

Table 15-4. Work-related respiratory conditions: Number of diagnoses related to asbestos or to other occupational exposures, based on physician's judgement, selected occupational and environmental medical clinics, 1991-2000

	Asbestos-related (4,471 patients)		Other (2,021 patients)		
	No.	%	No.	%	Most frequent hazard (No. of cases)
MALIGNANT DISEASES					
Lung cancer	37	0.8	9	0.4	crystalline silica (3)
Nasal/pharyngeal cancer	-	-	2	0.1	wood dust (1), smoke n.o.s. (1)
Laryngeal cancer	7	0.2	3	0.1	various (1 each)
Mesothelioma	10	0.2	-	-	
OTHER CONDITIONS					
Upper airway diseases	4	0.1	457	22.1	
Upper respiratory irritation	2	0.1	440	21.3	indoor air pollutants (132)
Laryngeal disorders (other than irritation or cancer)	2	0.1	12	0.6	indoor air pollutants (4),
Nasal septum perforation	-	-	3	0.1	NaOH (1), NH ₃ gas (1), Cr (1)
Nasal polyps	-	-	2	0.1	petroleum (1), solvents n.o.s. (1)
Lower airway diseases	60	1.3	1,075	52.0	
Asthma & reactive airways dysfunction syndrome	7	0.2	847	41.0	indoor air pollutants (134)
COPD & emphysema & chronic bronchitis	53	1.1	128	6.2	smoke n.o.s. (14), dust n.o.s. (8)
Bronchitis, acute	-	-	16	0.8	welding fume n.o.s. (2), smoke n.o.s. (2)
Bronchitis, n.o.s.	-	-	82	4.0	indoor air pollutants (9)
Bronchiectasis & pneumonia	-	-	2	0.2	indoor air pollutants (1), late effects of traumatic injury (1)
Interstitial inflammatory/fibrotic diseases	3,930	86.5	273	13.2	
Asbestosis	3,921	86.3	-	-	
Silicosis	-	-	145	7.0	crystalline silica (145)
Coal workers' pneumoconiosis	-	-	58	2.8	coal (58)
Pneumoconiosis due to other or mixed dust	7	0.2	18	0.9	crystalline silica (4)
Interstitial pulmonary fibrosis	2	0.1	19	0.9	methyl chloroform (3), paint (3)
Chemical pneumonitis	-	-	15	0.7	chlorine (3), solvents n.o.s. (3)
Hypersensitivity pneumonitis	-	-	18	0.9	cutting oils (3), mold n.o.s. (3)
Pleural disease (without apparent lung disease)	463	10.1	2	0.1	crystalline silica (1), latex gloves n.o.s. (1)
Lung function abnormalities (n.o.s.)	10	0.2	11	0.5	crystalline silica (2), solvents n.o.s. (2)
Abnormal CXR (n.o.s.)	10	0.2	-	-	
Symptoms	8	0.2	57	2.8	
Cough	2	0.1	18	0.9	indoor air pollutants (4)
Shortness of breath	5	0.1	20	1.0	various (1 each)
Chest pain	-	-	9	0.4	various (1 each)
Hoarseness	-	-	7	0.3	indoor air pollutants (2)
Nosebleeds	-	-	2	0.1	glutaraldehyde (1), chromium n.o.s. (1)
Hemoptysis	1	0.1	1	0.1	cutting oils (1)
Non-specific respiratory disorders	4	0.1	21	1.0	indoor air pollutants (2)
Chemical poisonings	-	-	70	3.4	
Metal fume fever	-	-	16	0.8	zinc (5), metal fumes n.o.s. (5)
Toxic effects of carbon monoxide or cyanides	-	-	21	1.0	carbon monoxide (13)
Toxic effects of gas/fumes/vapors/misc. chemicals (excl. lead, other heavy metals, pesticides, solvents)	-	-	32	1.5	ethylene oxide (6)
Hypoxia	-	-	1	0.1	Freon® (1)
Selected miscellaneous conditions	-	-	87	4.2	
Positive PPD skin test	-	-	83	4.0	tuberculosis (83)
Sarcoidosis	-	-	4	0.2	cleaning materials n.o.s. (2)
TOTAL	4,543	100.0	2,067	100.0	

- indicates no cases n.o.s. - not otherwise specified

NOTE: In the Symptoms and the Chemical Poisonings categories, all diagnoses in the subcategories shown have been included as "respiratory" in this table, though some may not have been respiratory. In addition to the diagnoses shown in this table, there were 17 non-respiratory diagnoses related to asbestos and 5,413 non-respiratory diagnoses related to other occupational hazards. See appendices for source description.

SOURCE: AOEC Occupational and Environmental Disease Database.