

# COPD: Worldwide Social & Economic Burden and Epidemiology of COPD

---



**A. Sonia Buist M.D.**  
**Oregon Health & Science**  
**University,**  
**Portland, Oregon, USA**

# Why is COPD in the Spotlight?

---

- Mortality from COPD is increasing (especially in women) when other causes of death are decreasing
- Health care utilization is increasing
- Cost is very high
- COPD has a huge impact on quality of life
- Prevalence is much higher than appreciated

# Social & Economic Burden & Epidemiology of COPD

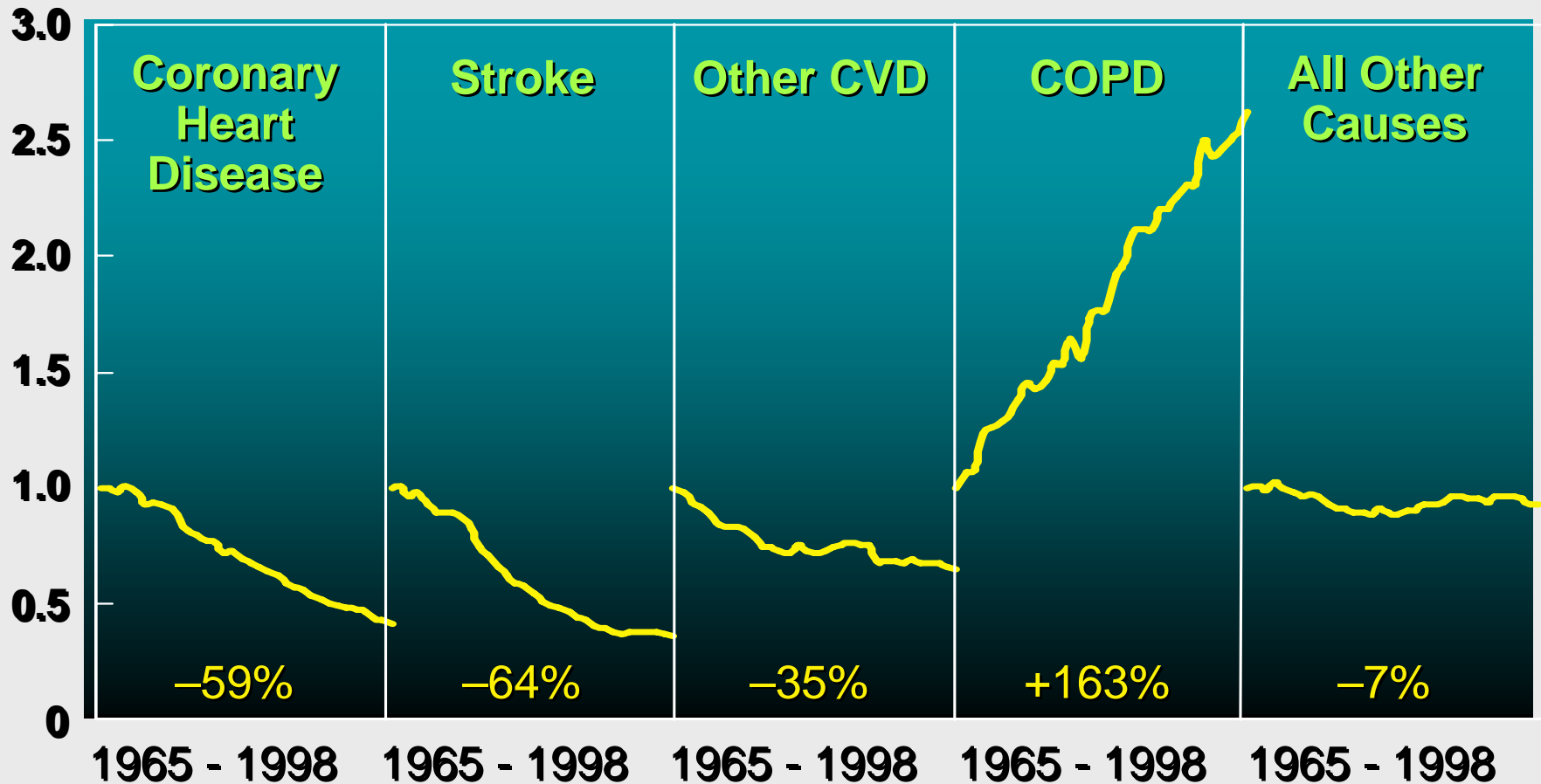
---

- How is the burden of COPD estimated
- Risk factors for COPD
- Natural history of COPD
- Lessons for the clinician



# Percent Change in Age-Adjusted Death Rates, U.S., 1965-1998

## Proportion of 1965 Rate



## Explaining the Decrease in US Deaths from Coronary Disease, 1980-2000.

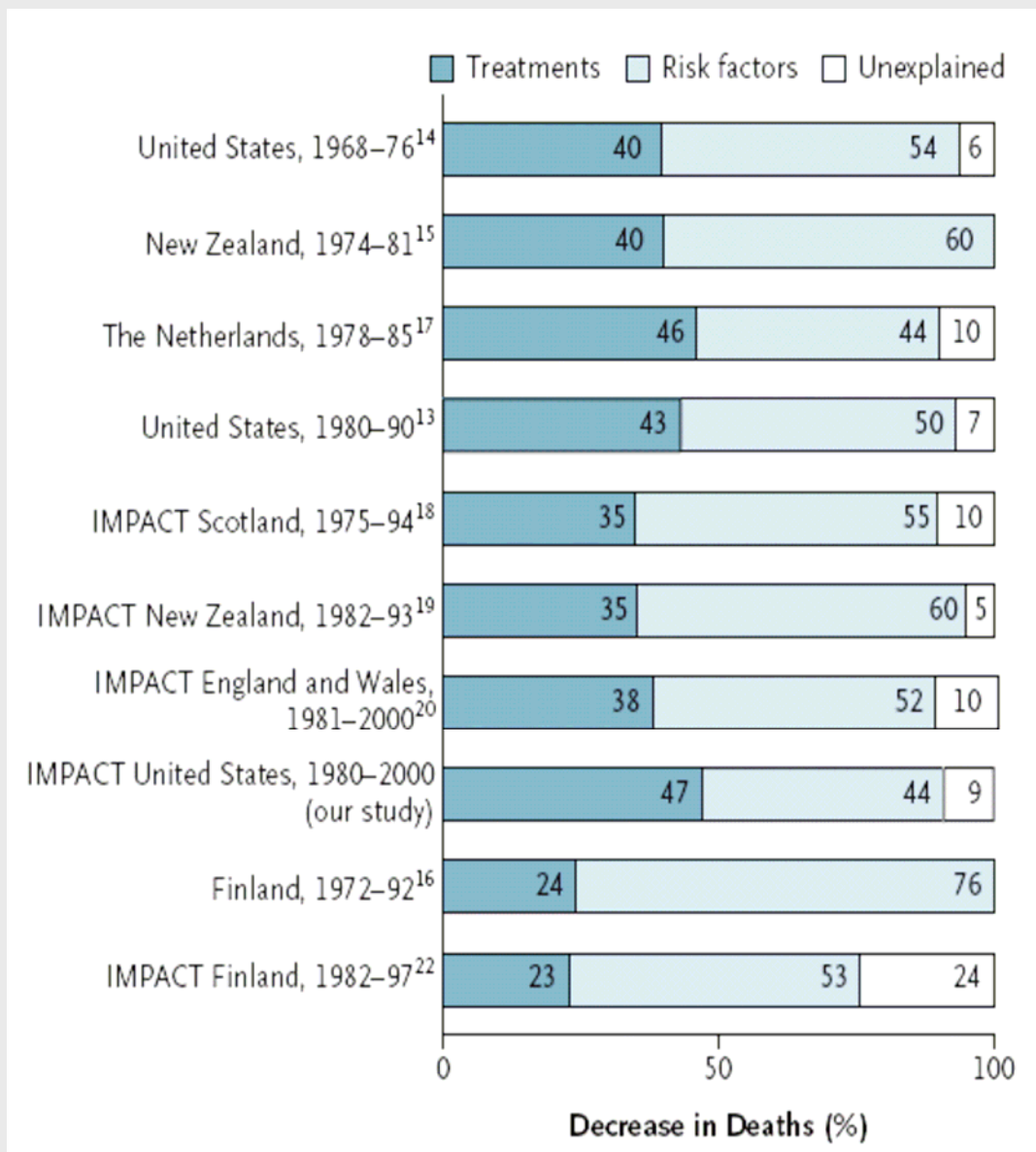
Ford et al. NEJM 2007; 356: 2388

■ US Adults 25-84 yrs

■ Age-adjusted deaths for CAD fell from 543.0 to 266.7 deaths/100K (M) and from 263.3 to 134.4 (W)

■ 47% of decrease attributed to treatments, 44% to changing risk factors

■ Increases on deaths as result of increased BMI & diabetes



Ford ES et al, NEJM 2007;356(23):2388-97



# Definition of COPD

- COPD is a *preventable and treatable* disease with some significant extrapulmonary effects that may contribute to the severity in individual patients
- Its pulmonary component is characterized by airflow limitation that is not fully reversible
- The airflow limitation is usually progressive and associated with an abnormal inflammatory response of the lungs to noxious particles or gases

# How is the Burden of COPD Estimated?

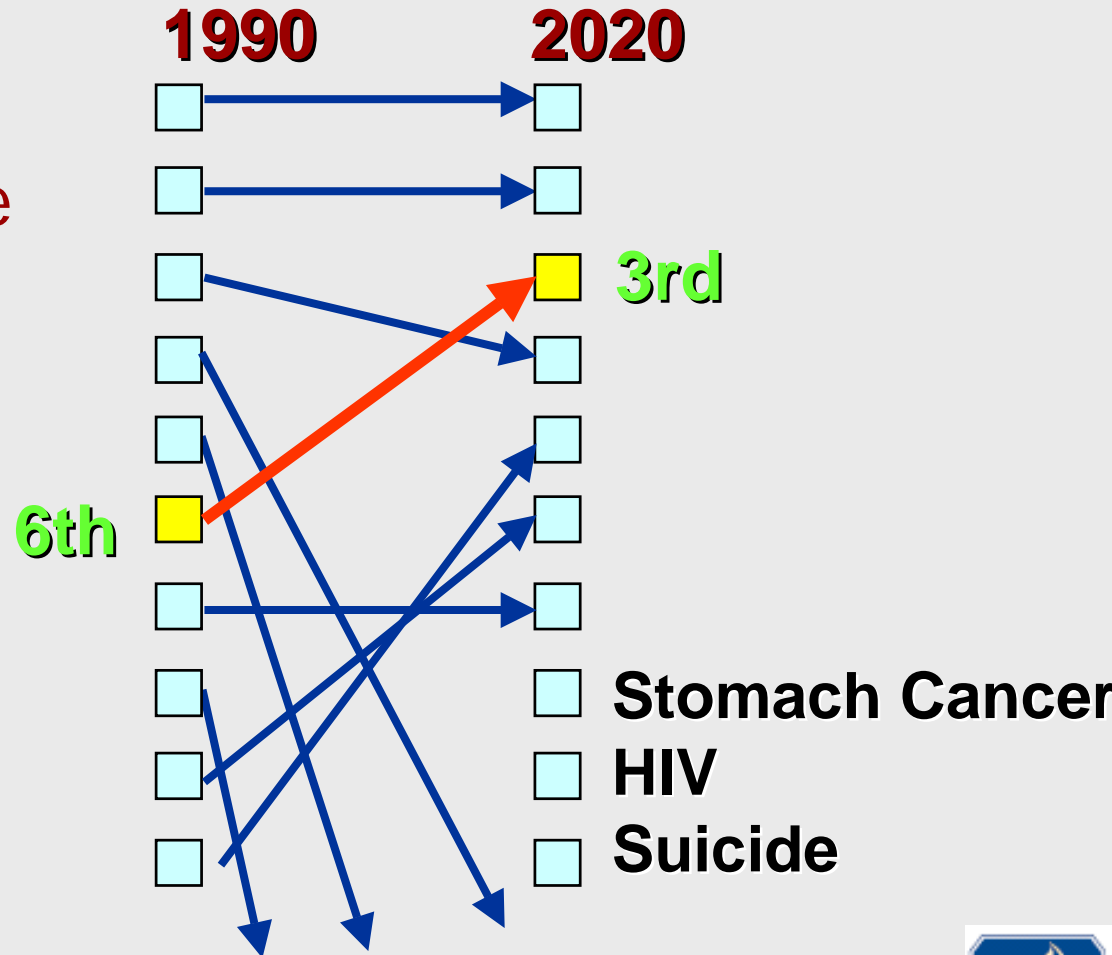
---

- Mortality
- Morbidity
- Prevalence
- Cost
- Quality of life

# Future Mortality

Murray & Lopez. Lancet 1997

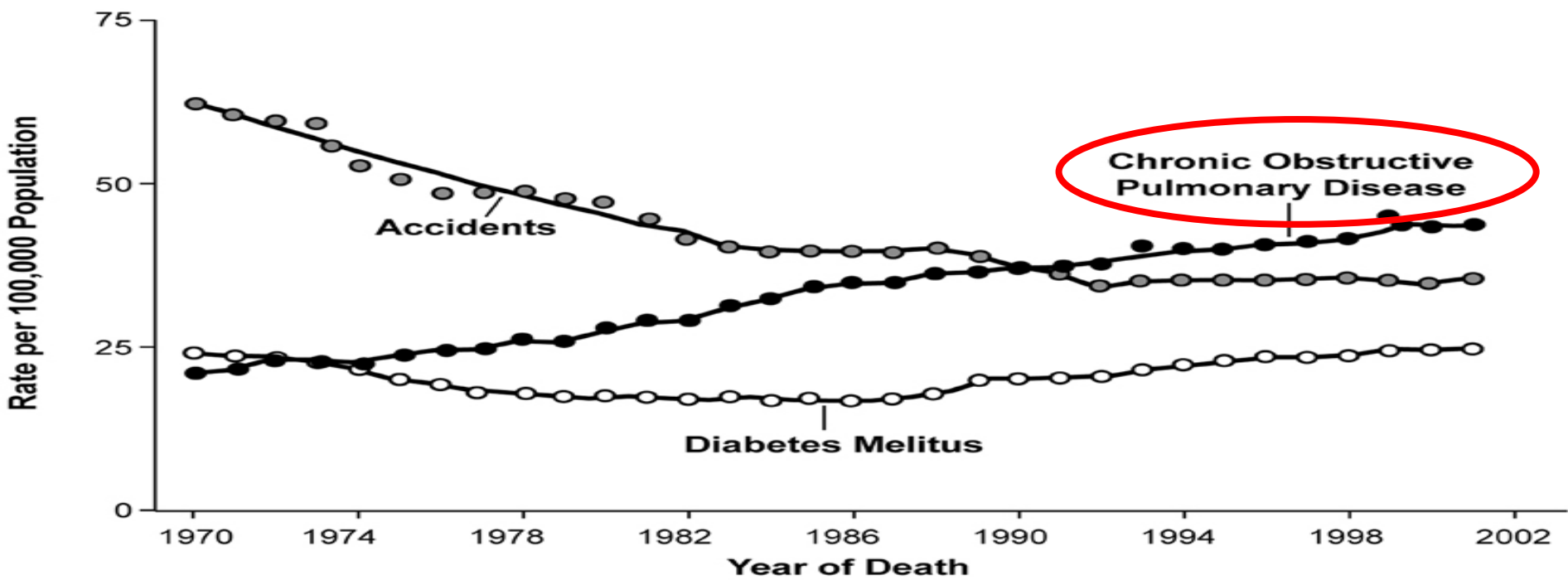
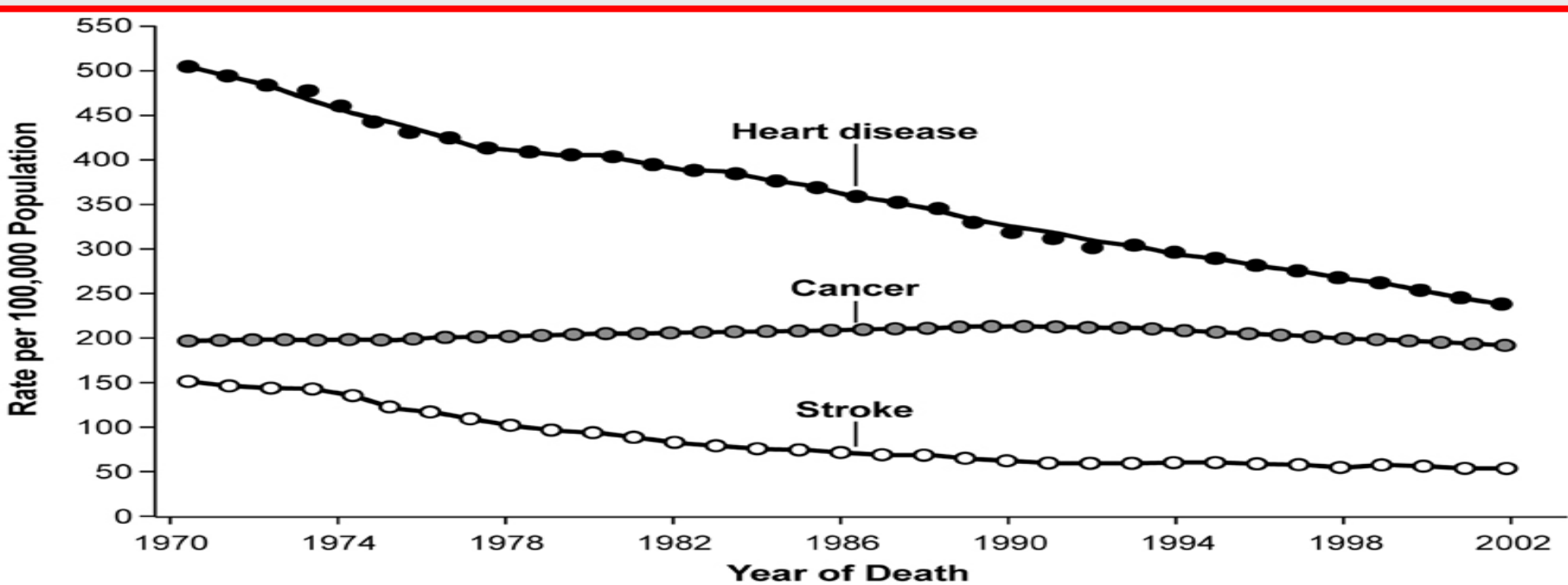
- Ischaemic heart disease
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Lower resp infection
- Diarrhoeal disease
- Perinatal disorders
- COPD
- Tuberculosis
- Measles
- Road Traffic Accidents
- Lung Cancer



# COPD Mortality in the US

---

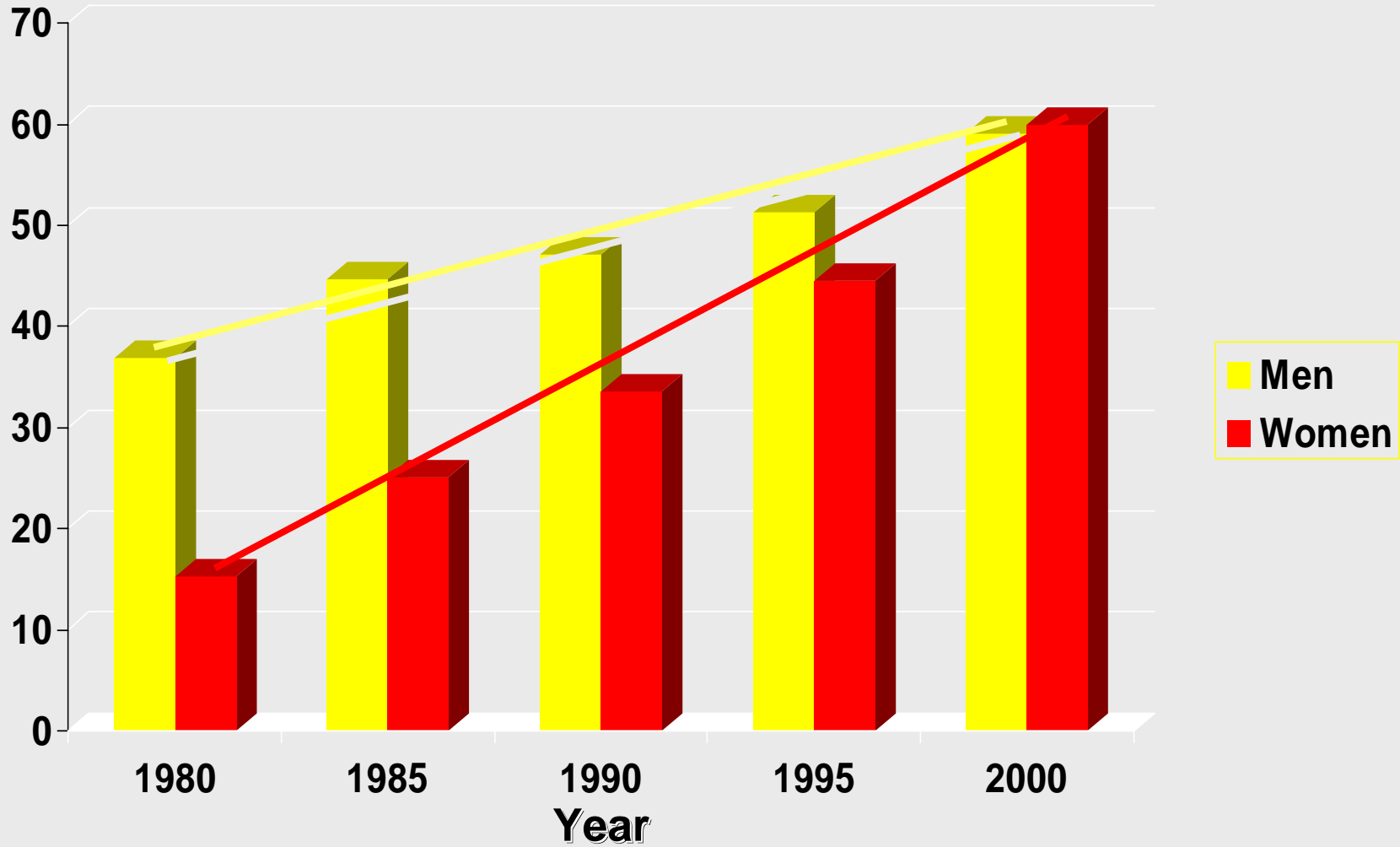
COPD is the **only one** of the top 6 leading causes of death in the US that is increasing





# COPD Mortality by Gender, U.S., 1980-2000

Number Deaths x 1000



# Morbidity in COPD

---

Traditionally measured by:

- Physician visits
- Hospitalization
- Emergency visits

# Morbidity in COPD

---

- May be affected by co-morbid chronic conditions that are not directly related to COPD but may have an impact on health status or may negatively interfere with COPD management
- Morbidity data are greatly affected by availability of hospital beds so should be interpreted with caution

# Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)

---

- A metric used by WHO
- Combines premature death & disability

# Leading Causes Of Disability-adjusted Life-Years (DALYs) Lost Worldwide: 1990 and 2020 (projected)

Disease or injury	RANK 1990	RANK 2020	% total DALYs
Lower respiratory infections	1	6	3.1
Diarrheal diseases	2	9	2.7
Ischemic heart disease	5	1	5.9
Cerebrovascular disease	6	4	4.4
Tuberculosis	7	7	3.1
Road traffic accidents	9	3	5.0
<b>COPD</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4.1</b>

# Co-Morbidities of COPD

---

- Depression & anxiety
- Loss of bone mineral density & osteoporosis
- Myocardial infarction, angina & congestive heart failure
- Metabolic syndrome

# % of Patients with Chronic Diseases in Netherlands

van Weel Lancet 367: 550-1, 2006

# of Chronic Diseases	Self-Reported Dutch Survey	Primary Care >65 years	Primary Care >75 Years
0	43	34	31
1	26	27	29
2	14	22	25
≥3	16	17	15



# Patterns of Co-Morbidities in Newly Diagnosed COPD in UK

- 2,699 patients with newly diagnosed COPD identified in UK General Practice Research Database
- Compared to non-COPD cohort, COPD patients were at increased risk of:
  - Pneumonia (RR 16)
  - Osteoporosis (RR 3.1)
  - Respiratory infections (RR 2.2)
  - Myocardial infarction and angina (RR for both 1.7)
  - Fractures (RR 1.6)
  - Glaucoma (RR 1.3)

Soriano et al CHEST 2005; 128: 2099-2107



# Importance of Taking Co-Morbidities into Consideration

---

- Need for diagnostic testing
- Multiple drugs may be prescribed
- Adherence may be affected by multiple drugs and regimens
- Side effects of each drug and drug-drug interactions need to be monitored
- Quality of life affected
- Cost increases with each co-morbidity

# COPD Prevalence

---

- COPD develops slowly over decades; usually becomes clinically apparent over age 40 years
- Prevalence data are most helpful when expressed as rate over age 30 or 40 years
- Measuring COPD prevalence requires spirometry (simple breathing test)
- COPD occurs in smokers, nonsmokers and ex-smokers



# Diagnosis of COPD

- Diagnosis of COPD is based on a history of exposure to risk factors and the presence of airflow limitation that is not fully reversible, with or without the presence of symptoms.

*GOLD 2006*



# Spirometry is Needed for Diagnosis



- For the diagnosis and assessment of COPD, spirometry is the gold standard.
- The presence of a post-bronchodilator  $FEV_1/FVC < .7$  and  $FEV_1 < 80\%$  predicted confirms the presence of airflow limitation that is not fully reversible

*GOLD 2006*



# Classification by Severity



Stage	Characteristics*
I: Mild	$FEV_1/FVC < 70\%$ ; $FEV_1 > 80\%$ predicted
II: Moderate	$FEV_1/FVC < 70\%$ ; $50\% < FEV_1 < 80\%$ predicted
III: Severe	$FEV_1/FVC < 70\%$ ; $30\% > FEV_1 < 50\%$ predicted
IV: Very Severe	$FEV_1/FVC < 70\%$ ; $FEV_1 < 30\%$ predicted or $FEV_1 < 50\%$ predicted plus chronic respiratory failure

*GOLD 2006*

*\*Post-Bronchodilator*

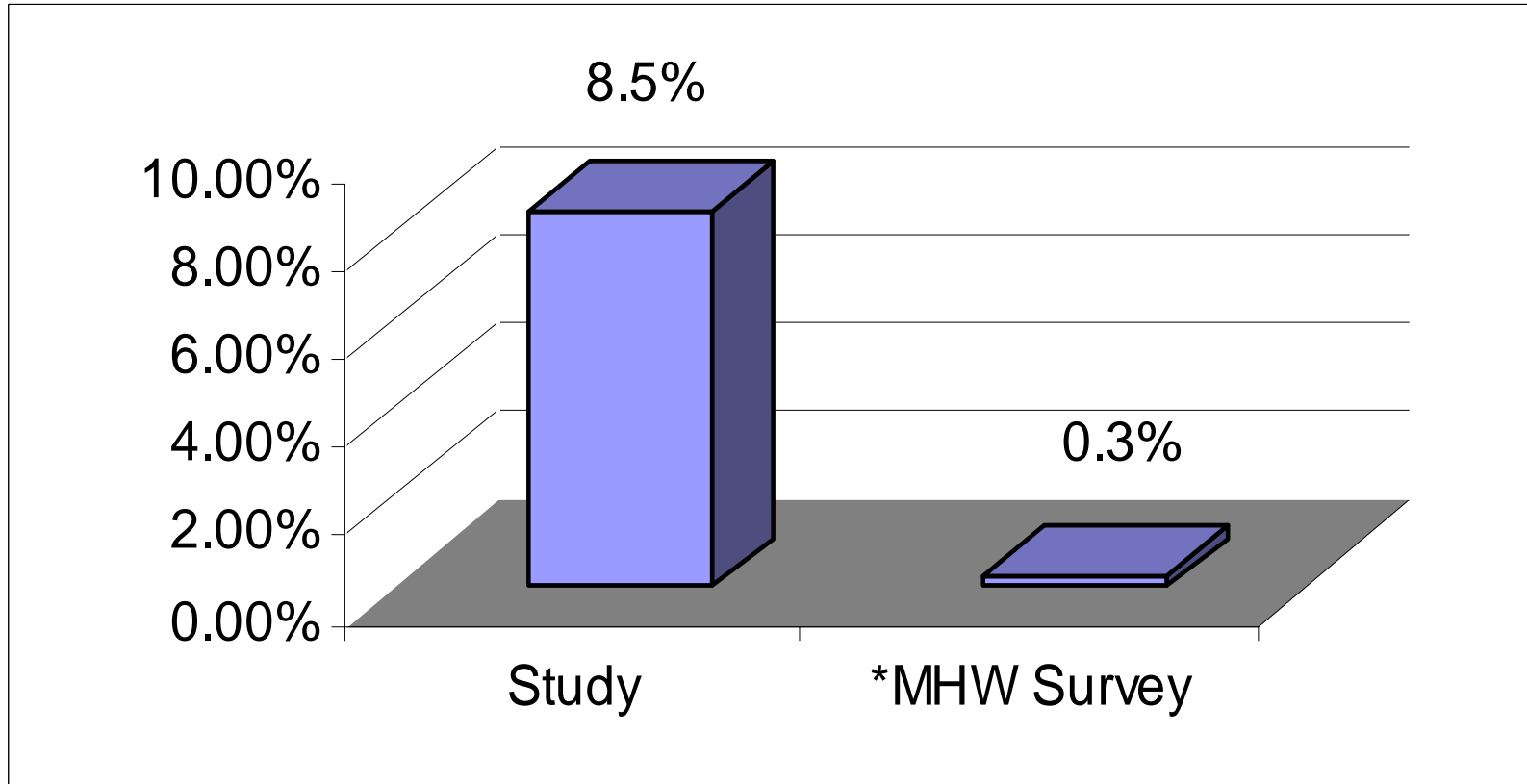
# COPD is Under-appreciated and Under-diagnosed

---

Example of Japan:

- NICE Survey of COPD prevalence
- Carried out in several regions of Japan using standardized methods

# COPD Prevalence Rate (adjusted)\*\* in Population > 40 years: NICE Study

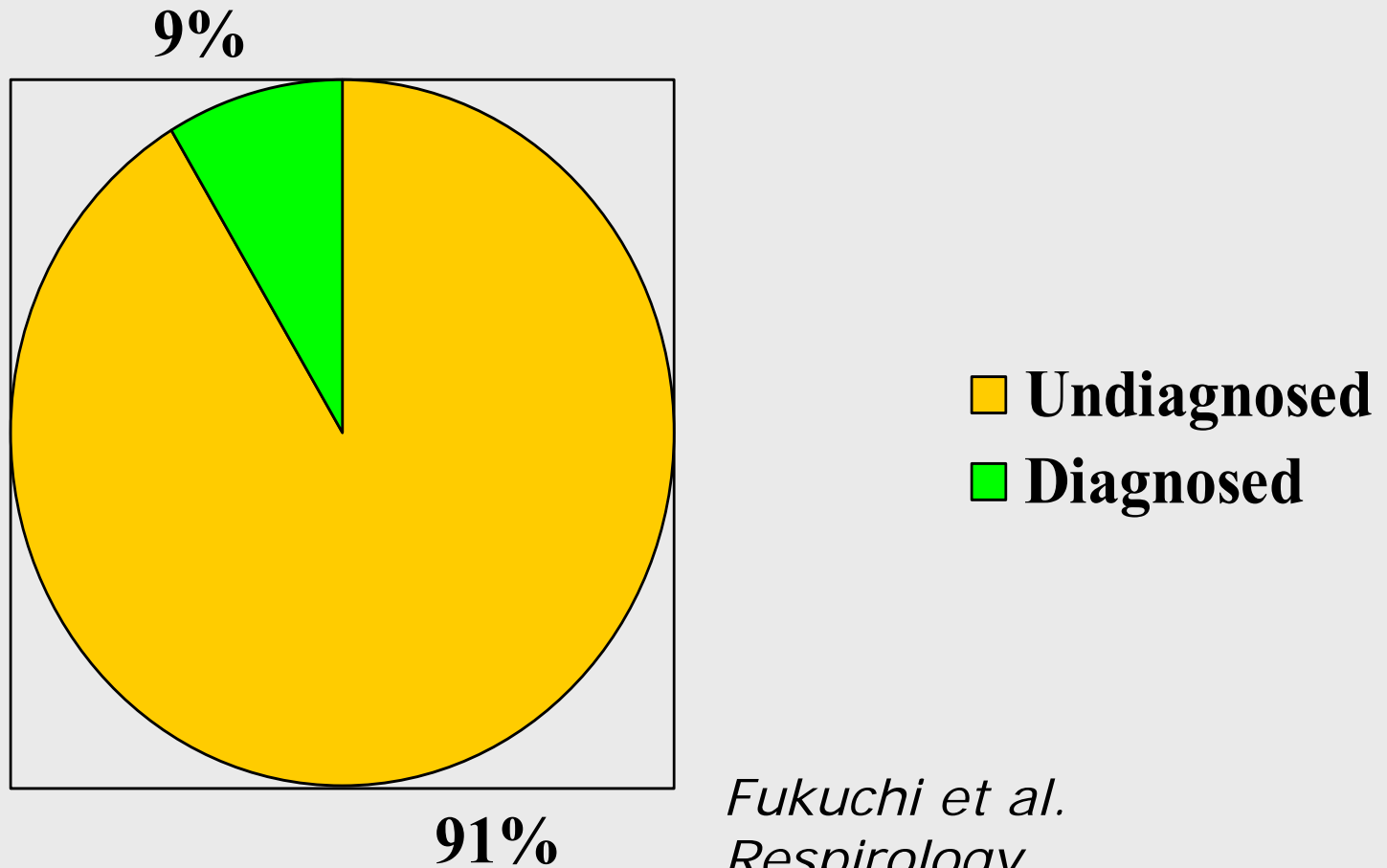


\* Ministry of Health and Welfare

\*\* Adjusted for age, sex, cluster

*Fukuchi et al. Respiriology*  
*2004;9:458-65*

# Diagnosed and Undiagnosed COPD in NICE Study in Japan:



*Fukuchi et al.  
Respirology  
2004; 9: 458-65*

# Why is COPD Under-diagnosed?

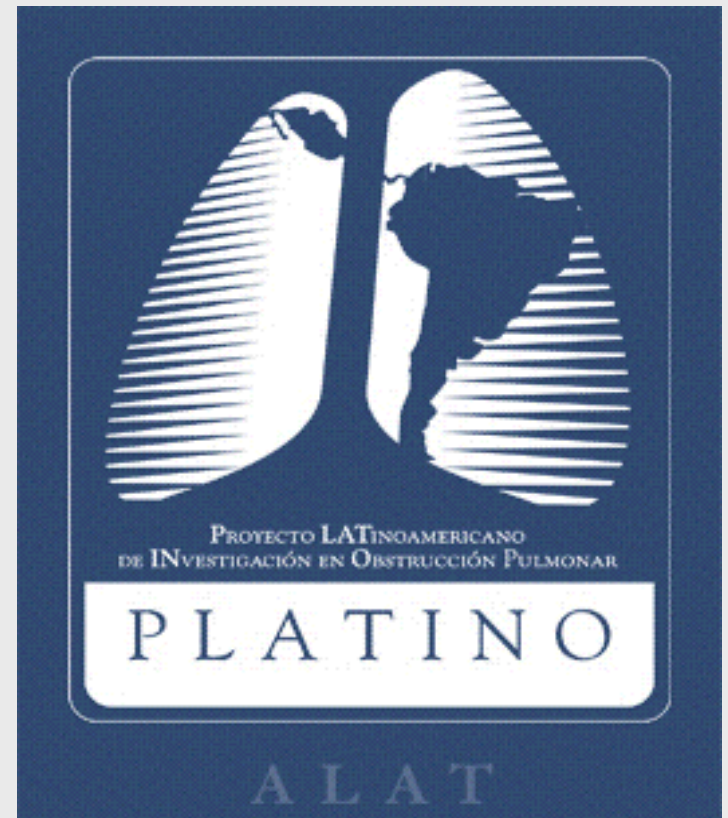
---

- Cough & sputum are often thought of as normal in smokers
- The symptoms of COPD are often confused with aging (less fit, increased weight)
- COPD has poor name recognition



## Two Models of International Collaboration

to Measure COPD Prevalence



# PLATINO and BOLD

**PLATINO:** five countries in Latin America (Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Mexico, Venezuela)

**BOLD:** 18 countries worldwide (China, Turkey, South Africa, Austria, Poland, Norway, Iceland, Canada, USA, Philippines, India, Estonia, Australia, UK, Portugal, India, Sweden, Netherlands)



# Scientific Objectives of PLATINO & BOLD: Primary

- Measure the prevalence of COPD & its risk factors by age & sex
- Estimate the burden of COPD
  - quality of life & activity limitation
  - respiratory symptoms
  - use of health care services

# BOLD & PLATINO Entry Criteria

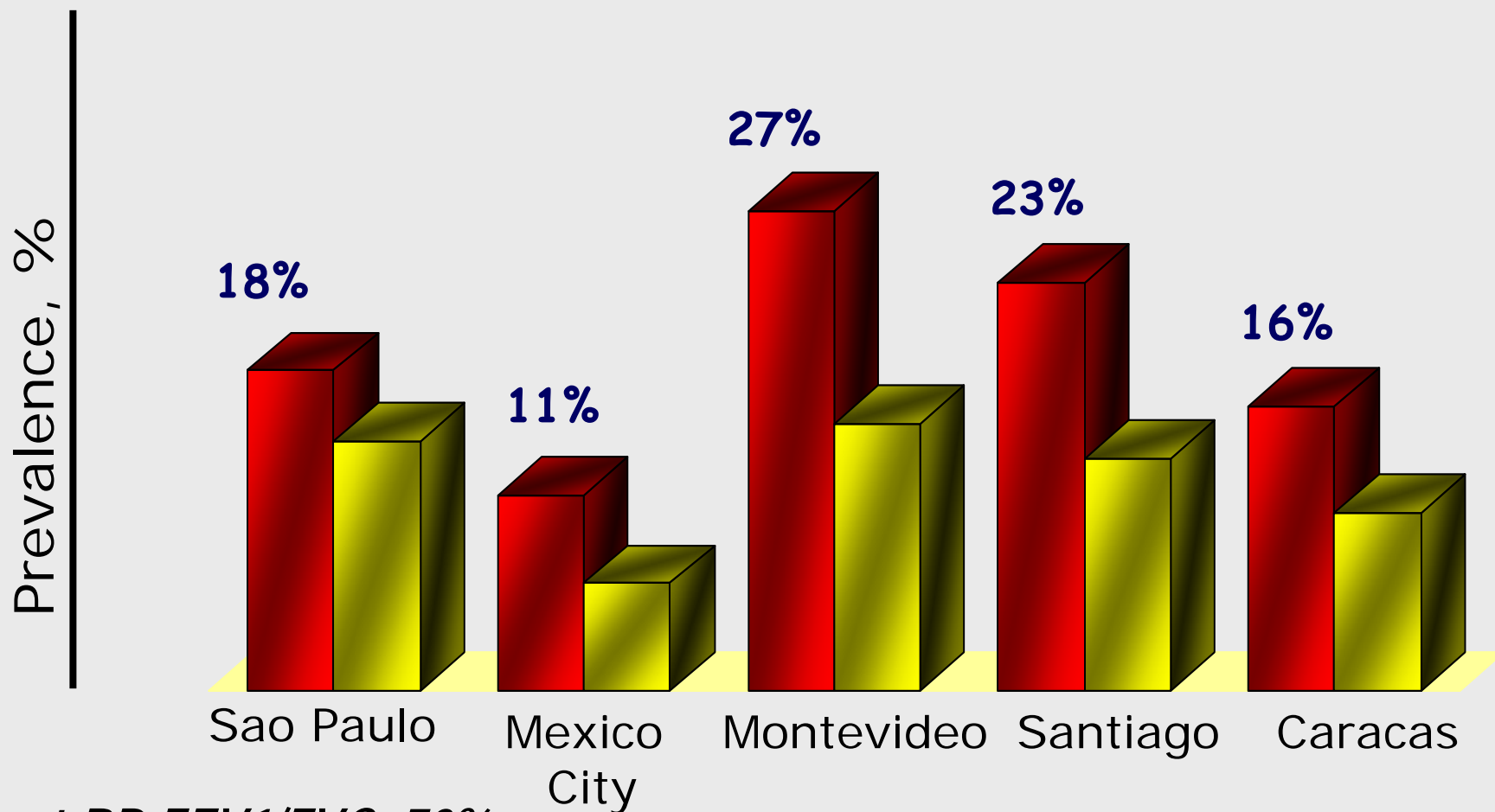
- $\geq 40$  years
- Men & women
- Population-based e.g. random sample of population



# GOLD Stage 1+ $\geq$ 40 years in 5 Latin American Cities, PLATINO

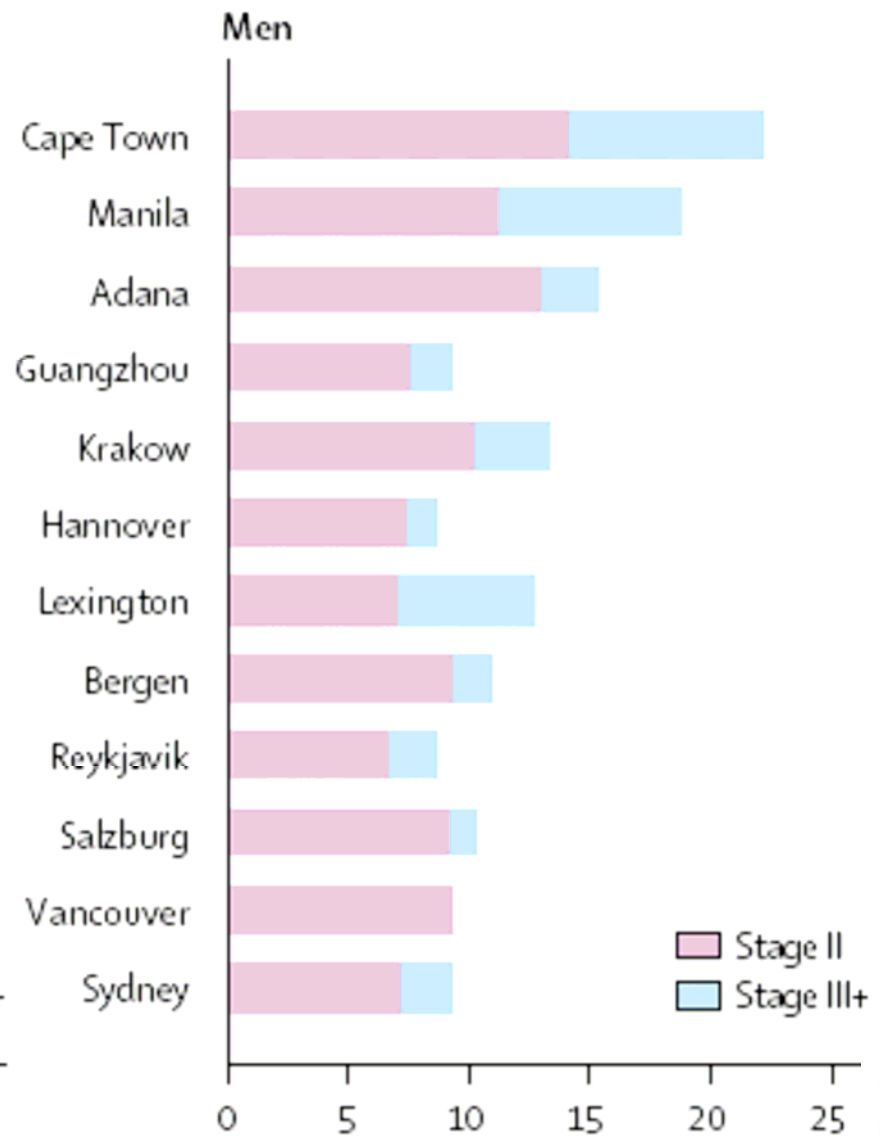
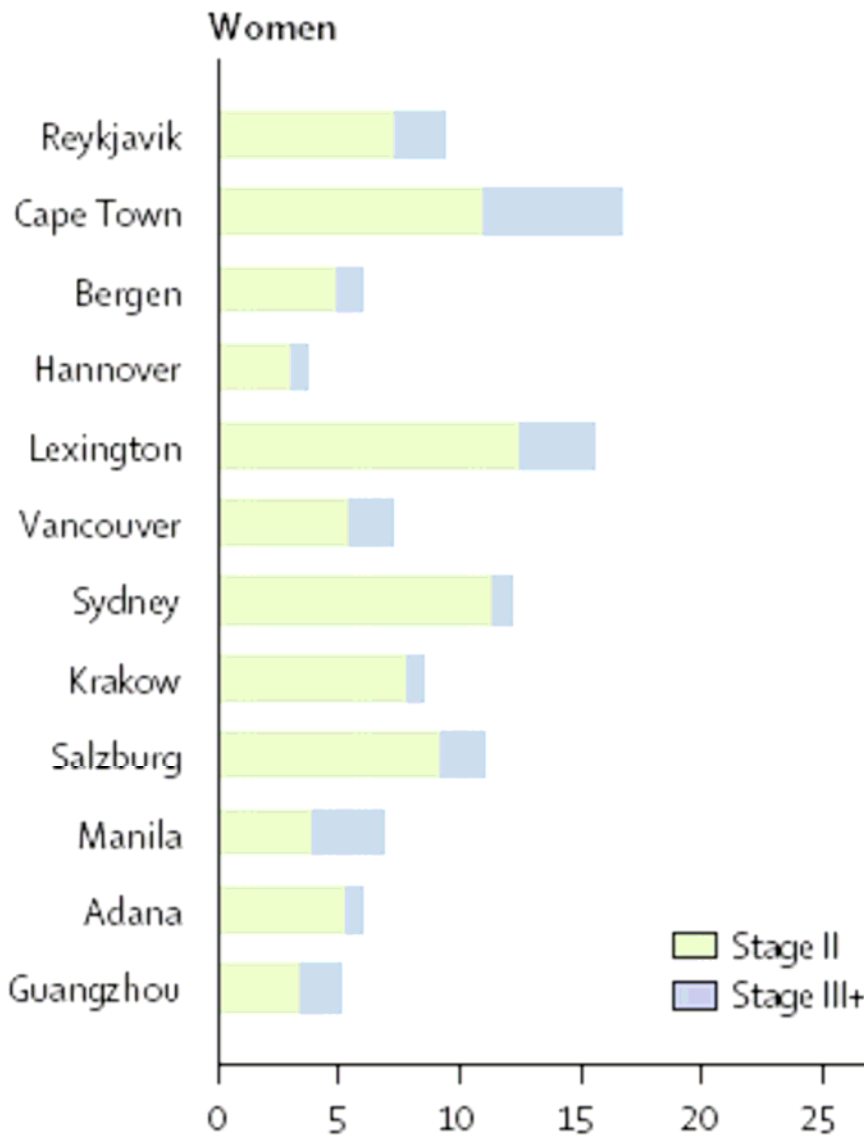
*Menezes et al Lancet 2005*

■ Males ■ Females



*Post-BD FEV1/FVC < 70%*

# Prevalence of GOLD Stage 2 & 3 COPD in 12 Countries by Descending Order of Smoking, BOLD



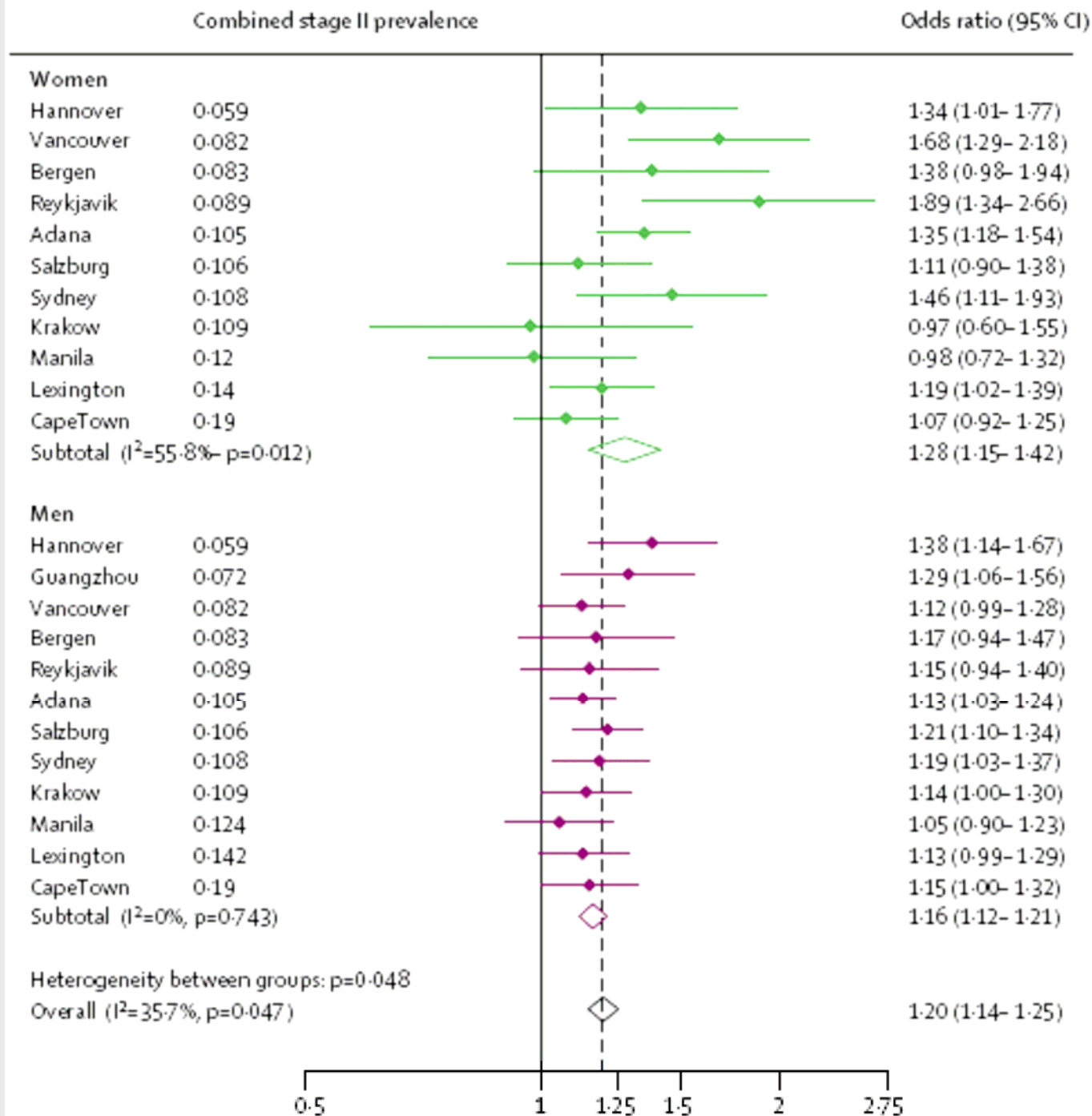
*Lancet, Sept 1 '07* Prevalence (%)

Prevalence (%)



Odds Ratios of Stage 2+ COPD for each 10pack-year increments in smoking in ever smokers by sex & site, BOLD Study in 12 countries

*Lancet, Sept 1 '07*

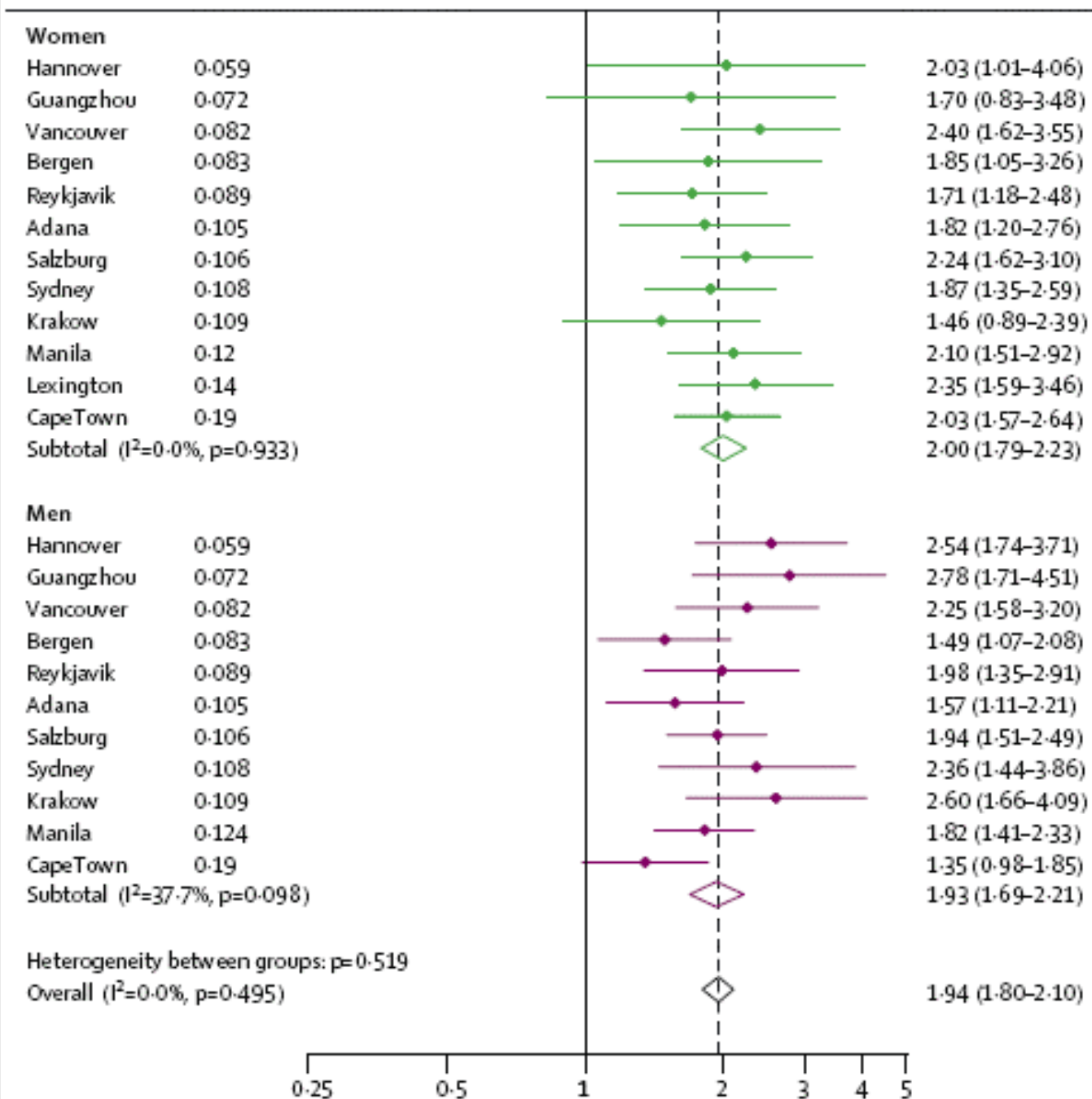


Odds Ratios  
of Stage 2+  
COPD for  
each 10 year  
increment in  
age by sex  
and site,  
BOLD Study  
in 12  
countries

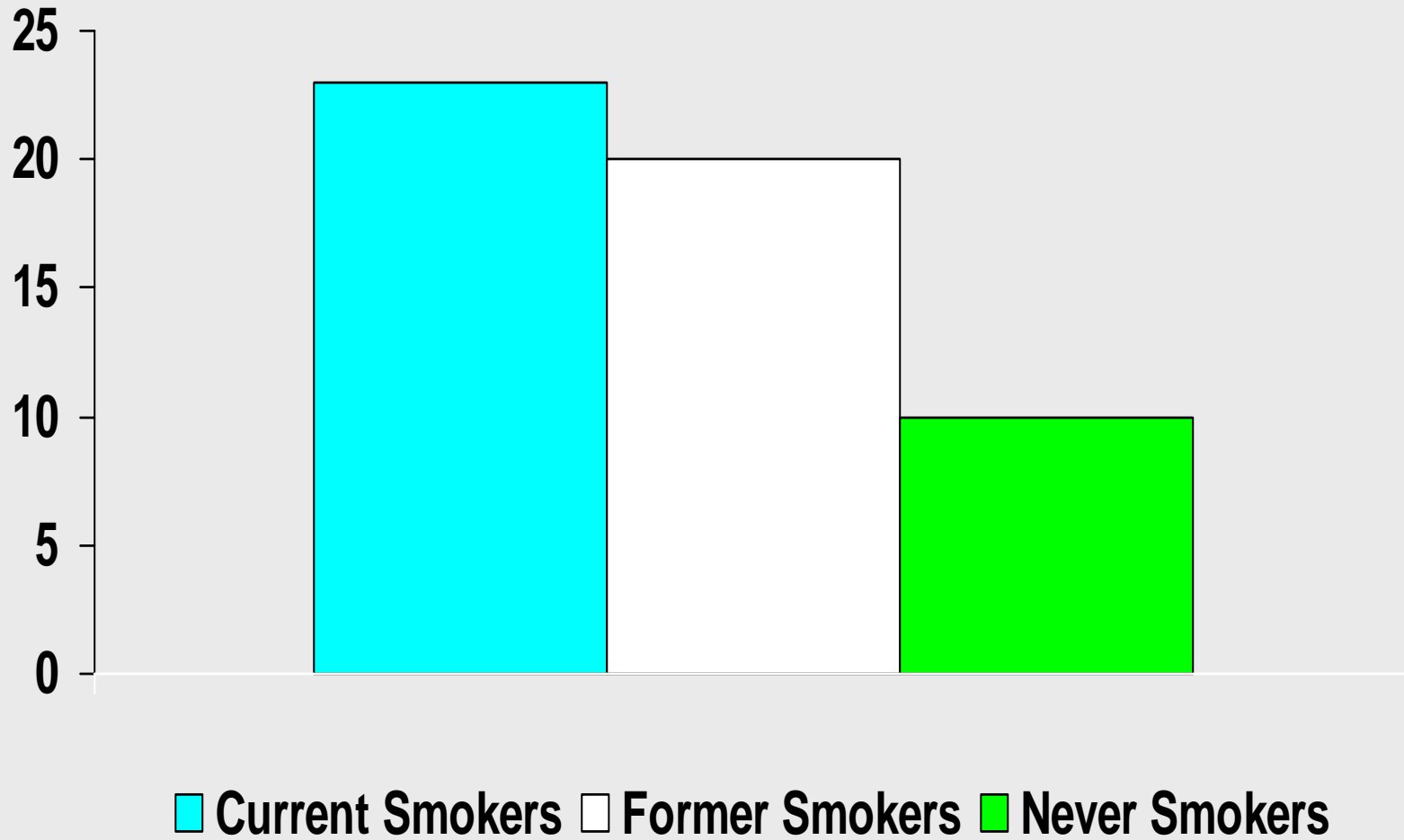
*Lancet,*  
*Sept 1 '07*

Combined stage II prevalence

Odds ratio (95% CI)



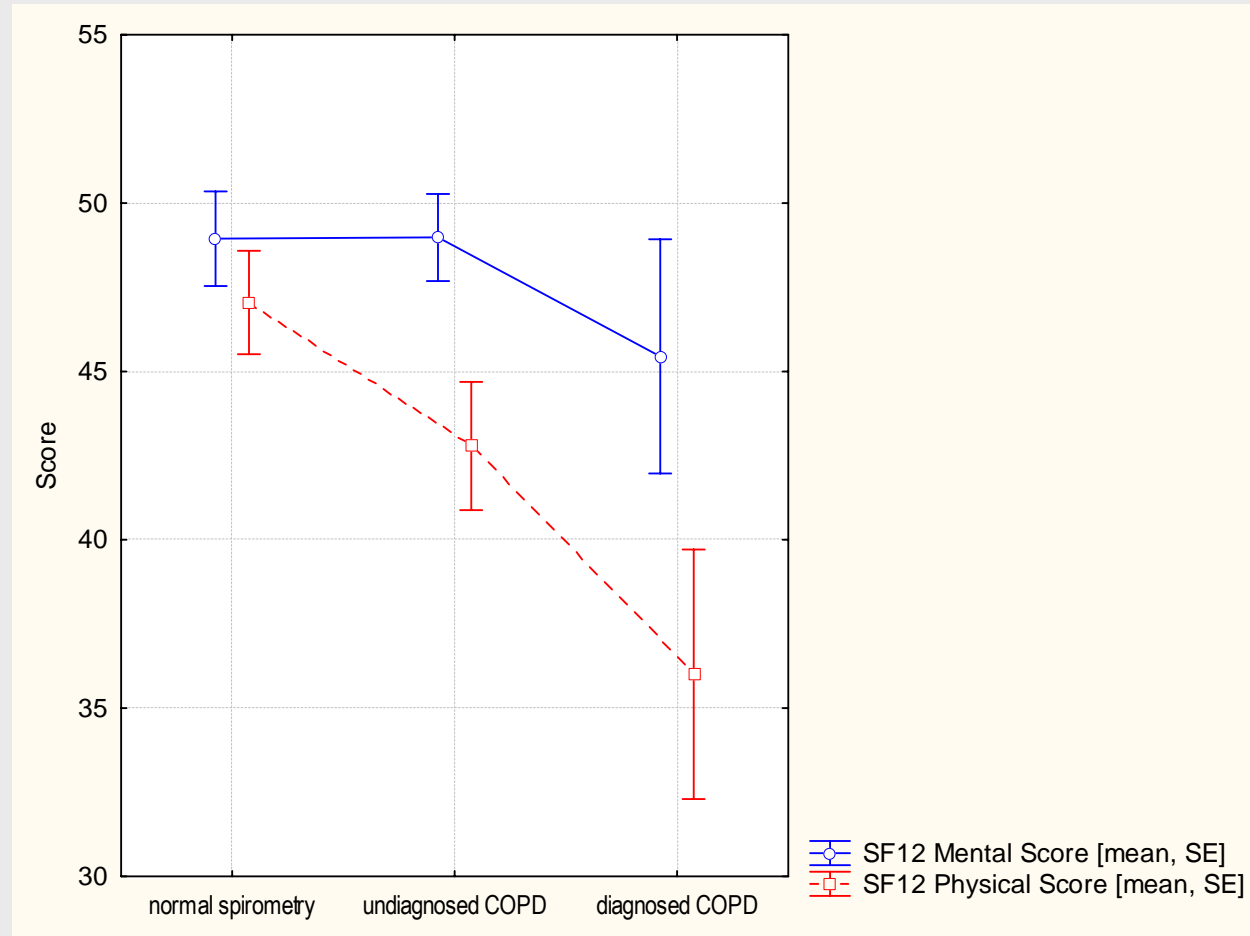
# Proportion of Adults with $FEV_1/FVC < 70\%$ , Age-adjusted to Total Population



**NHANES III, U.S 1988-94**

# Quality of Life Scores in Poland BOLD Study

SF 12 scores  
in  
participants  
with normal  
lung function,  
undiagnosed  
COPD and  
diagnosed  
COPD



# Why is the Burden of COPD Increasing Worldwide?

---

- Increase in exposure to risk factors (especially tobacco) in developing countries & in women

# Cigarette Smoke

Fumes/gases

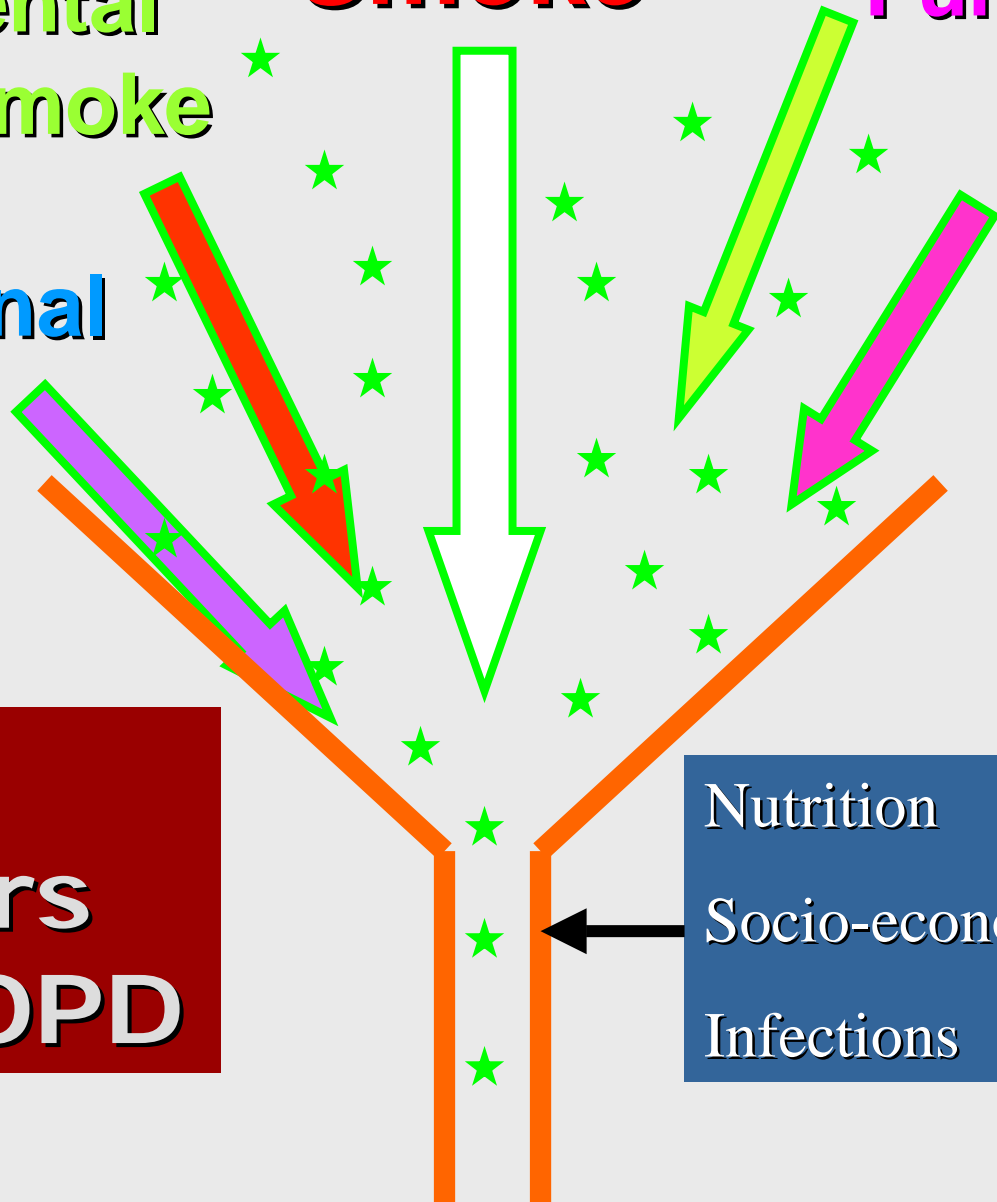
In/outdoor  
pollution

Environmental  
tobacco smoke

Occupational  
dusts

**Risk  
Factors  
for COPD**

Nutrition  
Socio-economic status  
Infections



*COPD is a classic  
gene-environment  
interaction disease*

# Cigarette Smoke

Fumes/gases

In/outdoor  
pollution

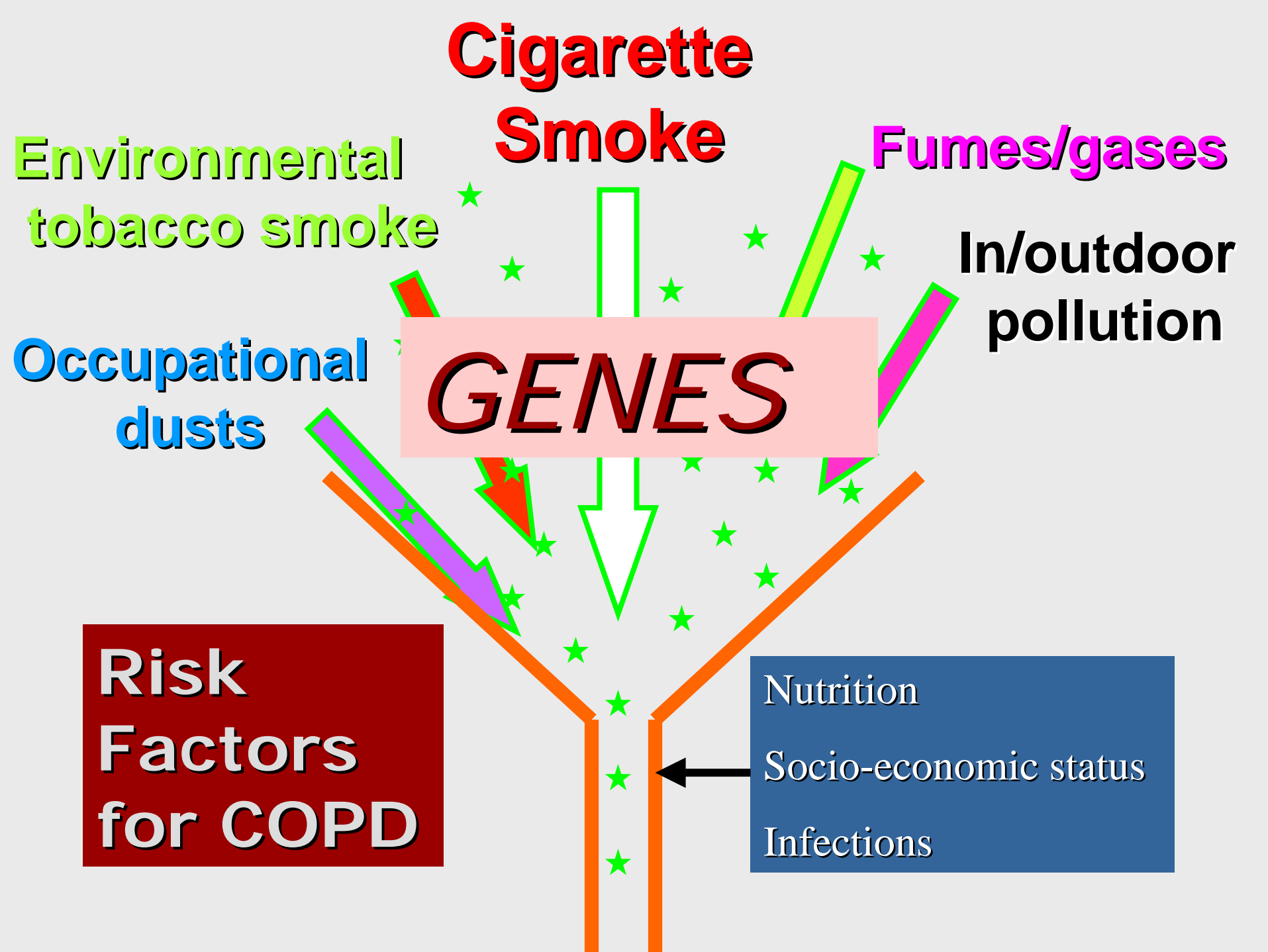
*GENES*

Environmental  
tobacco smoke

Occupational  
dusts

**Risk  
Factors  
for COPD**

Nutrition  
Socio-economic status  
Infections



# Trends in Risk Factors

## Smoking

---

- Until 1940s, smoking prevalence in women much less than men worldwide
- Smoking increased in women in many countries in 1940s and gradually equaled rates in men

# Trends in Risk Factors

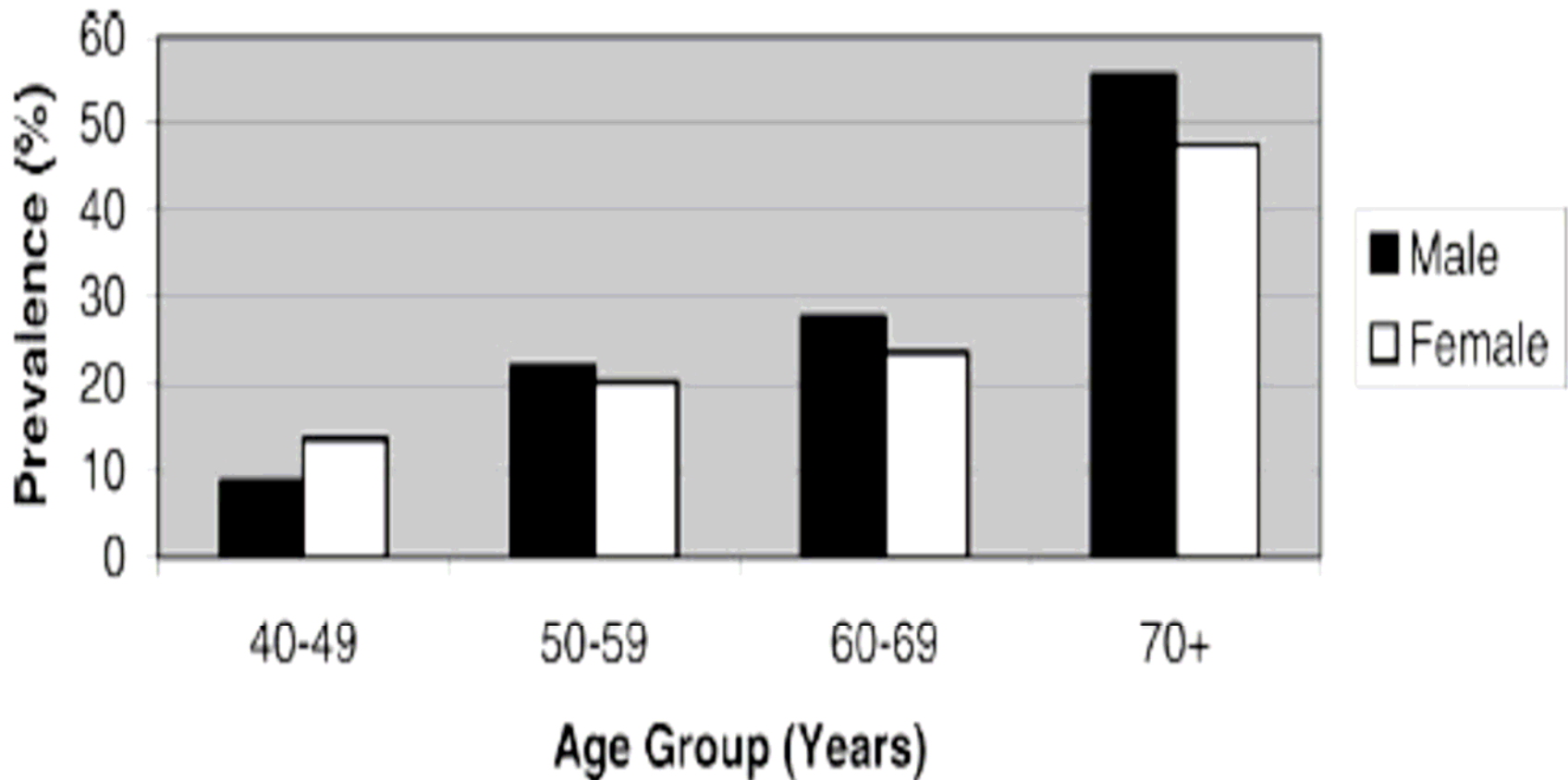
## Other Exposures

---

- Until WW2, men were much more likely than women to have heavy occupational exposures



# GOLD Stage 1+ $\geq 40$ years in Salzburg, Austria, by Age & Sex (BOLD Study, 2006)



Schirnhofner et al, Chest 2007; 131:29036

# Occupation as a Risk Factor

---

- Data from the US NHANES III Survey (1988-'94) used to estimate % of COPD attributable to occupation
- Fraction of COPD attributable to work estimated as 19.2% overall and 31.2% among never-smokers

# Trends in Risk Factors

## Other Exposures

---

- Heavy exposures to indoor air pollution as a risk factor (especially in developing countries) were not recognized as important risk for COPD

Indoor  
air  
pollution  
from  
biomass  
cooking

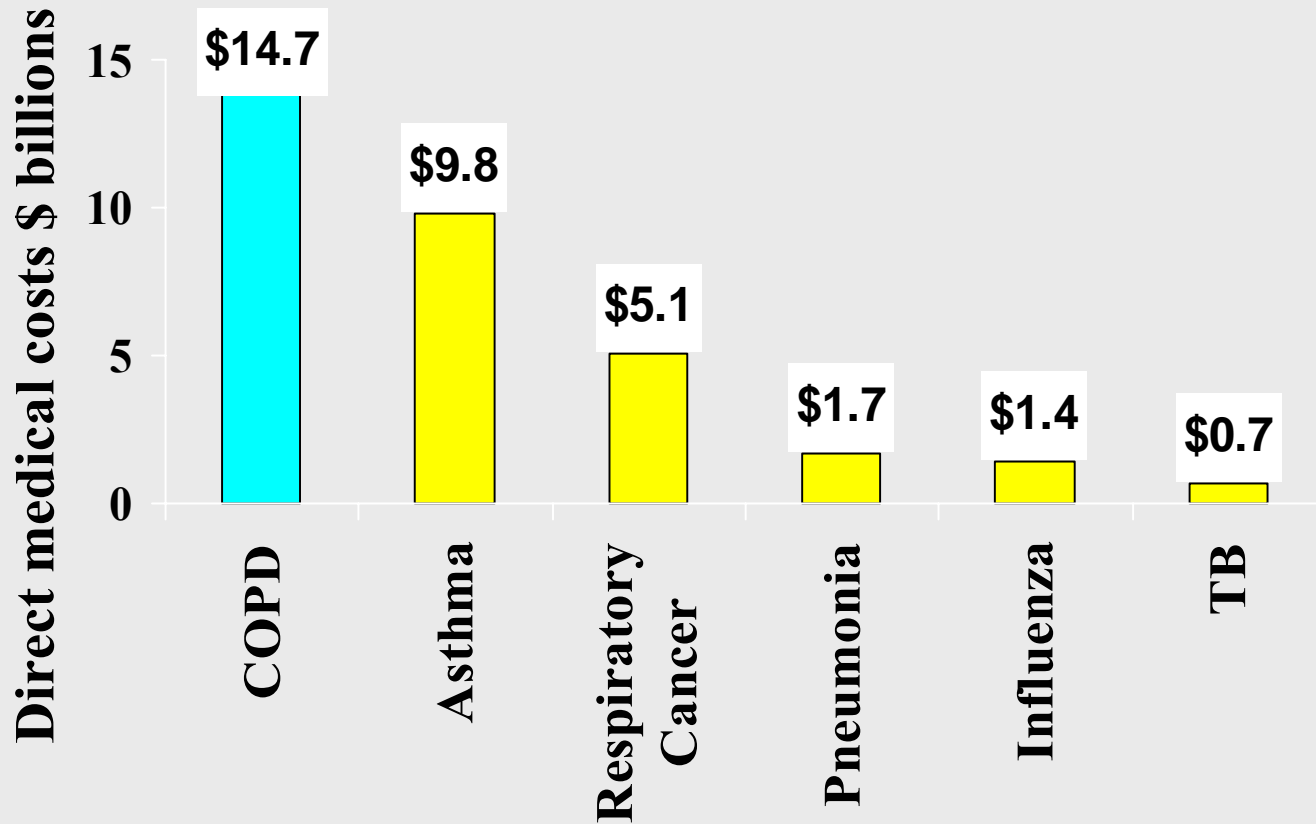


# Cost of COPD in US

---

- COPD is a very costly disease
  - direct (diagnosis and management)
  - indirect (cost of disability, missed work, premature mortality and family costs)
- Annual per capita expenditures for people with COPD nearly 2½x those without COPD (\$8,482 vs \$3,511 in 1992 study)

# Direct Medical Costs of COPD in US



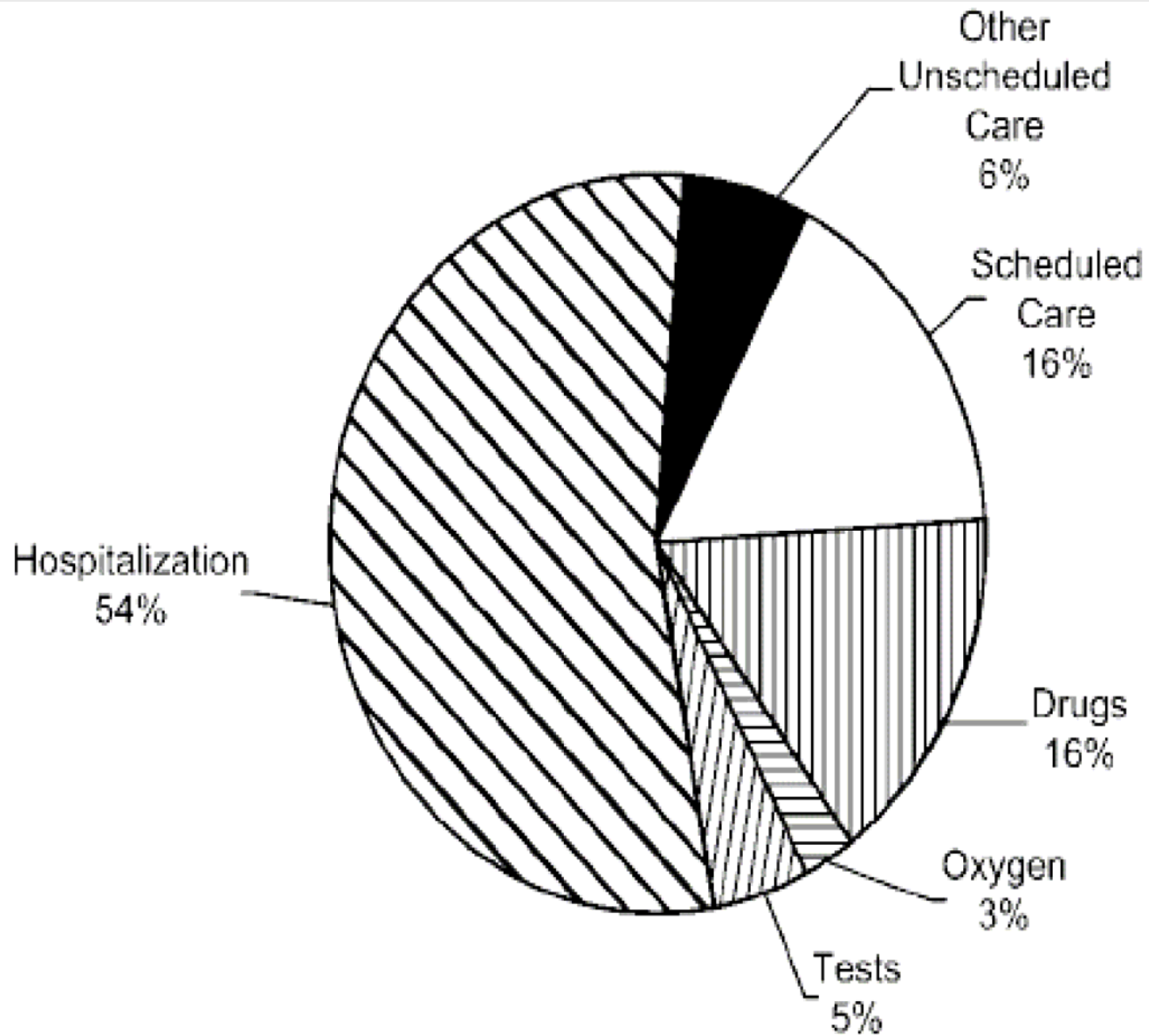
# Average UK societal costs of COPD according to severity.

Severity	Direct Annual Costs (£)	Indirect Annual Costs (£)
Mild	232	399
Moderate	477	202
Severe	2,026	2,331

Halpin  
Proc Am Thoracic Soc  
2006; 3(3): 227

# Breakdown of Direct Costs of COPD care in the UK

Halpin  
Proc Am  
Thoracic Soc  
2006;3(3): 227



# Why is the Burden of COPD Increasing Worldwide?

---

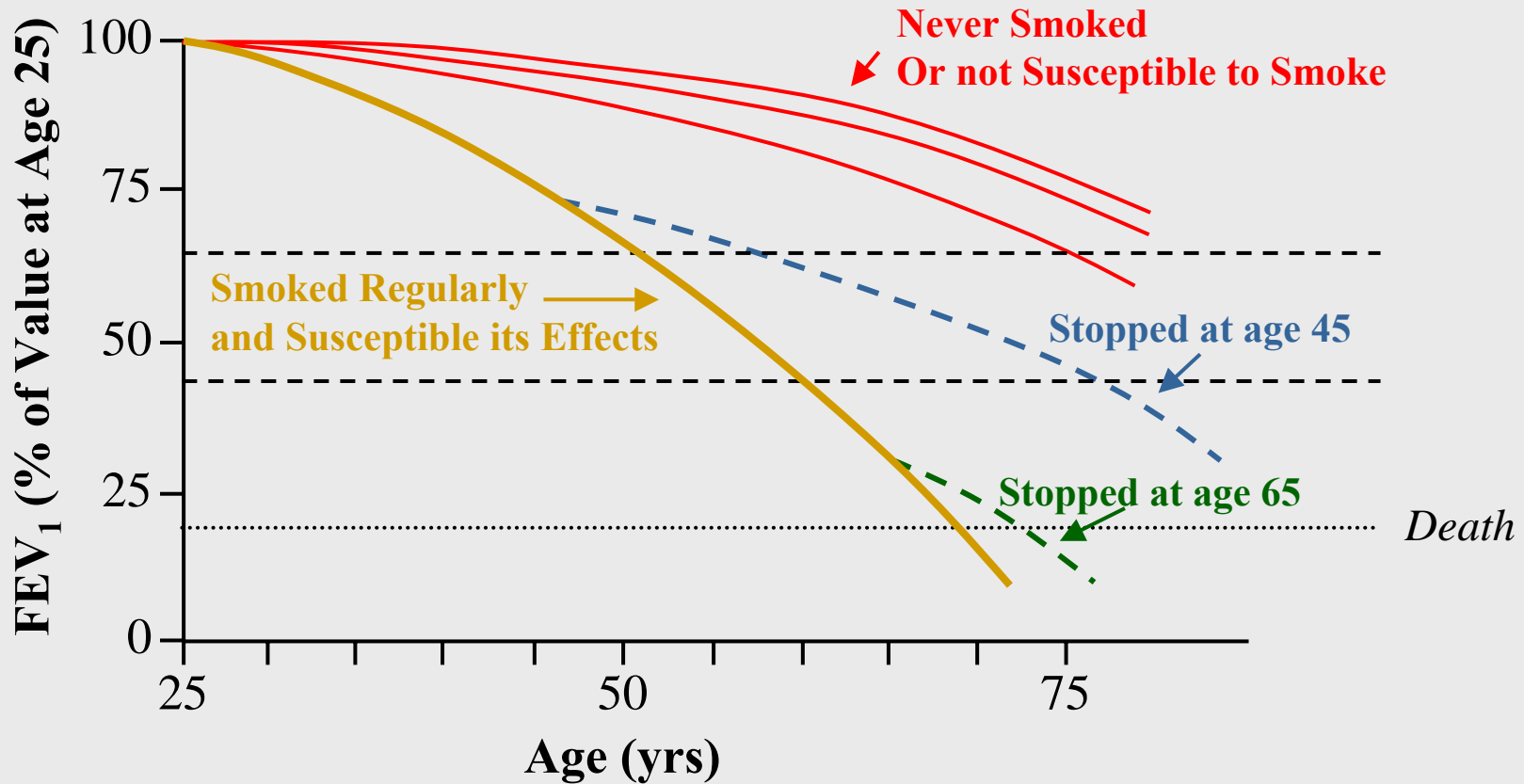
- Changing age structure of populations in developing countries (more are living into the COPD age range)

# Changing Demographics in China

---

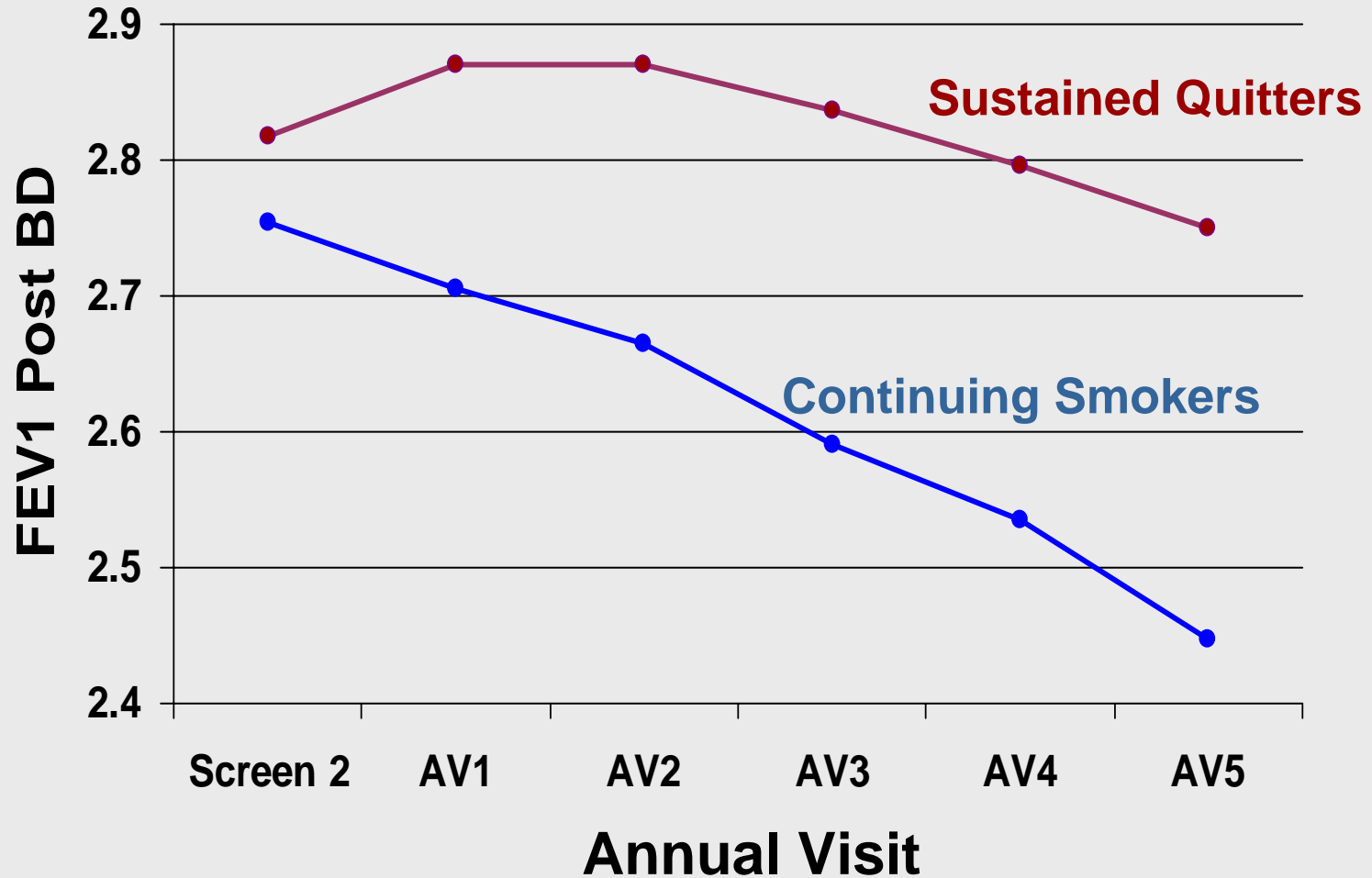
- Total population: ~1.3 B
- Population growth rate: 0.6%
- $\geq$  age 65 in 2006: 100M
- $\geq$  age 65 in 2015: **200M**
- $\geq$  age 65 in 2050: **430M**

# Natural History of COPD:



*Adapted from Fletcher C, Peto R. BMJ. 1977;1:1645-1648*

# Mean Post-BD FEV<sub>1</sub> in Placebo Group



*Lung Health Studies I-III*



# Summary

- COPD is common, costly, and imposes a significant social and economic burden yet is mostly under-diagnosed and under-treated
- COPD has become as common in women as men as smoking habits have equalized
- COPD is common in smokers and ex-smokers but can also exist in nonsmokers
- The burden of COPD continues to rise steadily in all countries because of increasing life expectancy and decades of tobacco use



# Key Messages to Physicians & Public

- Think COPD
- Do spirometry
- Reduce risk factors
- Manage actively

***“COPD is preventable and treatable”***