

ASTHMA FACTS

Asthma continues to be a serious public health problem. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- An estimated 24 million people, including more than 6 million children, have asthma. 1,2,3,4
- Asthma prevalence is higher among persons with family income below the poverty level.⁵
- More than 11 million people reported having an asthma attack, in a recent government survey. 1,2,3,6,7
- Asthma accounts for 14.2 million physician office visits,⁸ 439,000 discharges from hospital inpatient care,⁹
 and 1.8 million emergency department visits each year.¹⁰

Black Americans continue to have higher rates of asthma emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths than white Americans:

- Black persons had an emergency department visit rate three times as high as white persons (18.3 compared with 6.1 per 100 persons with asthma).^{6,7}
- Black persons had an asthma hospitalization rate more than twice as high as white persons (2.8 compared with 1.3 hospitalizations per 100 persons with asthma).^{6,7}
- Black persons had a higher asthma death rate compared with white persons (2.3 compared with 1.3 per 10,000 persons with asthma).^{6,7}

Approximately 3 million Hispanics in the United States and its territories have asthma, and Puerto Ricans are disproportionately affected:

- The rate of asthma among Puerto Ricans is approximately 2 times higher than non-Hispanic Whites and 1.5 times higher than non-Hispanic Blacks.¹¹
- The prevalence of asthma among Hispanic groups in the United States is highest among Puerto Ricans. 5,6,7

Asthma in children:

- Asthma is one of the most common serious chronic diseases of childhood.
- Asthma is the third-ranking cause of hospitalization among children younger than 15.12
- More than 10 million school days are missed each year due to asthma. 6,7

The cost of asthma:

• The annual economic cost of asthma—including direct medical costs from hospital stays and indirect costs, such as lost school and work days—amounts to more than \$56 billion dollars annually.¹⁴

Environmental factors:

• Indoor and outdoor environmental factors—including dust mites, molds, cockroaches, pet dander, secondhand smoke, and poor air quality—can trigger asthma attacks.

Asthma can be controlled:

• With an asthma action plan that includes medical treatment and control of environmental triggers, people with asthma can lead healthy, active lives.



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