

Active Patients' ACCESS Care Report on Asthma and COPD Care, Diagnosis, Prevention and Empowerment now available

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Brussels, Belgium (September 27, 2019) – The European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Association (EFA) releases the Active Patients' ACCESS Care Report on Asthma and COPD Care, Diagnosis, Prevention and Empowerment (ACCESS). This non-clinical survey of 774 patients in seven countries (Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom) provides a real picture of the access to diagnosis and care for asthma and COPD patients, and recommendations to overcome the gaps identified. While elaborating on patients' views of the prevention and support to self-empowerment they receive, it becomes obvious: **much more needs to be done by health care professionals and policy makers to address and rectify this situation.**

The objectives of ACCESS include:

- 1) **Understanding** the level of and patients' view on **access to Prevention, Diagnosis, Care, Empowerment and Research** in Europe, and report on key issue that affect patients' quality of life.
- 2) **Highlighting** asthma and COPD **patients' care choices and priorities** in terms of quality of life, prevention, empowerment and diagnosis.
- 3) **Advocating** for **better access of patients** both at national and EU level.

Despite progress being made in the diagnosis and care of patients with asthma and COPD, ACCESS shows:

- 1/3 of asthma and 1/4 of COPD patients rely on the emergency room at least once a year
- COPD is dramatically underdiagnosed - COPD misdiagnosis takes on average five years to be corrected
- 2/3 asthma and COPD patients think authorities are doing too little in protecting them from polluted air
- 9 in 10 asthma and COPD patients believe indoor air pollution impacts respiratory health

Mikaela Odemyr, president of EFA, said, "The ACCESS care report represents the care patients are getting at the national level. It is not only a snapshot of what is happening in these countries, but also a roadmap and vital tool for health care professionals, researchers, caregivers, policy makers and patients themselves. Clearly we have a ways to go to show leadership and address the reality for many patients with asthma and COPD. The ACCESS report is a very big step in the right direction."

Report in its entirety: <https://efanet.online/ACCESS>

Please contact EFA Communication Manager charles.kinney@efanet.org for further information on the report. #ShowLeadership @efa_patients

PRESS STATEMENT