

# Liver problems will likely increase in adults

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Liver diseases affect hundreds of millions of people and cause significant illness and death.

A new study indicates that liver scarring (or fibrosis), which can ultimately lead to liver failure, is fairly common.

It was present in 5.6% of adults in the Rotterdam Study, a population-based study among individuals in a suburb of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, who were  $\geq 45$  years old.

It was especially prevalent in individuals with diabetes or steatosis, the latter of which occurs when fat cells infiltrate the liver.

"In the context of an aging population and an increasing prevalence of diabetes and obesity, the findings illustrate that liver [fibrosis](#) may soon become a more prominent public health issue," said Dr. Sarwa Darwish Murad, co-author of the *Hepatology* study.

**More information:** "Presence of Diabetes Mellitus and Steatosis is Associated with Liver Stiffness in a General Population: The Rotterdam Study." *Hepatology*. 2015 Jul 14. [DOI: 10.1002/hep.27981](https://doi.org/10.1002/hep.27981)

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