FACTS.FACTS.FAC

RESPIRATORY HEALTH ASSOCIATION℠
of Metropolitan Chicago

Catch Your Breath.®

Women & Asthma

- Asthma is a chronic lung disease characterized by inflammation and narrowing of the airways in response to asthma triggers. Asthma can be life threatening if not properly managed. Asthma is a complex condition, with a range of causes and factors.
- Women are more likely to suffer from asthma than men. In 2002, over 3 million more females had asthma than males[1].
- In 2002, women represented more hospital discharges due to asthma (288,000) than men (196,000)[1].
- In 2002, approximately 63% of asthma deaths occurred in women. The age-adjusted mortality rates were 42% higher in females than males[1].
- Asthma does not disproportionately affect females until puberty. In childhood, asthma is more common in boys than girls[1].
- Asthma prevalence is over 30% higher in African Americans than Caucasians.
- African Americans are also nearly three times more likely to be hospitalized and five times more likely to seek care at an emergency room for asthma than Caucasians[1].
- Puerto Ricans may have higher asthma prevalence and death rates than other Hispanic subgroups and Caucasians and African Americans[1].

---

1 National Center for Heath Statistics. Asthma Prevalence, Health Care Use and Mortality, 2002.

Chicago's Lung Health Leader Since 1906

1440 W. Washington Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60607-1878
Phone: (312) 243-2000
Fax: (312) 243-3954
www.lungchicago.org