



Sample statistics

For use with press

- The World Health Organisation estimates 600 million people worldwide have COPD¹
- COPD is ranked as the fifth leading cause of death in Europe, exceeded only by heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and lower respiratory tract infections²
- 75% of COPD cases in the general population remain undiagnosed, according to a European study³
- Research suggests that approximately 50% of smokers may develop COPD⁴ not the 15-20% as has previously been thought⁵
- COPD is the only major leading cause of death that is increasing. Coronary heart disease, stroke and other CVDs all show consistent and substantial reduction⁶
- It is estimated that COPD will become the third leading cause of death worldwide by 2020, with only heart disease and cerebrovascular disease accounting for more deaths. Lung cancer, stomach cancer and HIV will be the 5th, 8th and 9th most common causes of death respectively⁷
- Higher prevalence rates for COPD are found in men than in women globally reflecting historic gender differences in smoking behaviour⁸
- Prevalence figures for COPD are believed to be underestimated. Sufferers tend not to seek medical advice until the disease has progressed and the condition is severe³
- Up to almost three out of four patients with COPD report difficulty in the simplest of everyday activities, being out of breath after simply walking upstairs⁹
- Quality of life (QoL) is severely affected in patients with COPD, with 80% of patients hospitalised following an exacerbation reporting a health status rated or quoted by a physician as being 'worse than death'¹⁰
- In patients who survive their first COPD-related hospitalisation up to 50% are reported to be re-admitted within 6 months of discharge¹¹
- Up to 84% of direct costs associated with COPD are due to inpatient hospitalisations¹²
- Lost productivity due to COPD has a particularly high impact on the economy, accounting for 67% of overall costs in France, 50% in the Netherlands and 41% in the UK¹²

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