

FACT SHEET

COPD

COPD, or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, is a serious disease that over time makes it hard to breathe. COPD is often called other names, like emphysema or chronic bronchitis.

COPD is a preventable and treatable disease that has no cure at this time.

- COPD is the third leading cause of death in the United States.
- A person with COPD dies every four minutes in the United States.
- Annually, more women have died of COPD than men since 2000.
- Each day, more people die of COPD in the U.S. than diabetes and breast cancer combined.
- Lower respiratory disease is the third leading cause of death in New Hampshire.
- The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute estimates that twelve million adults have COPD and at least another twelve million have the disease and do not yet know it.
- COPD is the second leading cause of disability in the U.S.



Risk factors include:

- 1) being over age 40 & currently smoking or having a history of smoking;
- 2) having shortness of breath, a chronic cough, or trouble doing simple daily tasks like climbing stairs or grocery shopping;
- 3) having worked or lived around chemicals or fumes such as secondhand smoke or occupational dust/chemicals;
- 4) having certain genetic conditions.