Design: We used a hospital-based cohort study and performed a population-based screening of patients with cutaneous candidiasis in Madrid, Spain, from 2006 to 2008. The diagnosis of candidiasis was based on clinical and laboratory criteria, and the incidence was estimated using surveillance data and national health service statistics.

Results: A total of 16,598 cases of cutaneous candidiasis were identified, with an overall incidence of 67.5 per 100,000 inhabitants. The incidence was highest in the elderly and lowest in children. The most common sites of infection were the skin and nails, followed by the oral cavity and the respiratory tract. The most common species isolated were Candida albicans and C. tropicalis. The prevalence of oral candidiasis was 1.39% in the general population, and 2.57% in all inpatients.

Conclusions: The incidence of cutaneous candidiasis is high in the general population and inpatients. Public health interventions are needed to prevent and control this infection, especially in vulnerable populations.