

1990 to 2017 saw increase in global incidence of mesothelioma

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(HealthDay)—Incident cases of mesothelioma and deaths associated

with mesothelioma increased worldwide during 1990 to 2017, according to a study published online Aug. 11 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Zhen Zhai, M.D., from Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China, and colleagues examined the global [mesothelioma](#) burden and described its epidemiologic distribution over time. The study population included individuals from 195 countries and territories diagnosed with mesothelioma between 1990 and 2017.

The researchers identified 34,615 new cases of mesothelioma and 29,909 deaths associated with mesothelioma in 2017; more than 70 percent were among men. The number of incident cases was 21,224 in 1990, while the number of deaths associated with mesothelioma was 17,406. Worldwide, there was an increase in incident cases and deaths from 1990 to 2017, and more than 50 percent of cases were recorded in regions with high sociodemographic index levels; from 1990 to 2017, there were decreases in the age-standardized incidence rate (from 0.52 to 0.44) and in the age-standardized [death](#) rate (from 0.44 to 0.38), with estimated annual percentage changes of -0.61 and -0.44 , respectively. Over time, the proportion of incident cases among those aged 70 years and older continued to increase, while the proportion among those aged younger than 50 years decreased. After 20 years of a complete ban on asbestos use, mesothelioma incident cases and age-standardized [incidence rates](#) began to decrease.

"Banning asbestos was associated with reductions in the increase of mesothelioma incidence and mortality; however, the association between mesothelioma and previous exposure to [asbestos](#) remains a concern," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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