

# 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 2015 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS):

- An estimated 24.6 million people, including 6.2 million children, have asthma.<sup>1</sup>
- More than 11.5 million people with asthma, including nearly 3 million children, report having had one or more asthma attacks in 2015.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup>
- The 2012 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey reported 10.5 million physician office visits with asthma as the primary diagnosis.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2013, the most recent national data available showed that asthma was the primary diagnosis for more than 1.5 million emergency department visits.<sup>5</sup>
- 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%).<sup>6</sup>

Asthma is a common chronic disease in children.

- In 2015, the prevalence of asthma in children was 8.4 percent,<sup>7</sup> which means about 1 in 12 children had asthma.
- In 2013, approximately 13.8 million missed school days were reported due to asthma.<sup>8</sup>

Black Americans in the United States die from asthma at a higher rate than people of other races or ethnicities.

- According to the CDC's 2015 summary of the most recent asthma mortality data, black Americans have a higher asthma death rate - at 23.9 deaths per million persons - than non-Hispanic whites (8.4 deaths per million persons), Hispanics (7.3 deaths per million persons), and other non-Hispanics (10.0 deaths per million persons).<sup>9</sup>

## **The economic costs of asthma are high.**

- The annual economic cost of asthma in 2007, including medical costs and lost school and work days, amounted to more than \$56 billion.<sup>10</sup>

## **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.<sup>11</sup>
- Indoor environmental factors called asthma triggers - such as dust mites, mold, cockroaches, pet dander and secondhand smoke - can exacerbate asthma symptoms.<sup>12</sup>
- With an asthma action plan that includes medical treatment and control of environmental triggers, people with asthma can lead healthy, active lives.<sup>13</sup>

Learn more at [www.epa.gov/asthma](http://www.epa.gov/asthma).

## References

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