

LUNG DISEASE FACTS

- There were 99,351 deaths from lung disease (including respiratory TB and lung cancer) in England and Wales in 2002 (ONS 2003a). This figure does not include deaths in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- This equates to 11 people dying each hour from a lung disease.
- Deaths from lung disease accounted for 18.5% of all deaths in 2002 (ONS 2003a).
- The big three respiratory killers in 2002 were:
 - Pneumonia: 32,769 (increase of over 1000 from 2001)
 - Lung cancer: 28,888
 - COPD: 24,247(ONS 2003a)
- In comparison, there were 3,275 transport related deaths, 11,573 deaths from breast cancer and 209,948 deaths related to diseases of the circulatory system (ONS 2003a).
- The over 65's accounted for 90% (87,313) of all respiratory deaths in England and Wales in 2002 (ONS 2003a).
- However the youngest in society visit their GP with a respiratory condition in the greatest numbers. (Calculations based on (OHE 2002: 49) and 2001 UK Census data)
- In 2001, 28% of the UK population consulted their GP, at least once, with a respiratory condition. This is more than for any other disease or condition – and compares with just 14% of the population consulting their GP with circulatory problems
- Nearly 35% of children under 16 in the UK consulted their GP, at least once, with a respiratory complaint, in 2001.
- The number of women who died from lung disease overtook the number of men at the end of the 1990s (LAIA 2002)
- In 2001/2002 there were 4,299,307 bed days (8.5% of all bed days) for respiratory disease (inc. TB and lung cancer) (DOH 2002).
- Respiratory consultations account for 28% (75,040,000) of consultations with an NHS GP (OHE 2002: ch. 4: 32) costing £1.118 million in 2000/2001
- In 1999/00 the Medical Research Council (MRC) spent £12.2 million on research into respiratory disorders (MRC 2003a). Total MRC expenditure was estimated at £323 million. Therefore respiratory research accounts for 3.8% of gross expenditure (MRC 2003b).
- In the same period £19.3 million was spent on circulatory disease research (6% of gross research expenditure).

References

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