

DARWIN EU® study

# How often respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) affects different age groups in Europe



## Why is this study needed?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms, but it can have serious consequences for young children and older adults. RSV is a leading cause of children hospitalisation in Europe.

Data on how frequent the disease is among high-risk groups can support the development of new RSV vaccines.



## How were the results used?

CHMP used the study results to evaluate the need for expanding the use of RSV vaccine to people aged 50-59.

RSV vaccine was already approved for children and adults 60 years of age and older.



## How was this conducted?

EMA requested the [study](#) in the context of current/future applications for RSV vaccines. The study provided insights into how often people of different ages get sick from RSV in Europe to better understand and manage the infection burden. It provided data on RSV hospital stays, including for people aged 50-59. Health data from 5 European countries were analysed.



## Why do these results matter?

As new RSV vaccines are being developed, it is important to have accurate data on how much RSV affects high-risk groups.

This helps develop new vaccines more appropriately and to further assess their benefits and risks.

### More information



<https://catalogues.ema.europa.eu/>

© European Medicines Agency, 2026

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged. For any use or reproduction of images or other materials that are not under the copyright of the European Medicines Agency as specified subsequently, permission must be sought directly from the respective copyright holders. The indicated images or other materials are copyright protected and have been licensed by the European Medicines Agency via Adobe Stock, Dreamstime or iStockphoto, as shown respectively in the credit lines of each image or other material.



[www.ema.europa.eu](http://www.ema.europa.eu)

An agency of the European Union

