

# Work-related lung disease and deaths in the UK construction sector\*

Exposures at work are a major cause of lung disease in the UK.  
The risks from working in construction are greater  
than for any other sector.

\* 'Occupational lung disease in the UK: the facts', July 2014, a BOHS review of the existing evidence about prevalence and incidence of occupational lung disease in the UK

## ALL INDUSTRIES Every year

12,000 deaths  
129,000 total cases  
17,000 new cases  
29 new cases per 100,000 workers

## ALL INDUSTRIES The occupational respiratory diseases

Occupational cancers of the respiratory system  
cause of more than  
7,000 deaths a year  
COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)  
causes an estimated minimum of  
4,000 deaths per year  
16% of adult-onset asthma cases  
may be work-related

The UK construction sector has the largest number of reported cases  
of occupational lung disease of any industrial sector

**3,500**  
occupational  
cancer deaths  
are caused by  
exposures in  
construction

Construction  
is among the  
**top 5**  
industries for  
deaths from  
COPD

Some of the most common substances known to cause occupational  
asthma are used in or generated by everyday construction tasks

isocyanates, solder and colophony fume, stainless steel welding fumes, and wood dusts.