

## Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a lung disease that includes two main conditions: emphysema and chronic bronchitis. The term COPD is used because most sufferers have many conditions. COPD is characterized by damage to the lungs and airways, which causes less air to flow into the lungs. Symptoms include heavy coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath. Cigarette smoking is the primary cause of COPD, though other lung irritants such as air pollution, chemical fumes and dust may also contribute.<sup>63</sup> Genetic factors may also contribute to COPD.

Respondents were asked if they were ever told they had COPD, emphysema or chronic bronchitis, and results are shown in **Table 34**.

In 2014, one in twenty Connecticut adults had been told they had COPD. Compared to their counterparts in the state, the risk of COPD was significantly greater for:

- Older adults, where those 55 years old and older (9.3%) had more than twice the risk of those 35-54 years old (3.8%);
- Adults in low-income households, earning less than \$35,000 annually (8.8%), who had almost twice the risk of those in households earning \$35,000-\$74,999 annually (5.0%), and nearly four times the risk of those in households earning at least \$75,000 (2.3%);
- Adults with disabilities (14.1%), who had more than four times the risk of adults without disabilities (3.1%); and
- Adults with no more than a high school education (6.9%).

**Table 34: Adults with COPD, CT 2014**

Demographic Characteristics	%	95% Confidence interval	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Age</b>			
18-34 years old	*	*	*
35-54 years old	3.8	2.9	4.8
55 years old and over	9.3	8.2	10.4
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	4.3	3.5	5.2
Female	5.8	5.0	6.6
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
Non-Hispanic White	5.6	4.9	6.3
Non-Hispanic Black	*	*	*
Hispanic or Latino/a	*	*	*
<b>Income</b>			
Less than \$35,000	8.8	7.3	10.2
\$35,000-\$74,999	5.0	3.7	6.4
\$75,000 and more	2.3	1.7	3.0
<b>Insurance Status</b>			
Insured	5.3	4.6	5.9
Not Insured	*	*	*
<b>Disability</b>			
Yes	14.1	11.9	16.2
No	3.1	2.5	3.6
<b>Education</b>			
HS graduate or less	7.0	5.8	8.1
More than HS education	3.9	3.3	4.5
<i>Estimates marked with a "*" are not reported because their coefficients of variation are at least 15% (see page 13).</i>			