




Asthma, hayfever and COPD

Extracted from *Australia's health 2014*

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Chronic respiratory conditions affect the airways and are characterised by symptoms such as wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness and cough. Conditions include: asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and a range of other conditions, such as allergic rhinitis ('hay fever'), chronic sinusitis, cystic fibrosis, bronchiectasis, occupational lung diseases and sleep apnoea.

- **3 in 10** Australians suffer from 1 or more respiratory conditions. That's over 6.3 million Australians. 
- **Hay fever** and **asthma** were the 2 most common conditions, affecting an estimated 3.7 million (17%) and 2.3 million Australians (10%) respectively.
- **Asthma** was one of the most common chronic health conditions among children, affecting an estimated 393,000 children aged 0–14 (9%) in 2011–12.
- **COPD** was comparatively rarer, affecting an estimated 529,000 Australians (2%).

Deaths

- In 2011, COPD caused 5,900 deaths, asthma 378 deaths and bronchiectasis 314 deaths.
- The death rate from COPD for males has decreased markedly over the past 40 years (see figure below). In contrast, there was a small rise in the death rate for females over this period. This may reflect differences in smoking prevalence and history among males and females.

Deaths per 100,000 population

