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International trends in COPD mortality, 1995–2017

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In our international study over 1995–2017, COPD mortality rates declined in most countries. Yet, in females, they remained stable in North America and increased in six countries in Europe. The number of deaths increased or remained stable in most countries. <http://bit.ly/2niUQ8d>

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To the Editor:

Since 2016, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) has been the third-leading cause of death worldwide, with an estimated 3 million deaths (5.3% of all deaths), but with large regional variations [1]. Observed data from high-income countries (HICs) [2–5] and modelled data in two global studies [6, 7] have reported declines in COPD mortality rates since the 1990s. Globally, since 2006, modelled COPD mortality rates decreased by 21% [8]. Yet, little is known about observed trends in COPD mortality in Latin America, and more recently in Oceania and Europe.