From the literature

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma prevalence among rural populations aged 25-64 in five regions of Lithuania
*Lithuanian General Practitioner* 2002;5(3):346-50

The survey of 1633 people using a standardised questionnaire accompanied by a spirometry was used to evaluate the prevalence of chronic obstructive airways disease and asthma among a randomly selected population of people aged between 25 and 64 years in five representative rural regions of Lithuania. The study was undertaken as part of the Countrywide Integrated Non-communicable Disease Interventions programme (CINDI).

Overall prevalence of COPD was found to be 2.9% and of asthma 2.5%. Increased age and smoking habits, either current or former smoking, were independent predictors of COPD. Smoking intensity was related to prevalence of COPD and a dose response rate increased the odds ratio by 1.03 per pack per year.

The original article describing this study was published in the *Lithuanian General Practitioner* journal.

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Patterns and trends of alcohol consumption in Lithuanian school-aged children between 1994-1998
*Lithuanian General Practitioner* 2002;5(5):521-8

Two cross-sectional surveys of a representative sample of Lithuanian secondary school children aged 11, 13 and 15 years were undertaken in 1994 and 1998. In total, 5428 and 4513 questionnaires were completed in 1994 and 1998, respectively.

The proportion of students who had ever tried alcohol increased with age between 11 and 15 years from 75.8% to 95.2% in the 1994 survey and from 81.4% to 95.9% in the 1998 survey. Boys used alcohol on a regular basis (once a week or more often) more frequently than girls. Overall prevalence of alcohol consumption increased from 9.4% to 12.2% in boys and from 4.2% to 6.0% in girls between 1994 and 1998. Beer was the most popular alcoholic drink. The proportion of respondents who reported drunkenness has also increased from 26.1% to 32.7%.

These data on increasing problems with alcohol consumption amongst school children in Lithuania were gathered as part of the WHO Cross-national Study on Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC). The paper describing this study was published in the *Lithuanian General Practitioner* journal.

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