

A study to estimate the prevalence of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis in Ireland.

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Prevalence estimates for IPF vary from 3 to 20 cases per 100,000 in the general population. The aim of this study was to estimate the prevalence of IPF in Ireland.

Information on patient admission and discharge was obtained from the hospital inpatient enquiry system (HIPE) and the private sector data sets. Sixty nine acute hospitals participate in HIPE. The period January 1999 to December 2003 was chosen. Age, sex and hospital admissions were estimated.

Results:

Eight hundred and thirty eight IPF cases were identified. Seven hundred and thirty seven (62%) were male and 456 (38%) were female. The mean age was 67.5 years. The total number of hospital admissions between 1999 and 2003 $n = 1193$.

Year	No. patients with IPF (Pub Sector)	No. patients with IPF (Priv Sector)	Prevalence IPF/100,000
1999	124	74	5
2000	130	64	4.9
2001	118	64	4.6
2002	86	35	3.1
2003	107	36	3.6

The estimated mean prevalence per 100,000 of the general population over the 5 year period was calculated $n = 4.2$. Total deaths from IPF recorded over the 5 year period was $n = 218$.