

Asthma FAST FACTS

MORTALITY

- In 2004, approximately 255,000 people worldwide died of asthma.¹
- In 2007, asthma accounted for 3,447 deaths. In the United States, that's more than 9 people every day.
Asthma deaths were
 - > higher among adults than among children, and
 - > higher among women (2,173) than among men (1,274).²
- Although the rate of asthma deaths increased during 1980-1995, since 2000 the death rate has decreased each year.³

ASTHMA-RELATED COSTS and EXPENDITURES (2007)

- Asthma costs the United States more than \$30 billion every year. These costs include the direct expenditure of treating asthma.⁴

HEALTH CARE USE (2006 data)

- An estimated 444,000 hospital discharges related to asthma were recorded in 2006, with an average length of stay of 3.2 days. ⁵
- Asthma accounted for 1.1 million hospital outpatient visits and 1.6 million emergency department visits.⁵
- An estimated 10.6 million asthma-related visits were made to physician offices.⁶

ASTHMA ATTACKS

- In 2007, a CDC study showed 34 million people had been diagnosed with asthma during their lifetimes.⁷ Of that 34 million, 12.3 million had experienced an asthma attack in the previous year.⁸



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Asthma Prevalence

WORLDWIDE Estimates (2004):

- In 2004, approximately 300 million people of all ages worldwide had asthma.¹

NATIONAL Estimates (2007):

- A CDC study showed 34 million people (11.5 percent) or 1 in 9 Americans had been diagnosed with asthma during their lifetimes.^{7,9,10}
- An estimated 9.6 million children (13.1 percent) under the age of 18 and 24.4 million adults 18 and older (10.9 percent) had been diagnosed with asthma during their lifetimes.^{7,9}
- An estimated 22.9 million people (7.7 percent) of the population have current asthma.^{11,12}
- Current asthma prevalence is higher among females (8.9 percent) than males (6.5 percent).¹¹
- Current asthma prevalence is higher among children ages 17 years and younger (9.1 percent) than adults (7.3 percent).¹¹
- Current asthma prevalence is highest among Blacks (10.2 percent), followed by Whites (7.6 percent), and Hispanics (6.8 percent) including Puerto Ricans (14.1 percent) and Mexican/Mexican-American (5.8 percent).¹¹

STATE Estimates (Current Asthma Prevalence 2008):

- State asthma estimates varied widely, ranging from 6.6 percent in Florida to 7.0 percent in Mississippi, to 10.4 percent in New Hampshire and 10.6 percent in Rhode Island.¹³
- Highest estimates among men were in Wisconsin (8.2 percent) and Arizona (8.8 percent); the lowest estimates were in Illinois (5.2 percent) and South Carolina (5.2 percent).¹⁴
- Highest estimates among women were in Maine (13.2 percent) and New Hampshire (14.3 percent); the lowest estimates were in Florida (7.6 percent) and Nebraska (7.9 percent).¹⁴

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Note: The next update of this fact sheet is scheduled for June 2011. More recent information may be available at the CDC's Air Pollution and Respiratory Health Branch's Asthma Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma>.

