

Asthma Statistics

- Approximately 20 million Americans have asthma. ¹
- Nine million U.S. children under 18 have been diagnosed with asthma. ²
- More than four million children have had an asthma attack in the previous year. ²
- More than 70% of people with asthma also suffer from allergies. ³
- 10 million Americans suffer specifically from allergic asthma. ⁴
- The prevalence of asthma increased 75% from 1980-1994. ⁵
- Asthma rates in children under the age of five have increased more than 160% from 1980-1994. ⁵
- In 2003, there were 12.7 million physician office visits and 1.2 million outpatient department visits due to asthma. ¹
- There were 1.9 million asthma-related visits to emergency departments in 2002. ¹
- There are approximately 5,000 deaths from asthma annually. ¹
- Direct health care costs for asthma in the United States total more than \$11.5 billion annually; indirect costs (lost productivity) add another \$4.6 billion for a total of \$16.1 billion. Prescription drugs represented the largest single direct medical expenditure, over \$5 billion. ¹
- 12.8 million school days are missed annually due to asthma. ¹
- The value of reduced productivity due to death represented the largest single indirect cost related to asthma, approaching \$1.7 billion. ¹
- Asthma accounts for approximately 24.5 million missed work days for adults annually. ¹
- Asthma prevalence is 39% higher in African Americans than in whites. ¹
- The prevalence of asthma in adult females was 35% greater than the rate in males, in 2003. ¹
- Approximately 40% of children who have asthmatic parents will develop asthma. ⁶

American Lung Association. Epidemiology & statistics Unit, Research and Program Services.
Trends in Asthma Morbidity and Mortality May 2005.

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