



Asthma Facts

- ▼ **Asthma is a rapidly growing public health problem. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:**
 - ▶ 22 million people, including 6.5 million children, have asthma.
 - ▶ Asthma prevalence is higher among families with lower incomes.
 - ▶ 12 million people report having an asthma attack in the past year.
 - ▶ Asthma accounts for nearly 15 million outpatient clinic visits, and nearly 2 million emergency department visits each year.
- ▼ **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.
 - ▶ The hospitalization rate is 240% higher.
 - ▶ The asthma death rate is 200% higher.
- ▼ **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.
 - ▶ The prevalence of asthma attacks is highest among Puerto Ricans.
 - ▶ The asthma death rate is 200% higher.
- ▼ **Asthma in Children**
 - ▶ Asthma is the most common serious chronic disease of childhood.
 - ▶ Asthma is the third-ranking cause of hospitalization among children under 15.
 - ▶ Asthma accounts for one-third of all pediatric emergency room visits and is the fourth-most common cause of pediatric visits to the doctor's office.
 - ▶ An average of one out of every 13 school-aged children has asthma.
 - ▶ 13 million school days are missed each year due to asthma.
- ▼ **The Cost of Asthma**

Annual expenditures for health and lost productivity due to asthma are estimated at \$16 billion, according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.
- ▼ **Research by EPA and other groups has shown that:**

Dust mites, molds, cockroaches, pet dander, and secondhand smoke trigger asthma attacks.

Online Asthma Resources

- ▼ EPA's Asthma Program: www.epa.gov/asthma
- ▼ CDC's Asthma Program: www.cdc.gov/asthma
- ▼ EPA's PSA Campaign, No Attacks: www.noattacks.org
- ▼ *Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments* Online Network: www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org
- ▼ National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute: www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/naepp/index.htm

