



FACTS ABOUT CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE

- According to the World Health Organization, COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the world in 2000. The WHO estimates that in 2000, 2.74 million people died of COPD worldwide.
- In 1990, a study by the World Bank and the World Health Organization ranked COPD 12th as a burden of disease; by 2020, it is estimated that COPD will be ranked 5th.
- According to the World Health Organization, passive smoking carries serious risks, especially for children and those chronically exposed. The WHO estimates that passive smoking is associated with a 10 – 43% increase in risk of COPD in adults.
- Although cigarette smoking is the primary cause of COPD, the WHO estimates that there are 400,000 deaths per year from exposure to biomass fuels.
- In **Algeria**, the prevalence of tuberculosis and acute respiratory infection has decreased since 1965, and an increase in chronic respiratory diseases (asthma and COPD) has been observed in the last decade.
- COPD is estimated to be 6.2% in the **11 Asian countries** surveyed by the Asian Pacific Society of Respiratory Diseases. The use of biomass fuels, especially in the rural areas, contributes towards a higher prevalence of COPD in some of these countries and suggests that COPD may be significantly greater in this region of the world than previously estimated.
- In **China**, where it is estimated that over 50% of the men smoke, chronic respiratory diseases are the fourth leading cause of death in large urban areas, but the first leading cause of death in rural areas. In China, smoking rates among women remain low (estimated at 6%), although the prevalence of COPD in men and women is about the same. This points to the importance of risk factors other than smoking as a cause for COPD in Chinese women.
- In **Malaysia**, respiratory illness is the primary cause of visits to health clinics and outpatient hospital clinics. It is estimated that 50% of the male population smokes, with higher rates in the rural areas than the urban areas.
- COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the **United States** (behind heart disease, cancer and stroke). In 1997, based on statistics from the US Centers for Disease Control, over 100,000 people died from COPD.
- Between 1979 and 1995, the number of individuals with COPD in the **United States** increased relatively steadily from 7.5 million to 14.5 million persons.
- In the **US**, although prevalence, hospitalization and death rates for COPD are higher in men than women, death rates have risen faster in women in recent years.
- Between 1985 and 1995, the number of physician visits for COPD in the **United States** increased from 9.3 million to 16 million. The number of hospitalizations for

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COPD in 1995 was estimated to be 500,000. Medical expenditures in 1995 amounted to \$14.7 billion.

- In the **United States** in 1993, 28% of men and 23% of women smoke. The rates of cigarette smoking are higher among black (33%) than white men (27%) but similar in black and white women (21% and 23% respectively).
- In the **United States**, it is estimated that 5-7 % of adult current of former smokers have moderate reductions in lung function and 3-5 % have severe reductions. These percentages increase with increasing age of the population.

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