



# respiratory disease statistics

**165,000 +**  
respiratory conditions

Over 165,000 people, about 8.5% of the population - are on registers for respiratory conditions, (2).

**122,861**  
living with asthma

Over 120 thousand people, about 6% of the population, live with asthma, (2).

\* the most up-to-date, available annual data were used

what's the bigger picture?

**4 in 10**

**37%** of recorded deaths were due to chest, heart or stroke conditions, (1)  
Together, these conditions are the #1 cause of death across N. Ireland.



**16 per day**

5,828 people died due to these conditions, (1).  
This is about 16 per day.

**17%**

**335,171** people are on registers for these conditions, (2) - 17% of population.

In 2018\*, respiratory illnesses accounted for **14%** of all recorded deaths, (1).



**2,201 people**

This is an average of 6 people per day, every day, for the whole year.



**...6 per day**

*(This number doesn't include deaths due to lung and related cancers. Cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung were the main cause of death by cancer: 1037 people died due to these type of cancers, accounting for 6.5% of all deaths. Adding these to the other respiratory deaths is an average of about 8 people per day dying from respiratory related illnesses).*

Since 2008, deaths due to respiratory conditions have **increased** by 5%, (1).

**↑5%**

deaths in 2008: **2096**  
deaths in 2018: **2201**

*(This figure includes the of people who died due to numbers for influenza. Ignoring influenza, respiratory deaths have increased by almost 7% since 2008.) ...*

**Asthma** is a long-term condition that affects the airways of the lungs. It usually causes symptoms such as coughing, wheezing and breathlessness. Asthma can be severe and even life threatening. Since 2008, recorded deaths due to asthma have **increased by 57%**, (3)

**47** deaths due to asthma

**↑57%**

asthma deaths in 2008: **30**  
asthma deaths in 2018: **47**



**42,235**  
living with COPD

Since 2008, recorded deaths due to COPD have **increased** by 30%, (3)

**↑30%**

COPD deaths in 2008: **760**  
COPD deaths in 2018: **988**

**Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease** (or COPD for short) is the name for a group of lung conditions that cause breathing difficulties. COPD includes emphysema (damage to the lungs' air sacs) and chronic bronchitis (long-term inflammation of the airways). 42,235 people, **2%** of our population, are on the COPD register.

**988** deaths...  
about **3 a day**

**Respiratory diseases** affect parts of the body to do with breathing, like the lungs and airways. These include conditions like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and pneumonia.



In 2018/19, there were **50,003** emergency admissions to hospital due to respiratory conditions - about 167 per day, (3).

**20,479** people presented with COPD and related conditions. This is about **56 per day**, (3).

Sources of information:

- 1) Registrar General Annual Report 2018.
- 2) NISRA Disease Prevalence (Quality Outcomes Framework) data 2018/19.
- 3) Hospital Activity Statistics 2018/19.

With your help, we are leading the fight against chest, heart and stroke illnesses across Northern Ireland. Join the fight!

[nichs.org.uk/donate](http://nichs.org.uk/donate)