



National Pediatric Asthma Epidemic

- According to a report released in 2009, more than 9.5 million U.S. children under 18 years of age (13%) have ever been diagnosed with asthma.¹
- The [asthma] death rate for children under 19 years old has increased by nearly 80% percent since 1980.²
- 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 12 months.³
- Among children ages 5 to 17, asthma is the leading cause of school absences due to a chronic illness. It accounts for an annual loss of more than 14 million school days per year (approximately 8 days for each student with asthma).⁴
- Boys (15%) were more likely to than girls (11%) to have ever been diagnosed with asthma.¹
- The average family in the United States spends between 5.5% and 14.5% of its total income on treating an asthmatic child.⁵
- Non-Hispanic black children were more likely to have ever been diagnosed with asthma or to still have asthma (20% and 15%) than Hispanic children (13% and 9%) or non-Hispanic white children (11% and 7%).¹
- Asthma is the third-ranking cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15.⁶
- Nearly half (44%) of all asthma hospitalizations are for children.³
- In 2004, Children had over 754,000 emergency department visits, a rate of 103 per 10,000 children. The emergency department visit rate was highest among children aged 0-4 years at 168 per 10,000.⁷

1 Bloom B, Cohen RA. Summary health statistics for U.S. Children: National Health Interview Survey, 2007. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 10(239). 2009.

2 "New Asthma Estimates: Tracking Prevalence, Health Care and Mortality," NCHS, CDC, 2001.

3 Akinbami, L, Asthma Prevalence, Health Care Use and Mortality: United States, 2003-05 NCHS, Office of Analysis and Epidemiology, CDC November 2006, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/ashtma03-05/asthma03-05.htm>.

4 "The Costs of Asthma," Asthma and Allergy Foundation 1992 and 1998 Study, 2000 Update.

5 *Medical Expenditure Panel Survey* (MEPS, 2002). Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

6 DeFrances CJ, Cullen KA, Kozak LJ. National Hospital Discharge Survey: 2005 Annual Summary with Detailed Diagnosis and Procedure Data. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Statistics 12 (165): 2007.

7 Akinbami, L, Asthma Prevalence, Health Care Use and Mortality: United States, 2003-05 NCHS, Office of Analysis and Epidemiology, CDC November 2006.