

COPD

europeanlung.org/COPD/

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a long-term condition that causes inflammation in the lungs, damaged lung tissue and a narrowing of the airways, making breathing difficult.

There are many different types of the condition, although little is known about what causes this variation and the best way to manage the different versions of the disease.

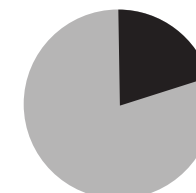


Areas for action

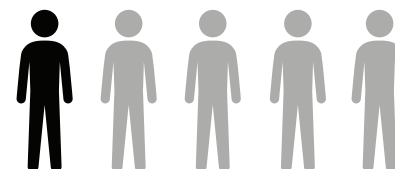
- More studies on prevention, education, medication, treatment and care are needed to drive higher standards across Europe
- More research is needed on the effectiveness of management techniques for COPD
- New therapies need to be found to slow the progression of the condition
- More effective smoking cessation strategies would have a positive impact
- Governments, industry and the general public need to be more aware of the high burden of COPD in Europe
- More research is needed on the different variations of COPD and their economic burden on European societies
- There is a lack of reliable data on the incidence of COPD – member states should improve reporting



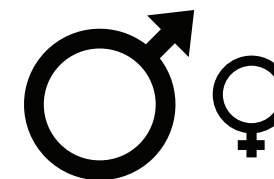
40-50% of **lifelong smokers** will develop **COPD**, compared with 10% of people who have never smoked



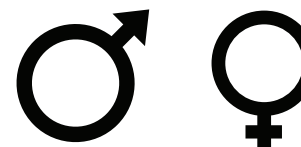
15-20% of COPD cases are due to exposures to occupational dust, chemicals, vapours or other **airborne pollutants in the workplace**



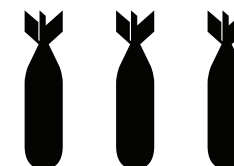
In the adult population aged over 40 years, **moderate and severe COPD** is prevalent in 5-10% of the population and including mild cases the prevalence is **15-20%**



COPD prevalence is **higher in men** than women



In people aged over 70 years, the prevalence of moderate and severe COPD is about **20% in men** and **15% in women**



300,000 deaths in Europe from COPD each year – equivalent of **3 Hiroshima bombs**