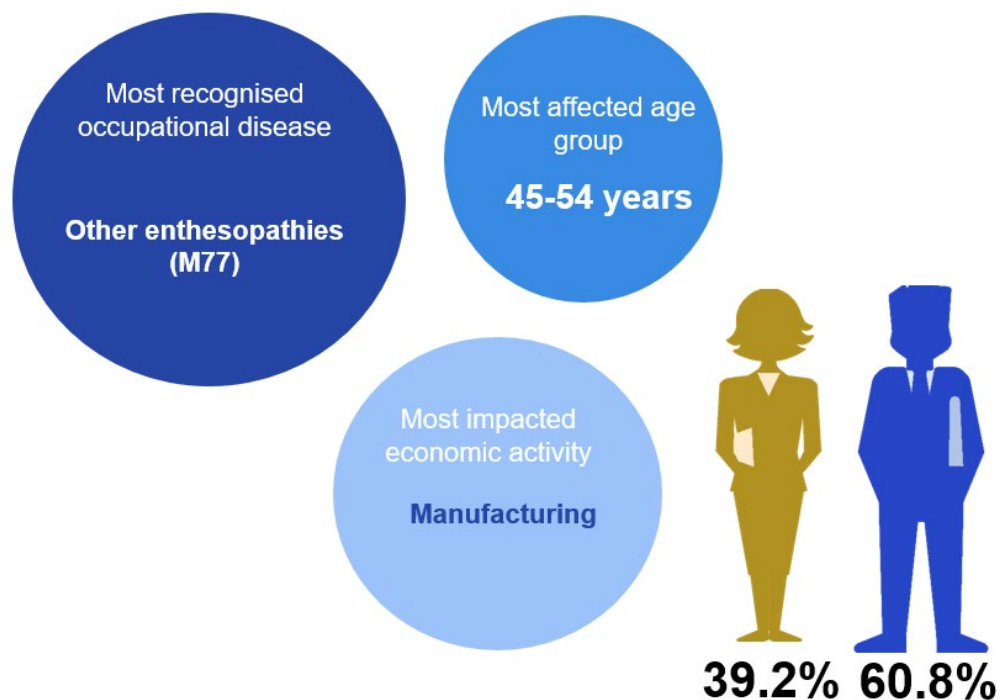# European occupational diseases statistics (EODS) – experimental statistics – Country profile: **Belgium**

## Introduction

European occupational diseases statistics (EODS) are essential elements for the European Commission's strategy to assess the efficiency of Community legislation on health and safety at work.  At present, EODS are experimental statistics. Beyond their occurrence, these statistics reflect the way in which the concept of occupational disease is integrated into the national social security or health systems.

This country profile is based on the EODS short list of occupational diseases. It presents information about the occupational diseases at national level (as aggregated data for the signalled period).

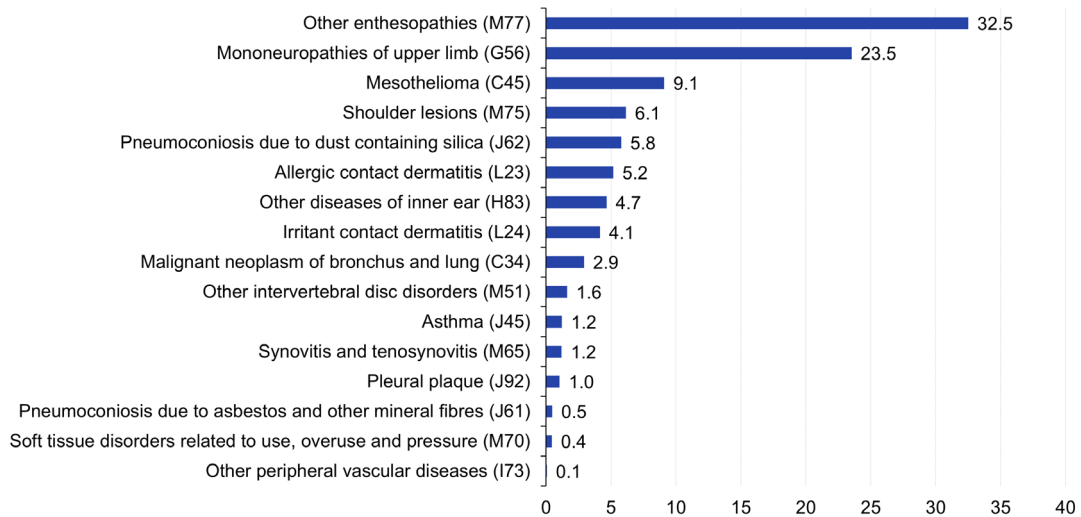**Figure 1 – Occupational diseases in a nutshell, 2013-2021**



Source*: Eurostat EODS extraction

# Recognised cases of occupational diseases in EODS short list

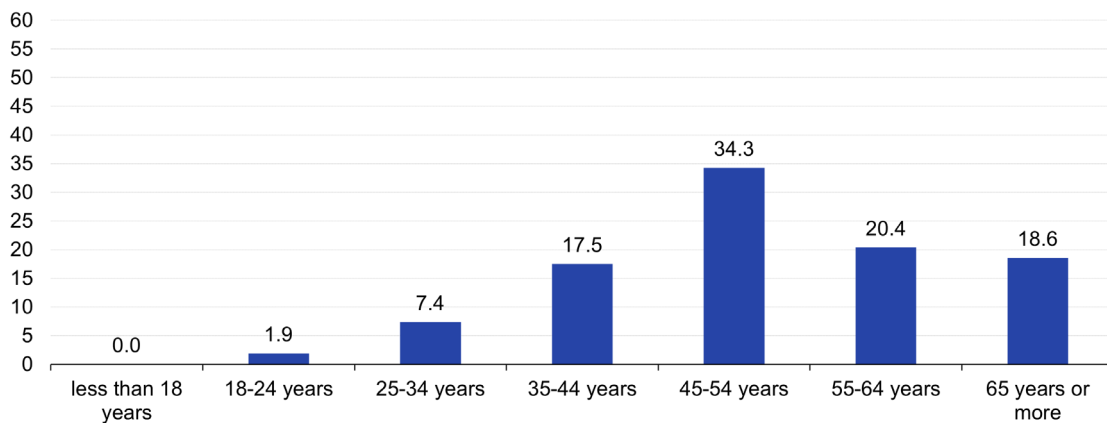**Figure 2 – Distribution of the diseases in the short list, 2013-2021**

(in %)

| Disease | Value |
|---|---|
| Other enthesopathies (M77) | 32.5 |
| Mononeuropathies of upper limb (G56) | 23.5 |
| Mesothelioma (C45) | 9.1 |
| Shoulder lesions (M75) | 6.1 |
| Pneumoconiosis due to dust containing silica (J62) | 5.8 |
| Allergic contact dermatitis (L23) | 5.2 |
| Other diseases of inner ear (H83) | 4.7 |
| Irritant contact dermatitis (L24) | 4.1 |
| Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung (C34) | 2.9 |
| Other intervertebral disc disorders (M51) | 1.6 |
| Asthma (J45) | 1.2 |
| Synovitis and tenosynovitis (M65) | 1.2 |
| Pleural plaque (J92) | 1.0 |
| Pneumoconiosis due to asbestos and other mineral fibres (J61) | 0.5 |
| Soft tissue disorders related to use, overuse and pressure (M70) | 0.4 |
| Other peripheral vascular diseases (I73) | 0.1 |

Source: Eurostat EODS extraction

**Figure 3 – Distribution of occupational diseases in the short list by age group, 2013-2021**

(in %)

| Age group | Value |
|---|---|
| less than 18 years | 0.0 |
| 18-24 years | 1.9 |
| 25-34 years | 7.4 |
| 35-44 years | 17.5 |
| 45-54 years | 34.3 |
| 55-64 years | 20.4 |
| 65 years or more | 18.6 |

Source: Eurostat EODS extraction

**Table 1 – Most impacted economic activity (NACE) of EODS short list, 2013-2021**

(in %)

| Economic activities (NACE Rev 2) | NACE code | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 47 | 7.9% |
| Specialised construction activities | 43 | 7.7% |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | 84 | 6.7% |
| Services to buildings and landscape activities | 81 | 6.1% |
| Social work activities without accommodation | 88 | 6.1% |

Source: Eurostat EODS extraction

# Definition

In Belgium, there is no statutory definition for an occupational disease. However, an occupational disease is generally described as a disease caused directly and decisively by the practice of a profession.

# Useful links

- [Experimental statistics – EODS section on Eurostat website](#)

- [EODS short list](#) (PDF)

- [Data](#) (Excel file)

- [Metadata](#) (Excel file)

- [Methodological note](#) (PDF)