

RSV: A Hidden Annual Epidemic

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common cause of serious respiratory illness in adults age 65 years and older but is largely unrecognized even in the medical community.

Annual Burden: US adults age 65 years and older



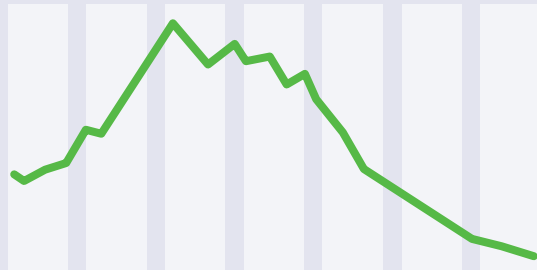
14,000 deaths
177,000 hospitalizations



5.5% attack rate resulting in
2.6 million cases each year

Transmission:

Circulates seasonally along with many winter respiratory viruses



Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Most infections occur between November and May in the US

Spreads Easily, Reinfection Common



2 in 3 adults will get reinfected within 8 months

Symptoms:

Often misdiagnosed as flu...

- Nasal congestion and runny nose
- Cough
- Shortness of breath and wheezing
- Fever

Who Is At Risk

65+

Years Old



Other Conditions

The worst outcomes (hospitalization, death) are in older adults and those with high-risk conditions (e.g., heart or lung disease)



National
Foundation for
Infectious
Diseases

To learn more, visit www.nfid.org/rsv