



CELEBRATING

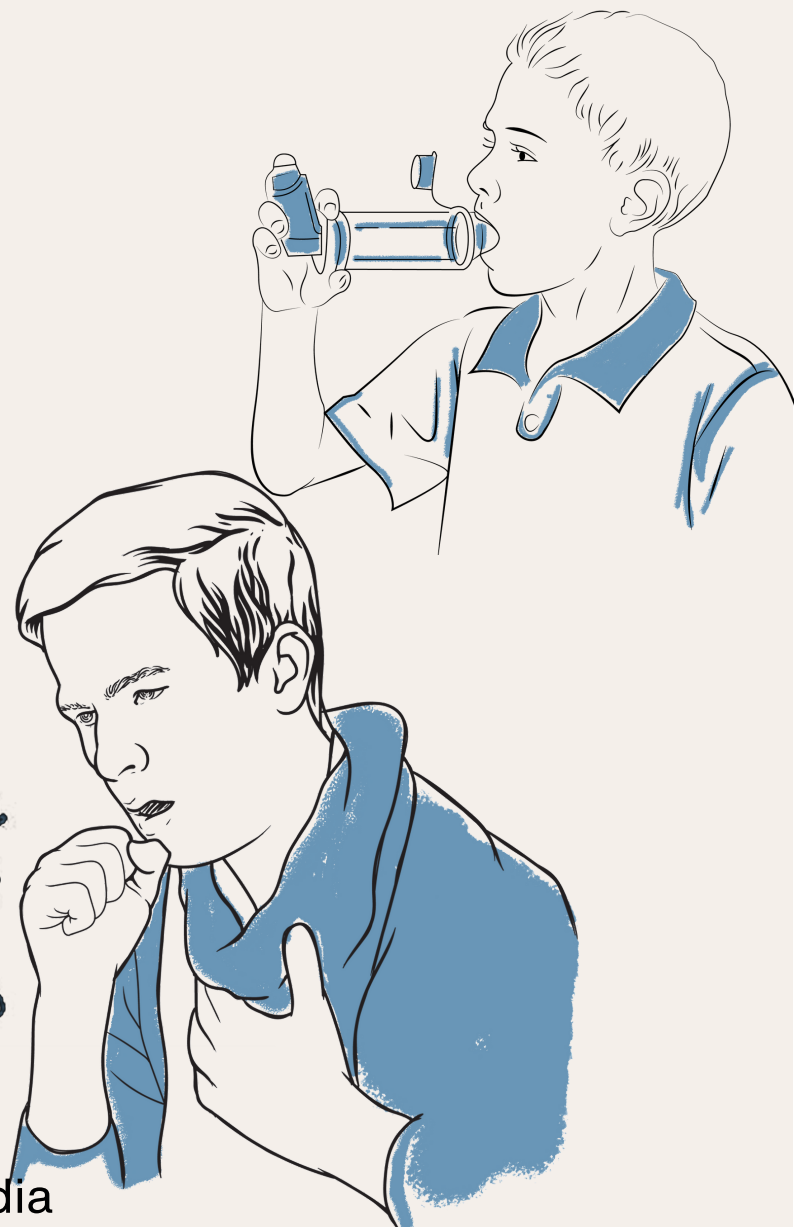


AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH SEEKING

BEHAVIOUR AMONG MARGINALISED GROUPS

A black and white outline map of India. The state of West Bengal is highlighted in a solid blue color. Within West Bengal, the district of Purba Burdwan is also highlighted in a darker blue. The text "PURBA BURDWAN" is written in bold black capital letters across the highlighted area.

PURBA BURDWAN



In May 2023, four health camps were held in Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, with the assistance of doctors and volunteers from SAMSA and CIPLA. The activities included free health screenings for all attendees from registered doctors, and on the doctors' advice, pulmonary function tests were also done on a small number of participants.

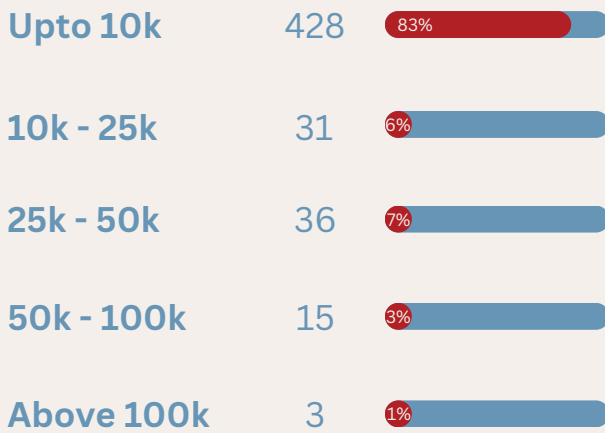
Participants in these health camps who agreed to participate in the study were given a survey questionnaire. Before beginning the survey, verbal consent was obtained from each respondent after they had been informed about the study and that their personal information would not be shared.

Without their consent, those who attended the health camps were not surveyed but were still given access to all of the camp's amenities, including a free health checkup and PFT (if prescribed by a doctor). A total of 513 respondents (242 males; 271 females) who revealed their own experiences with health issues were analysed. Respondents were categorised into different groups as income groups, age groups, occupation and were studied for various symptoms shown like shortness of breath, runny nose etc and the major findings are as given below.

Age Group	Male	%	Female	%	Total
9-20 Years	89	41%	130	59%	219
21-30 Years	27	32%	57	68%	84
31-40 Years	31	48%	34	52%	65
41-50 Years	29	64%	16	36%	45
51-60 Years	27	59%	19	41%	46
Above 60 Years	39	72%	15	28%	54
Total	242		271		513
%	47%		53%		

Figure 1. Male female ratio across respondents

Income Groups



Total 242

Figure 2. Participants across different income groups

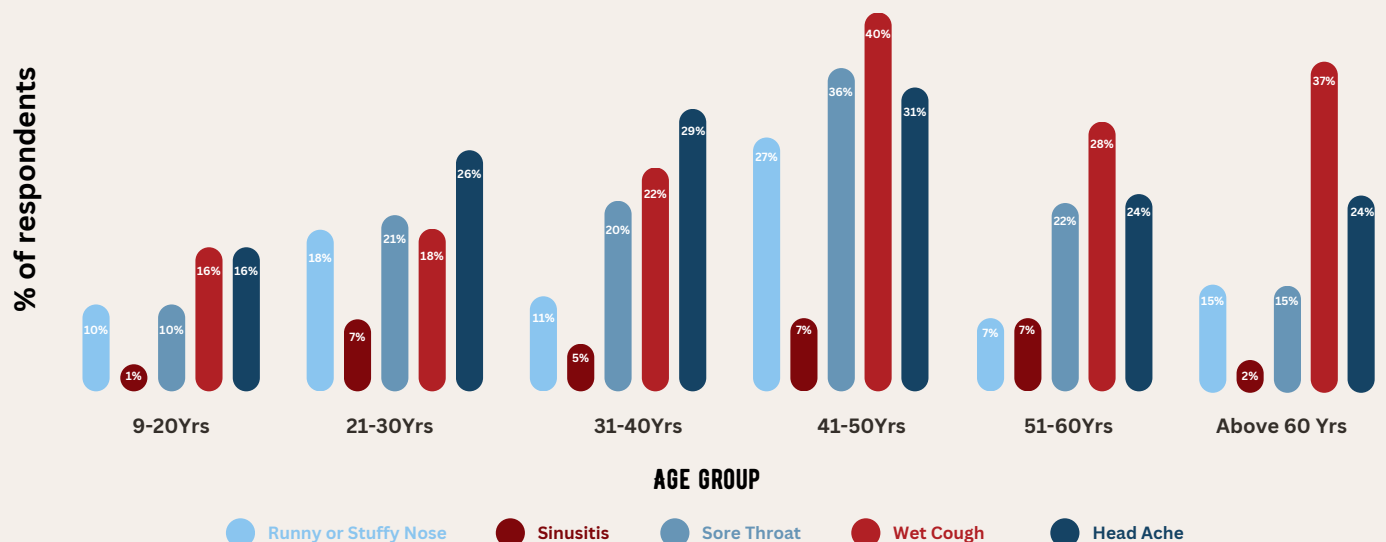


Figure 3. Upper respiratory symptoms across age groups

- Wet cough is the most prevalent upper respiratory complaint across all age groups, followed by headache, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and sinusitis.
- The age ranges of 41 to 50 years contained 40% of the patients with the greatest wet cough rates. Following this came those who were over 60 years (37%).

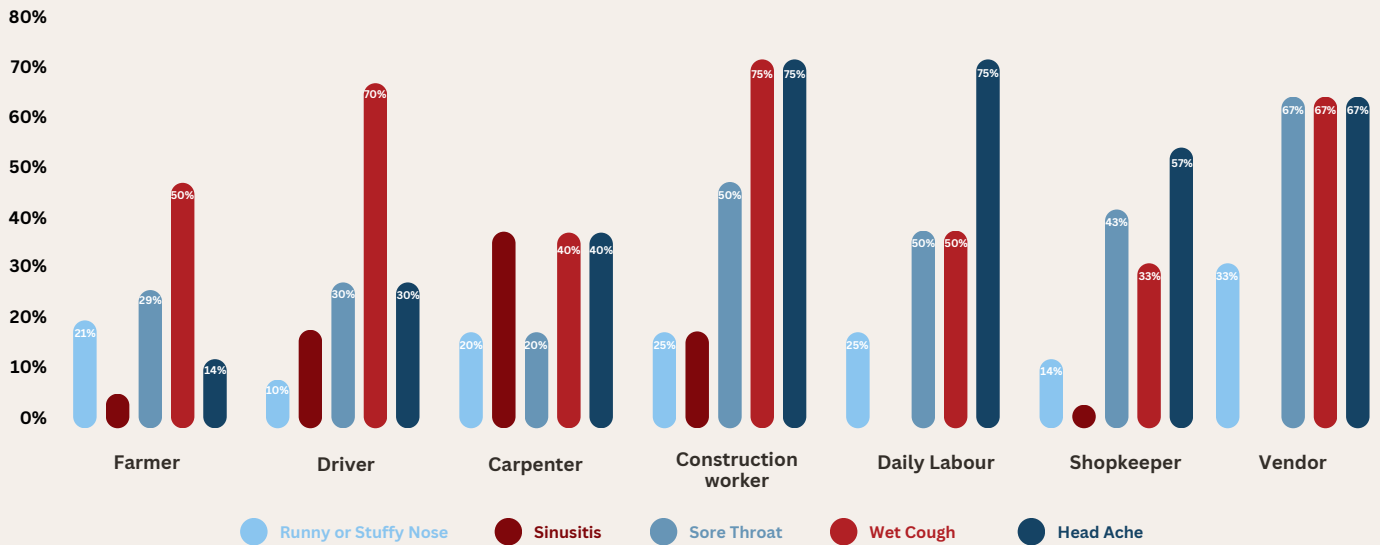


Figure 4. Upper respiratory symptoms across occupational groups

- Wet cough and headache have been identified as the most prevalent symptom in practically all occupational groups when it comes to upper respiratory symptoms, followed by wheezing and shortness of breath.
- Construction workers reported the highest rates of symptoms of wet cough and headache (75%); vendors came in second (67%) in this category.

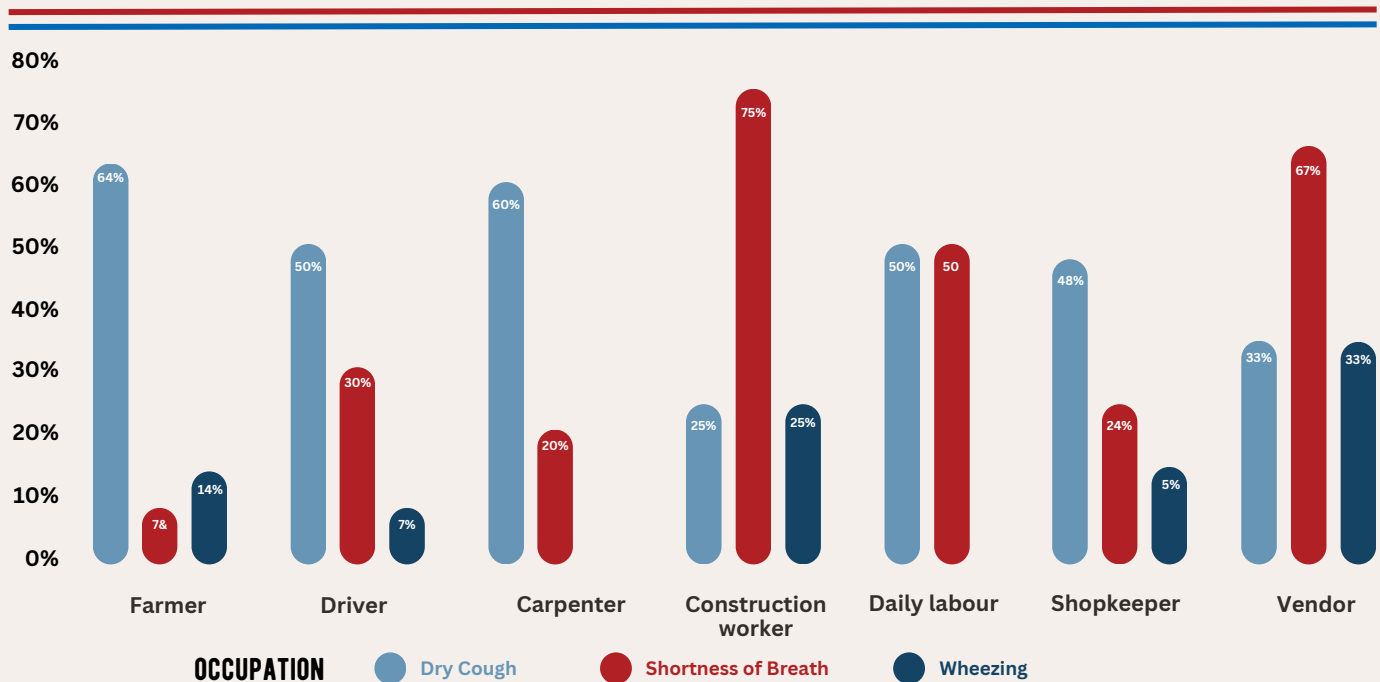


Figure 5. Lower respiratory symptoms across occupational groups

- Dry cough has been identified as the most prevalent symptom in practically all occupations when it comes to lower respiratory symptoms, followed by shortness of breath.
- Construction workers reported the highest rates of symptoms of shortness of breath (75%); vendors came in second (67%) in this category.

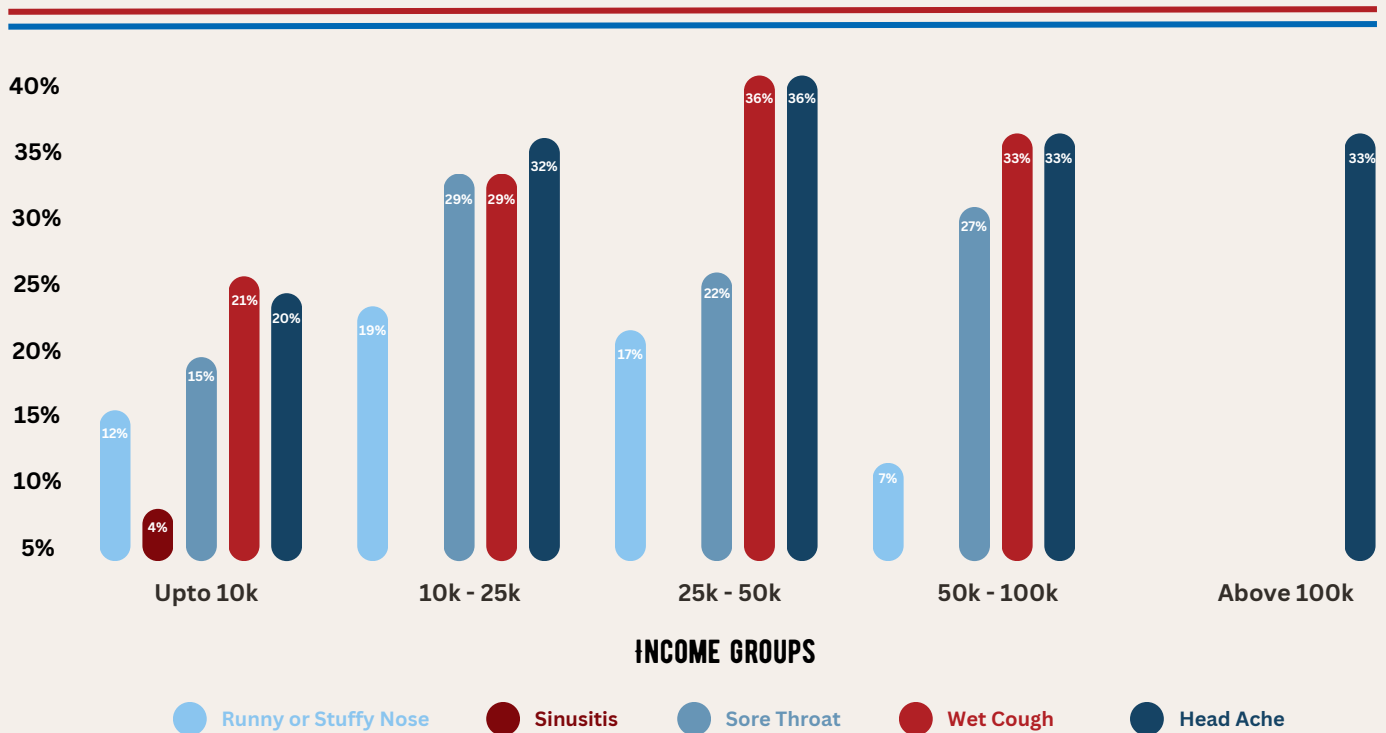


Figure 6. Upper respiratory symptoms across income groups

- Across income groups, headache is the most prominent upper respiratory symptom which is found across all income groups, followed by sore throat, wet cough and runny or stuffy nose.
- Among the various income groups, the 25k-50k income group showed the highest symptoms (36%) of wet cough and headache.



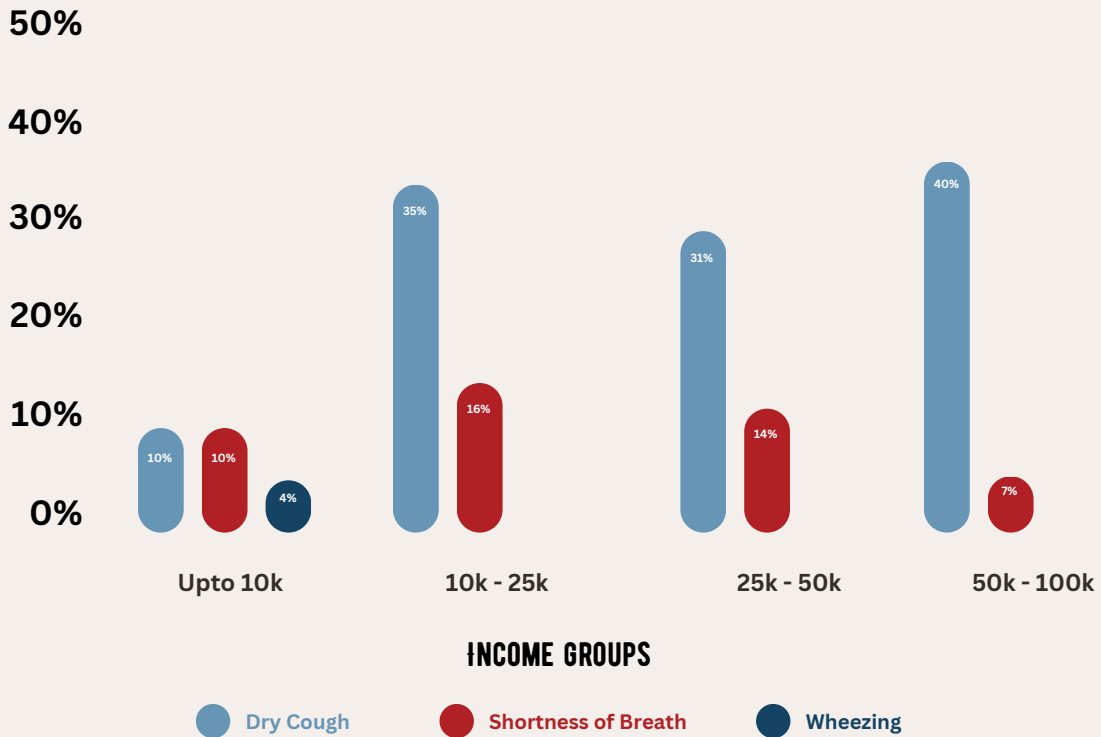


Figure 7. Lower respiratory symptoms across income groups

- Across the income groups, dry cough is the most prominent lower respiratory symptom which is found across all income groups, followed by shortness of breath.
- Among the various income groups, the 50k-100k income group showed the highest symptoms (40%) of dry cough.



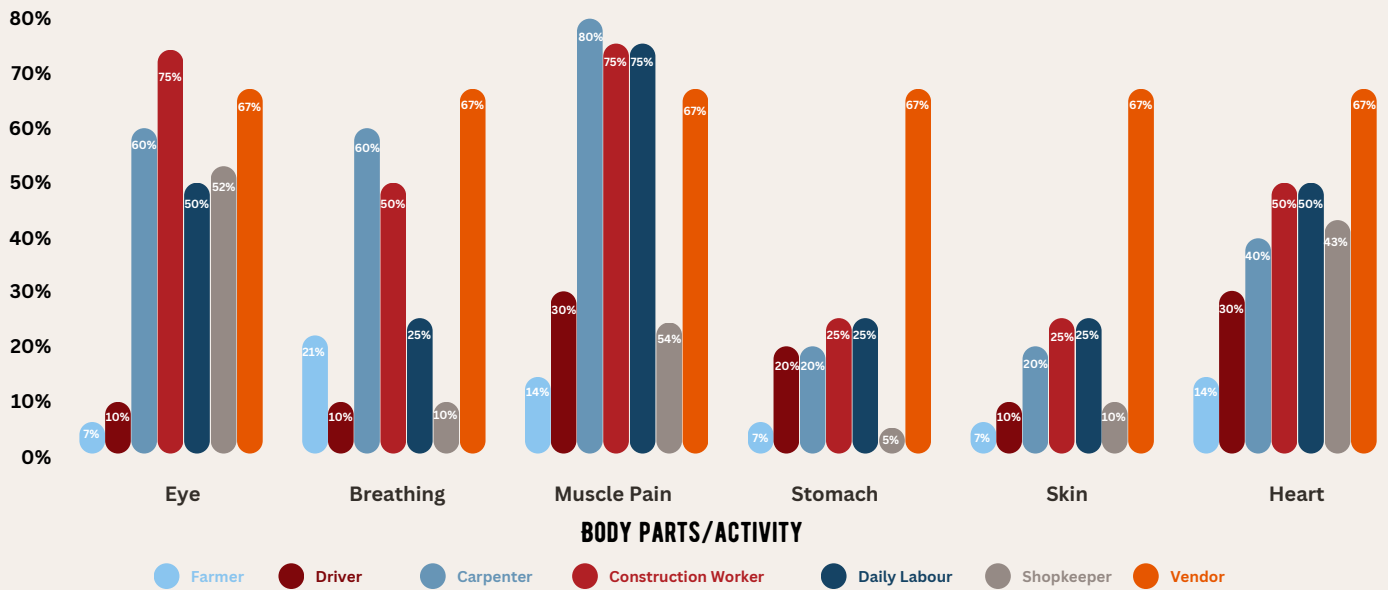


Figure 8. Most troubled elements/parts across occupational groups

- Eye-related illnesses have been the most common health difficulties across all occupational categories, followed by respiratory, stomach, heart, skin, and other issues.
- Construction workers exhibited the highest rates (75%) of eye-related problems; and muscle pain has been highest for carpenters (80%).





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