

# Burden of Serious Fungal Infections in Argentina

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## Abstract

**Background.** Few data on serious fungal infections are published from Argentina and there are no national data or surveillance. **Methods.** Argentina has a population of 40.8 million, with 25% children under 15 yrs. Specific population statistics were sourced from multiple sources, local literature was identified and estimates made. Some additional data were sourced from the Ministry of Health, GINA program (asthma), and national haematology and transplant societies. **Results.** Estimated numbers and rates of key infections per year are in the Table. Predicted candidemia incidence is low at 1.1/100,000, with 65% occurring in the ICU. At a 6% prevalence rate, an estimated 593,695 women suffer from recurrent VVC. IA is relatively common because of a high smoking and COPD rate, 269 cases in immunocompromised patients and another 1934 in the 148K COPD patients admitted to hospital. Asthma affect 6.3% of 13-14 yr olds, and assumed to relate to adults, and ABPA affects 2.5% of these. There are no data on Pneumocystis pneumonia; an estimated 239 cases in HIV occur. 856 coccidioidomycosis and 98 paracoccidioidomycosis cases were recorded. Fungal keratitis and tinea capitis frequency are unknown. **Conclusion.** At least 750,000 people (>1.8%) in Argentina are affected by a serious fungal infection annually, with considerable morbidity and mortality. Greater focus on long term morbidity caused by fungal infections in Argentina and epidemiological studies are necessary.

**Introduction.** Argentina has a population of 40.8 million, with 25% children under 15 yrs. Serious fungal infections are increasing among patients suffering from haematological diseases, HIV positive ones and others. Despite this, few data is officially available due the scant information published. The aim of this work was to collect data from reliable sources to include in the LIFE-Worldwide.

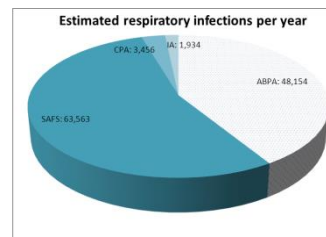
**Methods.** Specific population statistics were sourced from multiple sources, local literature was identified and estimates made. Some additional data were sourced from the Ministry of Health, GINA program (asthma), and national haematology, transplant, thorax, intensive care societies.

**References.**  
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**Results.** Estimated numbers and rates of key infections per year are in the Table. Predicted candidemia incidence is low at 1.1/100,000, with 65% occurring in the ICU. At a 6% prevalence rate, an estimated 593,695 women suffer from recurrent VVC. IA is relatively common because of a high smoking and COPD rate, 269 cases in immunocompromised patients and another 1934 in the 148K COPD patients admitted to hospital. Asthma affect 6.3% of 13-14 yr olds, and assumed to relate to adults, and ABPA affects 2.5% of these. There are no data on Pneumocystis pneumonia; an estimated 239 cases in HIV occur. 856 coccidioidomycosis and 98 paracoccidioidomycosis cases were recorded. Fungal keratitis and tinea capitis frequency are unknown.

Infection	No. infections/yr (respiratory)	No. infections/yr (cancer/transplant)	Total burden/yr	Rate/10 <sup>5</sup> /yr
Candidemia	NA	455	455	1.1
Candida peritonitis	-	150	150	0.4
Recurrent vaginal candidiasis (4x/y +)	-	-	593,695	2913 (F only)
ABPA	48,154	-	48,154	116
SAFS	63,563	-	63,563	156
CPA	3,456	-	3,456	8.5
IA	1,934	269	2203	13.9



**Conclusion:** At least 750,000 people (>1.8%) in Argentina are affected by a serious fungal infection annually, with considerable morbidity and mortality. Greater focus on long term morbidity caused by fungal infections in Argentina and epidemiological studies are necessary.

