

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 2020 National Health Interview Surveys (NHIS):

- An estimated 25.2 million people, including 4.2 million children, have asthma.¹
- More than 10.3 million people with asthma, including nearly 1.8 million children, report having had one or more asthma attacks in 2020.²

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 2020, the prevalence of asthma in children was 5.8 percent, meaning about 1 in 17 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 2020 summary of asthma mortality data, non-Hispanic Black Americans have a higher asthma death rate - at 28.7 deaths per million persons - than non-Hispanic whites (10.8 deaths per million persons), Hispanics (7.3 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

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