

Occupational lung disease

europeanlung.org/occupational-lung-disease/

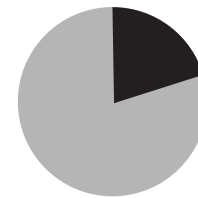
Occupational, or work-related, lung conditions are conditions that have been caused or made worse by the materials a person is exposed to within the workplace.

The impact of these conditions is underestimated due to under-reporting. For example, occupational disease is more likely to occur in the elderly, who are no longer at work but whose condition is due to their previous occupation.

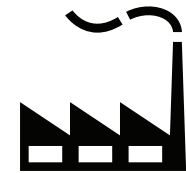


Areas for action

- Exposure standards should be health based and uniform across Europe and updated to reduce the exposure of the working population to acceptable levels
- Work and health authorities should aim for realistic targets to decrease incidence of lung conditions caused by silicosis and working in mines
- Legislators must look at the use of nano-materials and how this is affecting health
- European efforts to detect and reduce occupational carcinogenic exposures need to be continued.
- European countries need to register occupational diseases in order to provide accurate data on burden and costs



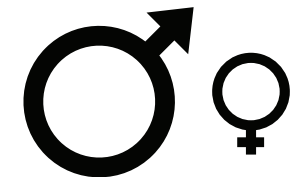
Up to **15% of all asthma** cases are linked to occupational factors



15-20% of COPD cases are linked to factors in the workplace



Research from Sweden and Finland found that **one in 10 farmers** has experienced an acute inhalation injury resulting from **exposure to dust**



15% of lung cancer cases in men and **5% in women** are thought to be caused by occupational exposures



The costs of occupational asthma are high, but this cost usually falls on the **state, health insurance, or the individual worker**, rather than the employer



In Europe, **over 39,000 deaths** have been estimated for the year 2000 as a result of work-related exposures to **dusts and fumes**