

ASBESTOS GLOBAL CONSUMPTION

All six types of asbestos are proven Class 1 carcinogens. If humans are exposed via breathing fibre into their lungs there is a risk of developing asbestos-related diseases.

Asbestos-related diseases

- Lung cancer
- Mesothelioma
- Asbestosis
- Ovarian cancer
- Laryngeal cancer
- Pleural diseases such as pleural plaques

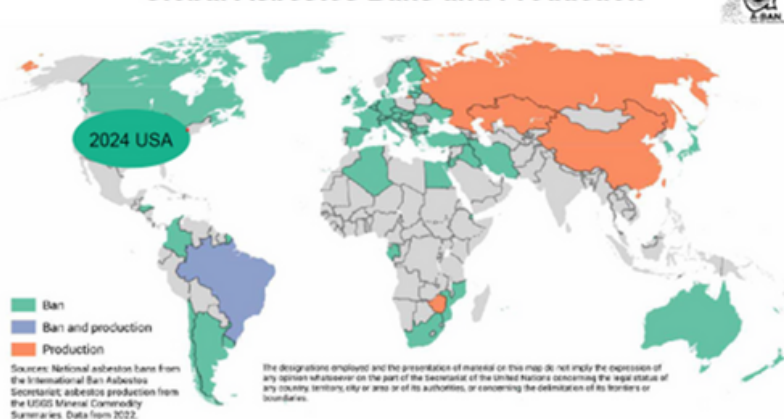
Most exposure occurs through work but can also be in the home or community. **Asbestos diseases are responsible for more than half of all occupational diseases globally each year**, causing 211,000 deaths from work exposure annually, according to WHO/ILO.

Chrysotile or white asbestos makes up over 90% of trade among all the types, over the last century.

WHO HAS BANNED ALL TYPES OF ASBESTOS?

As of June 2024, **70 countries and territories** have banned all types of asbestos. Many others don't use it. Cambodia has announced a ban for 2025.

Global Asbestos Bans and Production



2024 UNEP "Options for addressing asbestos contaminants in products and the environment" (Sources: National asbestos bans from the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat 2022; Asbestos production from the USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries 2022)

https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/24/003/25/pdf/2400325.pdf?token=SI_CeL_hl_1b8mziON2Qn&fe=true

List of "National Asbestos Bans" is available at IBAS website (Revised October 28, 2022): http://www.ibasecretariat.org/alpha_ban_list.php

National Asbestos Bans

Algeria	Greece	New Zealand
Argentina	Honduras	Norway
Australia	Hungary	Oman
Austria	Iceland	Poland
Bahrain	Iran	Portugal
Belgium	Iraq	Qatar
Brazil	Ireland	Romania
Brunei	Israel	Saudi Arabia
Bulgaria	Italy	Serbia
Canada	Japan	Seychelles
Chile	Jordan	Slovakia
Colombia	Korea (South)	Slovenia
Croatia	Kuwait	South Africa
Cyprus	Latvia	Spain
Czech Republic	Liechtenstein	Sweden
Denmark	Lithuania	Switzerland
Djibouti	Luxembourg	Taiwan
Egypt	Macedonia	Turkey
Estonia	Malta	United Kingdom
Finland	Mauritius	United States
France	Monaco	Uruguay
Gabon	Mozambique	Ukraine
Germany	Netherlands	
Gibraltar	New Caledonia	

WHO REMAINS PRODUCING IT?

The remaining countries that still mine asbestos commercially are:

- Russia (the largest producer)
- Kazakhstan
- China
- Brazil
- Zimbabwe.

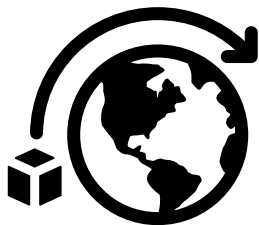
TRENDS IN ASBESTOS CONSUMPTION

Three key trends are clear in asbestos consumption in recent decades:



It's a dying industry

Since the peak of its use in the 1980s, asbestos consumption has reduced by 75% globally, from almost 5 million tonnes to 1.3 million tonnes in 2022. Many countries have banned its use and import, while others are phasing it out as its highly hazardous nature has become more widely known and safer alternatives have been developed for all products that previously contained asbestos.



Key producers are using less and exporting more

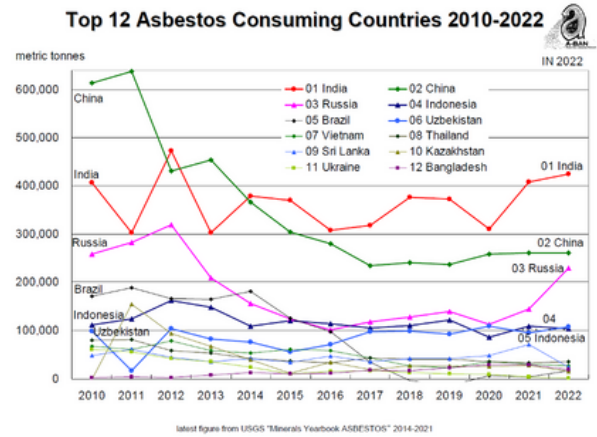
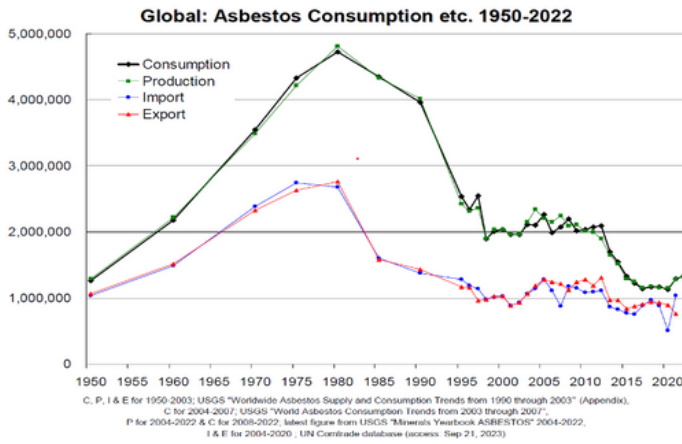
Producer countries are using less asbestos and exporting more to the remaining countries that have not banned it or have weak regulations. Examples include Russia, China, and Brazil.



Consumption is now largely restricted to Asia

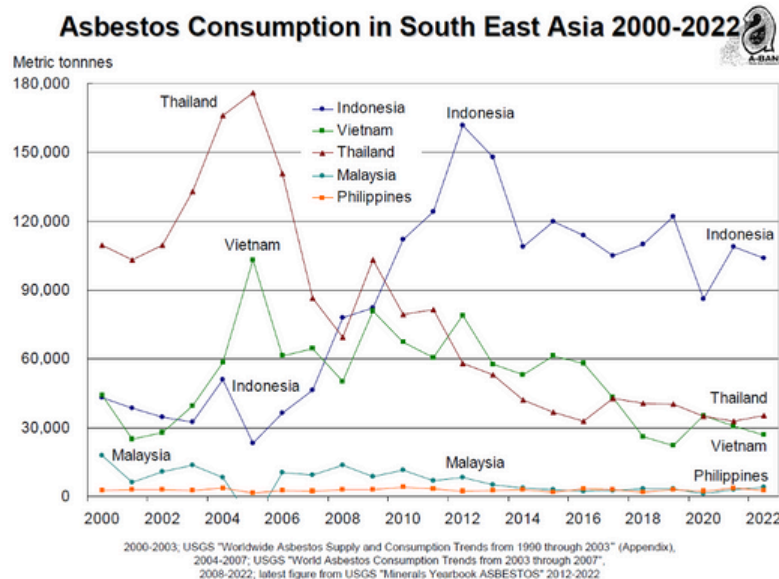
Over the last 30 years, Asia has become the dominant consumer of asbestos, increasing its share from just over 20% of global consumption in 1990 to 65% by 2020. In 2022, five countries dominate consumption: India with over 400,000 tonnes, China with approximately 280,000 tonnes, Russia with 220,000 tonnes, and Indonesia and Uzbekistan with 100,000 tonnes each. These five countries now consume 85% of the total global asbestos fibre.

Asbestos consumption trend



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA?

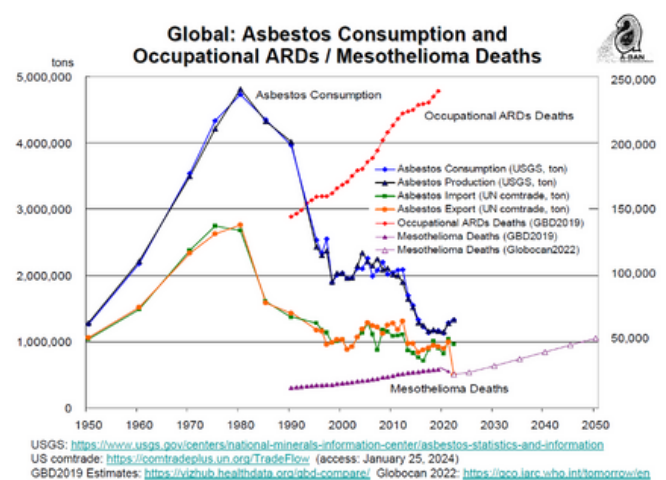
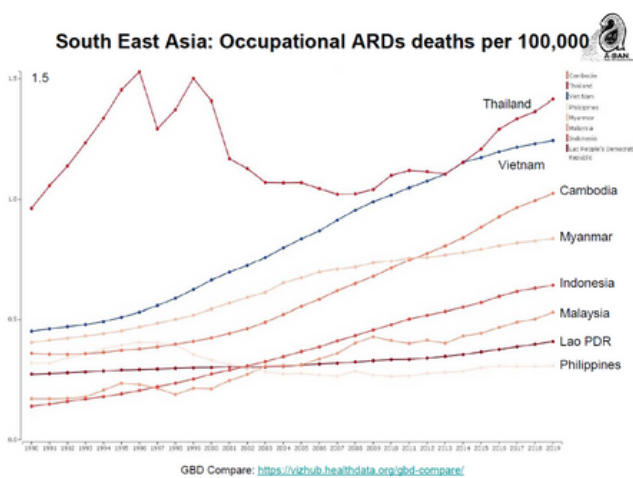
In Southeast Asia, Indonesia is the largest consumer by volume, followed by Thailand and Vietnam, with the Philippines, Malaysia, Laos, and Myanmar also remaining consumers at lower levels. Singapore has banned asbestos in construction since 1989. Brunei has fully banned all types of asbestos. Regarding consumption per capita, Laos in 2013 was the highest consumer globally at 1.3 kg per head.



Asbestos-related diseases

Asbestos-related diseases often appear many years after exposure to the fibre. For example, it may take 20-40 years to develop related cancers. Current rates of asbestos disease in Southeast Asia reflect consumption patterns from the end of the last century. According to the Global Burden of Disease study, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia were estimated to have the highest rates of disease in 2019. Indonesia and Laos are expected to see rapidly increasing disease rates given their increased consumption patterns over the last two decades.

As the consumption of asbestos has shifted dramatically this century to Asia from the rest of the world, then the burden of asbestos disease cases will shift to Asia in coming decades dramatically.



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