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Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

- In Illinois, COPD was the fourth leading cause of death in 2005¹.
- An estimated 557,120 Illinoisans have been diagnosed with either chronic bronchitis, emphysema or a combination of both². True prevalence data is unknown.
- COPD is a preventable, treatable chronic lung disease, in which the airways are partly blocked, making it hard to breathe over time. It is also referred to as emphysema and chronic bronchitis.
- COPD is the fourth leading cause of death³ and is predicted to be the third leading cause of death by 2020⁴. Of the five leading causes of death, it is the only one on the rise⁴.
- An estimated 12 million people in the United States have been diagnosed with COPD. An additional 12 million people are believed to have the disease and not even know it^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}.
- COPD kills more than 120,000 Americans each year¹.
- COPD cost the nation an estimated \$42.6 billion in 2007⁵.
- COPD has increased dramatically in women over the last 50 years⁶ and since 2000, more women have died from COPD than men⁶.

¹ Illinois Department of Public Health, Leading Causes of Death, Illinois, 2005.
<http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/bdmd/leadingdeaths05.htm>.

² Number was derived from Illinois population data and estimates of number of COPD cases diagnosed nationwide.

³ National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, COPD Learn More Breathe Better Campaign, *COPD Are You at Risk*.
<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/lung/copd/campaign-materials/html/copd-atrisk.htm>.

⁴ Murray CJ and Lopez AD. *Lancet* 1997; 349: 1498-1504.

⁵ National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Morbidity and Mortality Chartbook, 2007.
<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/resources/docs/07a-chtbk.pdf>.

⁶ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Surveillance – United States, 1971 – 2000. *MMWR*, August 2, 2002; 51(SS06); 1-16.