



Asthma Facts

▼ Asthma is a rapidly growing public health problem. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- ▶ About 23 million people, including 6.8 million children, have asthma. ¹
- ▶ Asthma prevalence is higher among families with lower incomes.
- ▶ 12 million people report having an asthma attack in the past year. ²
- ▶ Asthma accounts for nearly 17 million physician office and hospital visits, ³ and nearly 2 million emergency department visits each year. ²

▼ African Americans continue to have higher rates of asthma emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths than do Caucasians:

- ▶ The rate of emergency department visits is 350% higher. ²
- ▶ The hospitalization rate is 240% higher. ²
- ▶ The asthma death rate is 200% higher. ²

▼ Approximately 2 million Hispanics in the U.S. have asthma and Puerto Ricans are disproportionately impacted:

- ▶ The rate of asthma among Puerto Ricans is 125% higher than non-Hispanic white people and 80% higher than non-Hispanic black people. ²
- ▶ The prevalence of asthma attacks is highest among Puerto Ricans. ²

▼ 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 under 15. ⁴
- ▶ An average of one out of every 10 school-aged children has asthma. ⁵
- ▶ 13 million school days are missed each year due to asthma. ⁶

▼ The Cost of Asthma

Annual expenditures for health and lost productivity due to asthma are estimated at nearly \$20 billion, according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. ⁷

▼ Environmental Factors

Indoor and outdoor environmental factors can trigger asthma attacks: dust mites, molds, cockroaches, pet dander, and secondhand smoke.

▼ Asthma Can be Controlled

With a plan that includes medicine and control of environmental triggers, people with asthma can lead healthy, active lives.

References

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