

Allergic Disorders in the UK

An overview

By

Leigh George, Allergy UK



allergyuk.org

Introducing Allergy UK – Who we are

.....

- The leading patient charity for people living with all types of allergic disease
- Our mission is to improve the quality of life for people living with allergy, with the vision that everyone affected by allergy receives the best possible care and support
- We provide advice, support and help.



Website: allergyuk.org
Helpline: 01322 619898

How we help

- A Free Helpline, supported by our Clinical team
- Free Factsheets and resources to provide clinically robust information on all types of allergy
- Educating Healthcare professionals to help early diagnosis and effective treatment
- Working with manufacturers to highlight products which are more suitable for people living with allergy
- Working with corporates on patient and healthcare professional facing projects to improve understanding and awareness of allergic disease
- Representation on leading organisations and professional bodies which are advancing the research and treatment of allergy.



Website: allergyuk.org
Helpline: 01322 619898

The numbers

- Over 60,000 visits to our new website every month
- Our Helpline supported 8,000 people in 2016
- In 2016, our public relations programme, across all media platforms, reached a total audience of over 266 million

An estimated 21 million people live with allergy
in the UK



Website: allergyuk.org
Helpline: 01322 619898

Calls to our Helpline

- In 2016 our Helpline received ten calls a week from people whose allergic symptoms suggested that the cause was allergens in the home - house dust mite or mould
- We are seeing an increasing trend of calls from people whose symptoms are suggestive of airborne allergens and we are monitoring this trend
- Ventilation, temperature, humidity and insufficient air exchange rates may all have an impact on the prevalence of allergens, such as mould and house dust mite
- We spend 60-90% of our time indoors – at home, at school, at work*

* IAIAQ, 2011

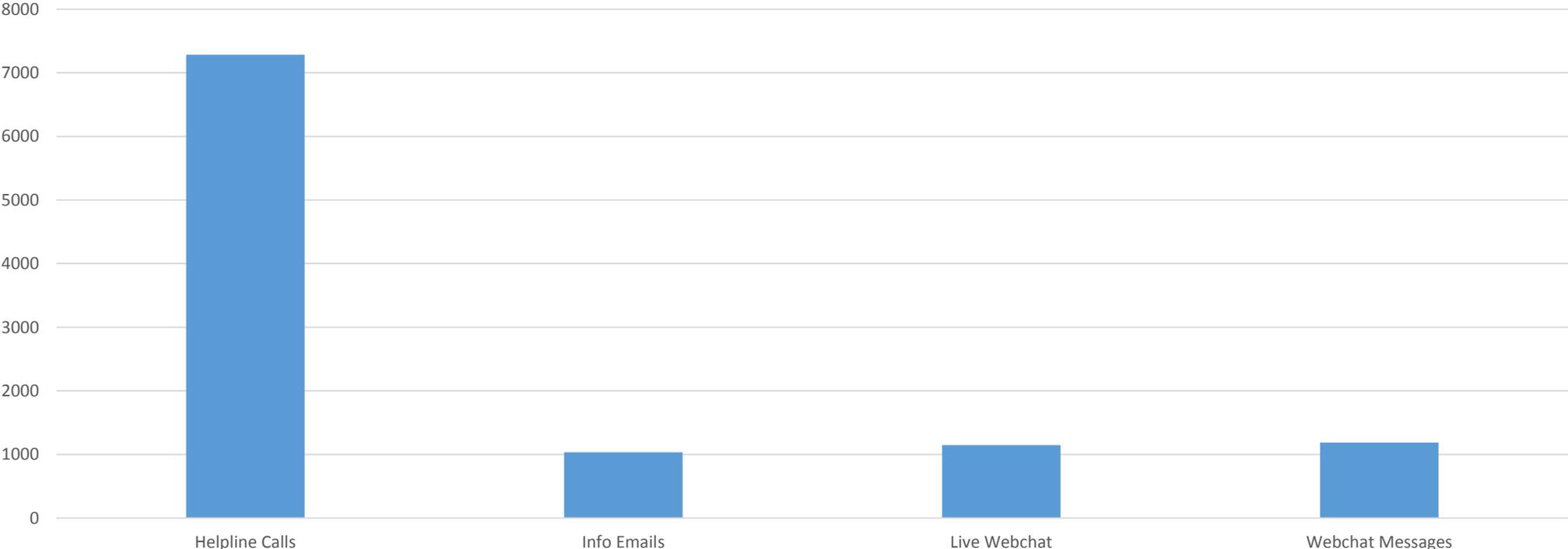


Website: allergyuk.org
Helpline: 01322 619898

Total enquiries received by our Helpline = 10,646



November 2016 – October 2017

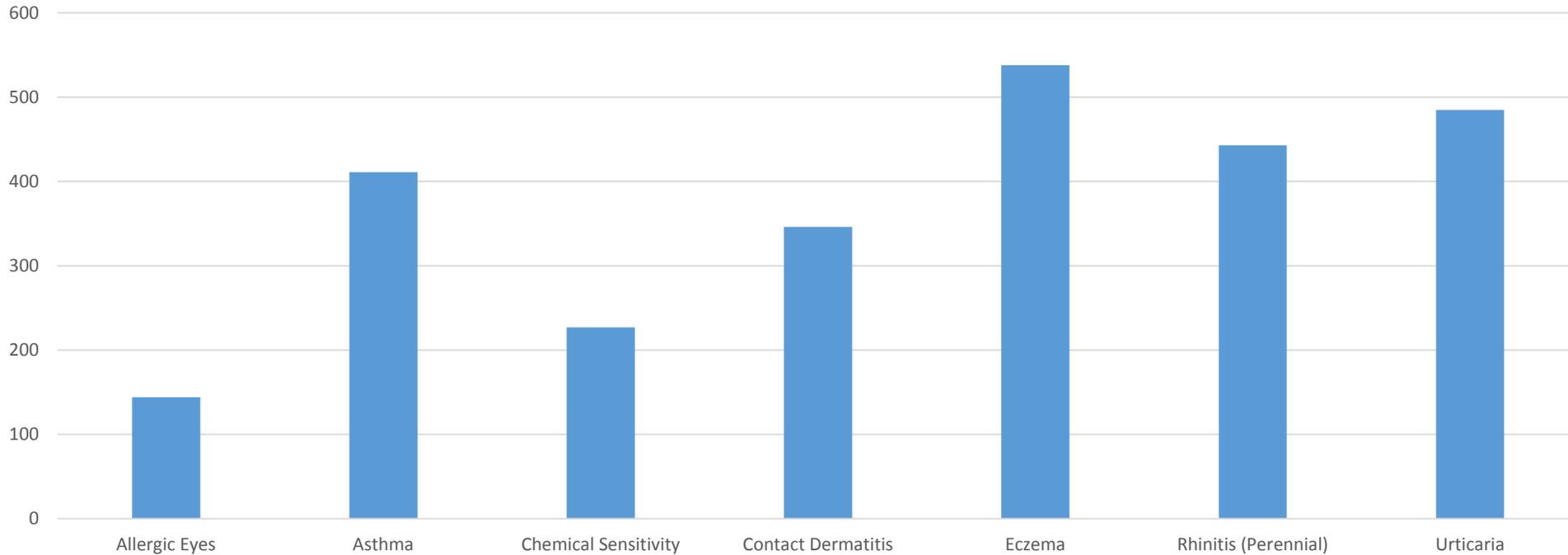


Website: allergyuk.org
Helpline: 01322 619898

2,594 of those enquiries relative to specific conditions

.....

Total November 2016 - October 2017



Website: allergyuk.org
Helpline: 01322 619898

Allergic disease in the UK

- More than £900 million a year is estimated to be spent on allergic disease in primary care in the UK, and the numbers are rising
- In 2004 it was estimated that £68 million a year was spent on the cost of hospital admissions
- Hospital admissions have increased by 615% over the last 20 years
- While numbers continue to rise there remains a huge gap in the healthcare system with approximately one allergy specialist to every 700,000 allergy sufferers in the UK.
- There is no cure for allergic disease – accurate diagnosis and effective treatment are the only route for lifelong management of this disease of the immune system.

The reality



- A recent conservative estimate shows that between 1.5 and 2 million deaths a year worldwide could be attributed to indoor air pollution
- In Europe 2,000,000 healthy life years are lost every year due to poor indoor air quality*

*HealthVent Project, 2013

 **AllergyUK**

Website: allergyuk.org
Helpline: 01322 619898

The world view – the latest WHO report

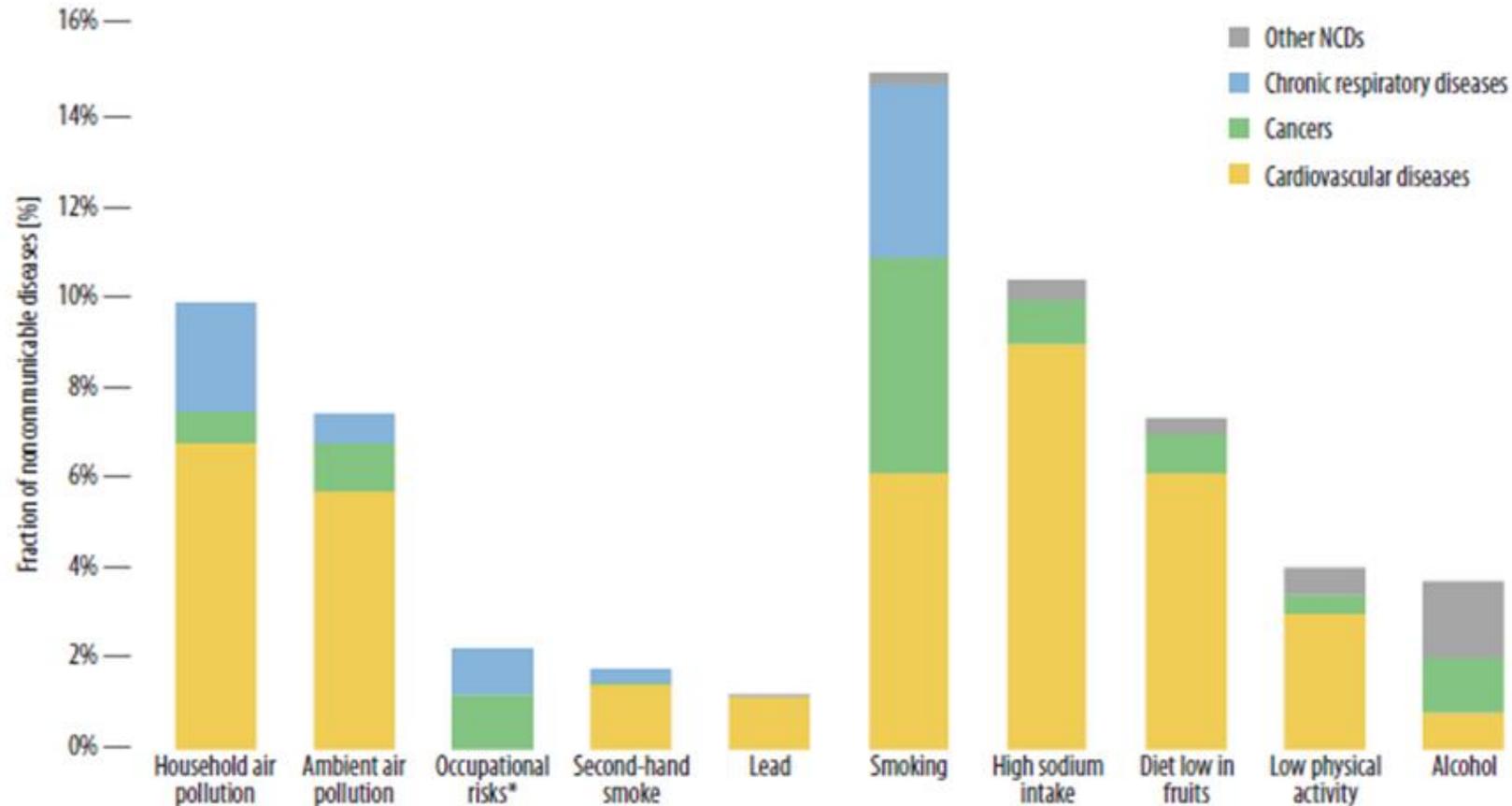
- Ambient and household air pollution caused, respectively, 2.8 and 3.7 million NCD (non communicable disease) deaths from ischaemic heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer in 2012
- Globally 29% of COPD deaths are attributable to household air pollution.

Focus on Asthma

- 85% of asthma is triggered by allergy (indoor allergens)
- Second hand tobacco smoke and ambient and household air pollution leads to the development of asthma increased morbidity
- Exposure to dampness, mould, house dust mites and other allergens in homes are causes of asthma exacerbation
- Work-related asthma is a frequent occupational disease and can be caused by many agents, including cleaning agents, enzymes, flour, wood dust, latex and metals.

NCD Deaths attributable to selected risk factors

Figure 2. Fraction of NCD deaths attributable to selected risk factors



Note: * Selected occupational risks, including exposure to carcinogens, asthmagens, airborne particulate matter, gases and fumes, noise, ergonomic factors and injuries.
Sources: Air pollution: (4) for 2012; other risks: (3) for 2015.

What is Allergy UK doing?

- We are working with a number of organisations, including the APPG for Healthy Homes, on the development of a robust case for improved building regulations, design and product specification to address poor indoor air quality
- We are also working with manufacturers and suppliers of building products and systems to drive consideration of the balance of importance between indoor air quality and energy efficiency.



Website: allergyuk.org
Helpline: 01322 619898

Our Product endorsement

- Whilst we already endorse some home improvement products such as paint, flooring and ceiling panels, we are also seeking to include a whole spectrum of other related products and home systems such as ventilation/MVHR. These can play an important part in controlling the indoor environment
- The main purpose of our product endorsements is to provide best advice to people regarding the products they can use to help improve their health and wellbeing, with indoor air quality a key focus
- For product manufacturers our Seal of Approval™ is a unique marketing tool for reaching this audience.



Website: allergyuk.org
Helpline: 01322 619898

Our Seal of Approval™

- Products which have reduced allergen/VOC/chemical content and are better for the indoor environment than a standard product, and proven to be more suitable for use by people living with allergy
- Products which have passed high standards of scientific testing to prove efficiency in reducing/removing allergens from the indoor environment.



 **AllergyUK**

Website: allergyuk.org
Helpline: 01322 619898

Working together

.....



- To create a better understanding of the impact of poor indoor air quality on human health
- To take action in product development and through endorsement
- To help redress the balance between indoor air quality and energy efficiency

Thank you!

Any questions?



Website: allergyuk.org
Helpline: 01322 619898