

National Asthma Epidemic

- Everyday 40,000 people miss school or work due to asthma.¹
- 30-40 million kids play organized sports each year.²
- Nearly 5 million asthma sufferers are under 18. It is the most common chronic childhood disease, affecting more than one child in 20.³
- Asthma Accounts for one-quarter of all emergency room visits in the U.S. each year, with 2 million emergency room visits.⁴
- In 2005, 5.2% of children had at least one asthma attack in the previous year (3.8 million children). Nearly two of every three children who currently have asthma had at least one attack in the past year.⁵
- Asthma-related visits to physician offices have increased sharply since the early 1990s, from fewer than 40 visits per 1,000 children under 18 in 1990 to 89 visits per 1000 in 2004.
- 4261 people died from asthma, among which 187 were children aged 0-17 years old in 2002.⁶
- An estimated 200,000 to one million children with asthma have their condition worsened by exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.⁷
- Children with asthma are 39% more likely to have had an asthma attack in the past year than adults with asthma.⁸
- Non-Hispanic blacks were the most likely to die from asthma, and had an asthma death rate over 200% higher than non-Hispanic whites.¹
- African Americans are 3 to 4 times more likely to visit the ER, to be hospitalized, and to die because of asthma compared to whites with asthma.⁹
- The total annual cost of asthma is estimated at \$16.1 billion dollars.¹⁰

1 www.aafa.org

2 Gould, D., and Weiss, M. (eds) *Advances in Pediatric Sport Sciences, Vol.2: Behavioral Issues* (Champaign, Ill.: Human Kinetics, 1987) pp. 55 ff. cfr also Weinberg, R.S., and Gould, D., "Children's Psychological Development Through Sport," in J. Silva and R. Weinberg (eds) *Foundations of Sport and Exercise Psychology*. (Champaign, Ill.: Human Kinetics, 1987) pp 449-466. Also, Gerdy, John. Editor. (2000) *Sports in School: The Future of an Institution*. NY: Teacher's College Press, Columbia University. P. 55.

3 "Morbidity and Mortality Report," National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), U.S. CDC, 2003

4 "Morbidity and Mortality Report," NCHS, U.S. CDC, 2003

5 Akinbami L. The State of childhood asthma, United States, 1980-2005. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 381, Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2006.

6 CDC, National Center for Health Statistics Web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/asthma/asthma.htm>

7 Respiratory Health Effect of Passive Smoking. (1993). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Washington, DC.

8 National Health Interview Survey. (1998). (Provided by Dr. Sandra Thomas, Chicago Department of Public Health).

9 Mannino et. al.(2002). "Surveillance for Asthma – United States, 1980-1999." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, CDC.

10 National Institute of Health. .National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute Chartbook. (2004). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.