

Causes of death in the EU in 2012

More than 670 000 persons died in the EU from respiratory diseases

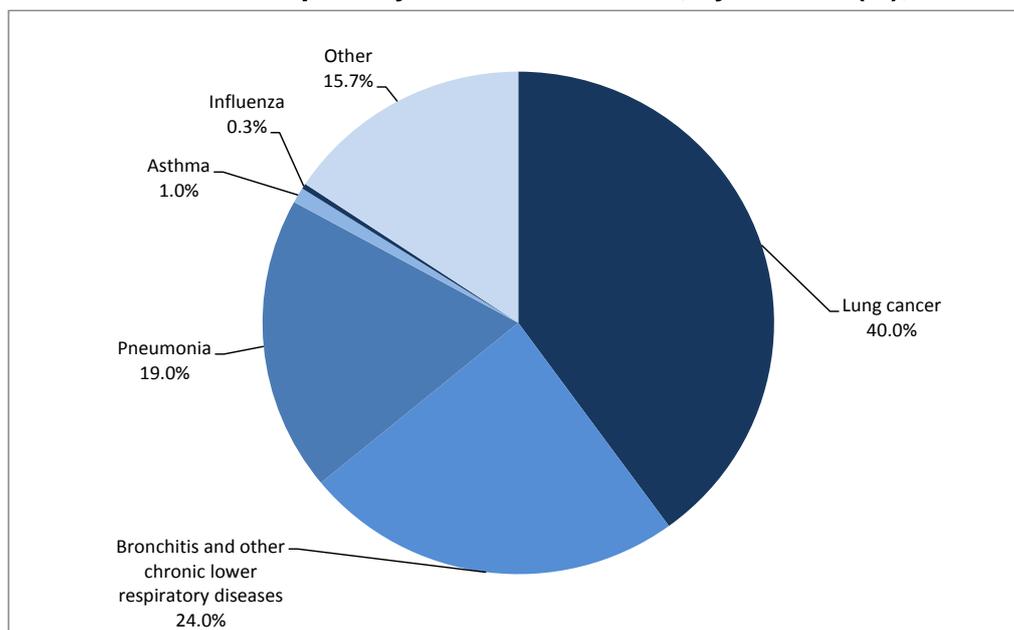
Men more affected

In the **European Union** (EU) in 2012, diseases of the respiratory system, including lung cancer, were the cause of death for 671 900 persons, 13% of all deaths. Men (398 400 deaths due to respiratory diseases) were more affected than women (273 600).

Among the various diseases of the respiratory system, lung cancer (leading to the deaths of 268 600 persons, or 40% of all deaths due to respiratory diseases), bronchitis and other chronic lower respiratory diseases (161 500 deaths, or 24%) and pneumonia (127 400 deaths, or 19%) were particularly prominent in the **EU** as causes of deaths.

This information on causes of death in the EU comes from a [report](#) published by **Eurostat**, the **statistical office of the European Union**.

Deaths due to respiratory diseases in the EU, by disease (%), 2012



Deaths due to respiratory diseases in the EU, by disease and gender, 2012

	Total	of which:					
		Lung cancer	Bronchitis and other chronic lower resp. diseases	Pneumonia	Asthma	Influenza	Other
Total	671 920	268 636	161 537	127 429	6 713	2 286	105 319
Men	398 355	186 284	95 818	60 969	2 239	853	52 192
Women	273 552	82 344	65 718	66 458	4 474	1 433	53 125

Figures may not add up due to deaths where gender was not reported.

Share of deaths due to respiratory diseases highest in the United Kingdom

The highest share of deaths from diseases of the respiratory system including lung cancer was recorded in 2012 in the **United Kingdom** (20.3%), followed by **Denmark** (18.4%), **Ireland** (18.2%), the **Netherlands** (17.8%) and **Spain** (17.1%). In contrast, respiratory diseases accounted for less than 8% of all causes of death in **Latvia** (5.8%), **Lithuania** (6.4%), **Bulgaria** (7.0%) and **Estonia** (7.4%). In the **EU**, deaths due to respiratory diseases represented 13.4% of all deaths.

Looking at the main categories of respiratory diseases leading to death, lung cancer comes first in every EU Member State except **Greece** and **Portugal**. More than half of deaths from diseases of the respiratory system are due to lung cancer in **Estonia** (60.4%), **Latvia** (58.0%), **Hungary** (56.7%), **Croatia** (56.4%), **Poland** (52.9%), **Lithuania** (52.0%) and **Finland** (51.7%). Most of these Member States also recorded the highest shares of deaths from asthma. Pneumonia accounted for a large proportion of deaths due to respiratory diseases in **Portugal** (38.6%), **Slovakia** (31.5%) and **Slovenia** (29.3%), while it accounted for less than 10% of deaths from respiratory diseases in **Hungary** (5.0%), **Greece** (5.3%), **Croatia** and **Finland** (both 6.6%).

Deaths due to respiratory diseases in the EU Member States, by disease, 2012

	Share in all causes of death	Total	of which (share in deaths due to respiratory diseases)					
			Lung cancer	Bronchitis & other chronic lower resp. diseases	Pneumonia	Asthma	Influenza	Other
EU	13.4%	671 920	40.0%	24.0%	19.0%	1.0%	0.3%	15.7%
Belgium	16.3%	17 777	35.7%	26.4%	20.5%	0.7%	0.6%	16.1%
Bulgaria	7.0%	7 565	47.5%	18.5%	19.7%	0.5%	0.1%	13.7%
Czech Rep.	10.6%	11 516	48.7%	21.5%	21.7%	0.9%	0.5%	6.6%
Denmark	18.4%	9 598	39.4%	35.6%	18.9%	0.5%	0.1%	5.4%
Germany	12.1%	105 052	42.4%	27.6%	17.9%	1.1%	0.1%	10.9%
Estonia	7.4%	1 139	60.4%	17.5%	15.7%	2.5%	0.3%	3.6%
Ireland	18.2%	5 298	34.0%	29.2%	20.5%	0.7%	0.1%	15.4%
Greece	15.5%	18 129	37.2%	12.4%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	45.0%
Spain	17.1%	68 847	31.2%	23.2%	13.5%	1.4%	0.3%	30.3%
France	12.2%	69 525	44.4%	13.3%	17.7%	1.3%	1.1%	22.1%
Croatia	9.5%	4 958	56.4%	32.2%	6.6%	1.3%	0.4%	3.1%
Italy	12.5%	76 982	43.6%	27.9%	12.0%	0.5%	0.6%	15.4%
Cyprus	12.2%	683	36.7%	15.7%	11.0%	1.9%	0.3%	34.4%
Latvia	5.8%	1 694	58.0%	15.3%	20.4%	2.5%	0.4%	3.4%
Lithuania	6.4%	2 603	52.0%	26.9%	14.8%	2.0%	0.1%	4.3%
Luxembourg	13.7%	524	45.6%	28.8%	13.2%	0.6%	-	11.8%
Hungary	12.1%	15 686	56.7%	33.1%	5.0%	0.8%	0.0%	4.3%
Malta	13.7%	476	38.7%	11.3%	24.6%	0.8%	-	24.6%
Netherlands	17.8%	24 885	41.6%	27.8%	21.9%	0.3%	0.6%	7.8%
Austria	9.7%	7 672	48.1%	33.7%	11.3%	1.0%	0.4%	5.5%
Poland	11.1%	42 832	52.9%	15.9%	25.9%	1.1%	0.0%	4.2%
Portugal	16.3%	17 583	20.9%	15.9%	38.6%	0.8%	0.2%	23.5%
Romania	9.1%	23 149	42.8%	24.0%	25.2%	1.1%	0.0%	6.8%
Slovenia	13.2%	2 535	44.9%	16.1%	29.3%	1.0%	0.0%	8.6%
Slovakia	10.1%	5 247	42.1%	20.7%	31.5%	0.8%	0.1%	4.9%
Finland	8.1%	4 190	51.7%	28.1%	6.6%	2.5%	1.0%	10.0%
Sweden	10.7%	9 750	36.8%	29.8%	21.3%	1.3%	1.6%	9.1%
United Kingdom	20.3%	116 025	30.6%	27.2%	25.1%	1.1%	0.1%	15.9%
Norway	15.4%	6 452	33.9%	32.4%	25.0%	1.3%	1.3%	6.1%
Switzerland	10.9%	7 096	44.3%	26.6%	18.3%	1.2%	0.5%	9.1%
Serbia	9.9%	10 069	50.6%	24.0%	10.1%	2.8%	0.0%	12.5%
Turkey	16.0%	51 323	39.6%	37.2%	8.5%	3.2%	0.1%	11.5%

0.0% = less than 0.05%

- = real 0

The source dataset is available [here](#).

Men accounted for more than 75% of respiratory diseases related deaths in Lithuania and Latvia

Representing almost 60% (59.3%) of all deaths due to diseases of the respiratory system, men were more affected than women in the **EU**. This was mainly driven by the much higher number of deaths from lung cancer among the male population. A similar pattern can be observed in nearly all EU Member States, with the highest proportions of men among fatal respiratory diseases being recorded in the three EU Baltic Member States - **Lithuania** (75.3%), **Latvia** (75.2%) and **Estonia** (72.3%) - as well as in **Bulgaria** (70.7%).

In fact, the risk of dying from a disease of the respiratory system was higher for men than for women in all EU Member States, except **Denmark**. In particular, this risk was at least twice as high for men as for women in **Latvia** (respiratory diseases accounted for 9.2% of all causes of deaths for men, compared with 2.8% for women, meaning that men were 3.3 times more likely than women to die from respiratory diseases), **Lithuania** (3.0 times), **Estonia** (2.7 times), **Bulgaria** (2.3 times), **Croatia** (2.2 times) and **Romania** (2.1 times). At **EU** level, deaths from respiratory diseases accounted for 16.0% of all causes of deaths for men, and for 10.8% for women. Across Member States, 1 death out of 5 among the male population was from respiratory diseases in **Spain** (21.5%), the **United Kingdom** (20.9%) and the **Netherlands** (20.4%).

Deaths due to respiratory diseases in the EU Member States, by gender, 2012

	Men			Women		
	Absolute number	Share in all deaths due to respiratory diseases (%)	Share in all causes of death for men (%)	Absolute number	Share in all deaths due to respiratory diseases (%)	Share in all causes of death for women (%)
EU	398 355	59.3%	16.0%	273 552	40.7%	10.8%
Belgium	10 600	59.6%	19.7%	7 177	40.4%	13.0%
Bulgaria	5 346	70.7%	9.5%	2 219	29.3%	4.2%
Czech Rep.	7 103	61.7%	13.0%	4 413	38.3%	8.2%
Denmark	4 671	48.7%	18.1%	4 927	51.3%	18.7%
Germany	62 028	59.0%	14.8%	43 024	41.0%	9.5%
Estonia	823	72.3%	10.8%	316	27.7%	4.0%
Ireland	2 756	52.0%	18.4%	2 542	48.0%	17.8%
Greece	11 207	61.8%	18.6%	6 922	38.2%	12.2%
Spain	44 312	64.4%	21.5%	24 535	35.6%	12.5%
France	42 103	60.6%	14.6%	27 422	39.4%	9.7%
Croatia	3 395	68.5%	13.0%	1 563	31.5%	6.0%
Italy	48 488	63.0%	16.4%	28 494	37.0%	9.0%
Cyprus	424	62.1%	14.3%	259	37.9%	9.7%
Latvia	1 274	75.2%	9.2%	420	24.8%	2.8%
Lithuania	1 961	75.3%	9.6%	642	24.7%	3.2%
Luxembourg	293	55.9%	15.8%	231	44.1%	11.8%
Hungary	9 500	60.6%	15.0%	6 186	39.4%	9.4%
Malta	300	63.0%	16.9%	176	37.0%	10.4%
Netherlands	13 764	55.3%	20.4%	11 121	44.7%	15.3%
Austria	4 442	57.9%	12.0%	3 230	42.1%	7.7%
Poland	27 944	65.2%	13.8%	14 888	34.8%	8.1%
Portugal	9 858	56.1%	18.0%	7 725	43.9%	14.5%
Romania	15 989	69.1%	12.1%	7 160	30.9%	5.9%
Slovenia	1 468	57.9%	15.7%	1 067	42.1%	10.9%
Slovakia	3 443	65.6%	12.9%	1 804	34.4%	7.1%
Finland	2 671	63.7%	10.5%	1 519	36.3%	5.8%
Sweden	4 824	49.5%	11.0%	4 913	50.4%	10.4%
United Kingdom	57 368	49.4%	20.9%	58 657	50.6%	19.8%
Norway	3 274	50.7%	16.3%	3 178	49.3%	14.5%
Switzerland	4 072	57.4%	13.1%	3 024	42.6%	9.0%
Serbia	6 698	66.5%	12.9%	3 371	33.5%	6.7%
Turkey	36 021	70.2%	20.5%	15 302	29.8%	10.6%

Figures may not add up due to deaths where gender was not reported.
The source dataset is available [here](#).

Methods and definitions

The **respiratory system** is a series of organs that are responsible for the (vital) breathing in of oxygen from the air whilst exhaling carbon dioxide from the body. The lungs are the primary organ of this system, which also includes the nasal passage, oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi and bronchioles.

Data on deaths due to diseases of the respiratory system presented in this news release include deaths from respiratory diseases (ICD code J) and deaths from lung cancer (ICD code C33-C34).

Eurostat collects statistics on the **causes of death** according to a list of 86 different causes of death.

For more information

Eurostat, Statistics Explained article "**Causes of death statistics**", available on the Eurostat website.

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