LUNG HEALTH IN EUROPE
FACTS AND FIGURES
THE EUROPEAN LUNG white book
RESPIRATORY HEALTH AND DISEASE IN EUROPE

Lung health in Europe FACTS & FIGURES
A better understanding of lung disease and respiratory care in Europe
KEY AIMS

‘Lung Health in Europe – Facts and Figures’ is a concise version of the European Respiratory Society publication, The European Lung White Book.

The key aims of both publications are:

• To raise awareness of respiratory diseases and their impact on the health of the European population

• To reach out to the public, patients and the media to help increase understanding of the broad nature of respiratory health

• To provide a tool to influence policymakers for the benefit of lung health
BURDEN
600,000 people die every year in the EU from respiratory disease
6 million hospital admissions per year are due to respiratory diseases
1 in 8 deaths in the EU are from respiratory diseases
COST
€380bn

The total cost of respiratory disease in the EU exceeds 380 billion euro
€300bn

5.2 million disability-adjusted-life-years are lost annually to respiratory disease in the EU at a value of 300 billion euro
€200bn

Greatest burden is from COPD and asthma – over 200 billion euro
DISEASES
Approximately one third of the population will develop asthma at some time between the ages of 5 and 80 years, most before the age of 20 years.
Despite the increasing use of asthma medications, asthma control remains relatively poor across Europe.
COPD prevalence is higher in men than women
40-50% of lifelong smokers will develop COPD, compared with 10% of people who have never smoked.
Lung cancer is the biggest cancer killer in Europe, accounting for approximately 20% of total cancer deaths.
Lung problems account for about one quarter of all visits by children to a general practitioner
Each year, more than almost 400,000 new cases of TB are diagnosed in Europe and more than 40,000 people die from the disease.
CF is changing from a disease of childhood into a disease of adults. Today, 42% of CF patients are aged >18, 5% >40 years
Moderate or severe obesity is found in between 60 and 90% of people with OSAS.
More than 90% of influenza-related deaths occur in patients in the older age group.
Pulmonary arterial hypertension without specific therapy has a median survival rate of 2.8 years.
RISK FACTORS
Around 100 million people worldwide were killed by tobacco in the 20th century and this number will increase to 1 billion in the 21st century.
There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke, which is categorised as a Class A carcinogen by International Agency for Research on Cancer.
Air pollution affects 100% of the population from unborn babies to the very elderly.
Dampness and mould increases risk of asthma-related problems by 30-50%
Around 50% of the world population (about 3 billion people) are exposed to indoor air pollution from open fires and wood-burning cooking stoves.
15-20% of all adult asthma cases are work-related
Research from Sweden and Finland found that one in 10 farmers has experienced an acute inhalation injury resulting from exposure to dust.
The lung health of grandparents has an impact on the lung health of their grandchildren.
A high intake of highly processed foods may accelerate decline in lung function
Several susceptibility genes are thought to be common between people with asthma and people with COPD.
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