Lung disease in children

europeanlung.org/lung-disease-in-children/

Research has shown that lung problems account for about one quarter of all visits by children to a general practitioner. The two main conditions affecting children are asthma and cystic fibrosis. Other major lung conditions in children include bronchiolitis; lung conditions linked with prematurity, including bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD); pneumonia; tuberculosis (TB); lung problems present from birth (congenital lung problems); and whooping cough.

Areas for action

- There needs to be more focus on care of babies with BPD, particularly in central and Eastern Europe
- It is important to identify the causes of variation in deaths from pneumonia between countries, to help establish effective intervention programmes
- Better diagnostic tests for TB in children must be developed to ensure a reliable diagnosis
- More data are needed on the frequency of multi-drug resistant TB and extremely drug resistant TB across Europe
- There is an urgent need to develop vaccines for lifelong protection from whooping cough

The total number of childhood cases of TB in Europe in 2010 was about 11,000

Premature babies have immature lungs and as many as 73% of babies born at 23 weeks of pregnancy develop BPD

151 million new cases of pneumonia develop each year in children under 5 years in the developing world

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