ASTHMA FACTS

Asthma continues to be a serious public health problem in the United States.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s 2019 National Health Interview Surveys (NHIS):

- An estimated 25.1 million people, including 5.1 million children, have asthma.1
- More than 10.3 million people with asthma, including nearly 2.3 million children, report having had one or more asthma attacks in 2019.2

Uncontrolled asthma is a common reason people seek medical attention.

- The 2010 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey reported 1.3 million outpatient department visits with asthma as the primary diagnosis.3
- The 2015 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey reported 10.1 million physician office visits with asthma as the primary diagnosis.4
- The 2018 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey reported that asthma was the primary diagnosis for more than 1.6 million emergency department visits.5
- The 2011-2012 National Survey for Children’s Health reported that children who have asthma (3.4%) are more likely to use a hospital emergency department as their usual place for medical care than children without asthma (2.1%).6

Asthma is a common chronic disease in children.

- In 2019, the prevalence of asthma in children was 7.0 percent, meaning about 1 in 14 children had asthma.1
- In 2013, approximately 13.8 million missed school days were reported due to asthma.7

Non-Hispanic Blacks have a higher asthma mortality rate than people of other races or ethnicities.

- According to the CDC’s 2019 summary of asthma mortality data, non-Hispanic Black Americans have a higher asthma death rate - at 23.9 deaths per million persons - than non-Hispanic whites (9.9 deaths per million persons), Hispanics (6.0 deaths per million persons), and other non-Hispanics (7.2 deaths per million persons).8

The economic costs of asthma are high.

- The annual economic cost of asthma in 2013, including medical costs and lost school and work days, amounted to more than $81.9 billion.9
- In 2012, the median annual medical cost of asthma was $983 per child, with a range of $833 in Arizona to $1,121 in Michigan.10

Reducing exposure to environmental factors, such as indoor asthma triggers, is important for asthma management.

- On average, Americans spend about 90 percent of their time indoors.11
- Indoor environmental factors called asthma triggers - such as dust mites, mold, cockroaches, pet dander and secondhand smoke - can exacerbate asthma symptoms.12
- With an asthma action plan that includes medical treatment and control of environmental triggers, people with asthma can lead healthy, active lives.13

Learn more at www.epa.gov/asthma.
References


