are particularly affected

Worldwide mortality due to infectious diseases^{[10][11]}

Rank	Cause of death	Deaths 2002 (in millions)	Percentage of all deaths	Deaths 1993 (in millions)	1993 Rank
N/A	All infectious diseases	14.7	25.9%	16.4	32.2%
1	Lower respiratory infections ^[12]	3.9	6.9%	4.1	1
2	HIV/AIDS	2.8	4.9%	0.7	7
3	Diarrheal diseases ^[13]	1.8	3.2%	3.0	2
4	Tuberculosis (TB)	1.6	2.7%	2.7	3
5	Malaria	1.3	2.2%	2.0	4
6	Measles	0.6	1.1%	1.1	5
7	Pertussis	0.29	0.5%	0.36	7
8	Tetanus	0.21	0.4%	0.15	12
9	Meningitis	0.17	0.3%	0.25	8
10	Syphilis	0.16	0.3%	0.19	11
11	Hepatitis B	0.10	0.2%	0.93	6
12-17	Tropical diseases (6) ^[14]	0.13	0.2%	0.53	9, 10, 16-18

Note: Other causes of death include maternal and perinatal conditions (5.2%), nutritional deficiencies (0.9%), noncommunicable conditions (58.8%), and injuries (9.1%).