

Asthma Matters:

Asthma in Adult Oklahomans

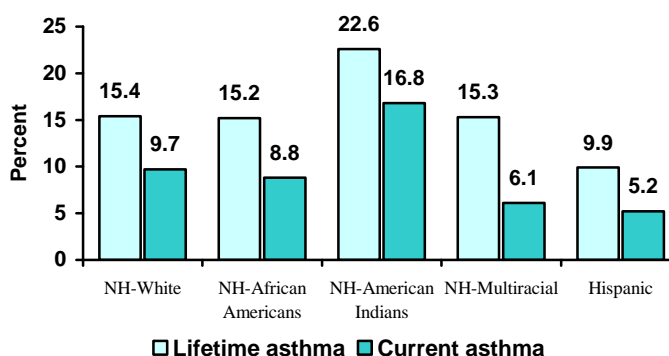
WHY ASTHMA MATTERS:

- ❖ In 2008, it was estimated that 16.1 million adult Americans currently have asthma.
- ❖ An asthma "episode" or "attack" is a series of events that result in narrowed airways. About 12.7 million Americans had an asthma attack.
- ❖ In 2008, asthma accounted for an estimated 14.2 million lost work days in adults.
- ❖ Asthma is serious, and could be life threatening. In 2006, Close to 1.7 million emergency room visits were attributed to asthma and about 3,613 Americans die from asthma.

ASTHMA IN OKLAHOMA ADULTS

- ❖ In 2009, 274,700 adults 18 years and older (9.9%) in Oklahoma reported that they currently had asthma.
- ❖ Females reported higher prevalence of current asthma than males.
- ❖ Oklahoma has similar asthma mortality rates as the nation, which is decreasing in recent years.
- ❖ African Americans in Oklahoma have much higher asthma mortality rates than other racial groups.
- ❖ Asthma mortality rates were much higher among people aged 65 years and over.

Prevalence of Lifetime and Current Asthma by Race/Ethnicity: Oklahoma BRFSS 2009



ASTHMA HEALTH CARE UTILIZATIONS

- ❖ In 2009, there were 4,522 hospital admissions with asthma as principle diagnosis in Oklahoma, with the total charges of \$69.9 million. The hospitalization rate of asthma was much higher for African Americans.
- ❖ 21.7% of adults with current asthma visited emergency room (ER) or urgent care center because of their asthma during the past 12 months. •Adults with current asthma and without healthcare coverage reported significantly higher percentages of having asthma attack.
- ❖ Adults with current asthma who were minorities or with annual household incomes <\$25,000 reported significantly higher percentages of using the emergency and urgent care.
- ❖ Younger age and lack of health coverage were the barriers for patients with current asthma to seek routine physician visits.

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT & CONTROL

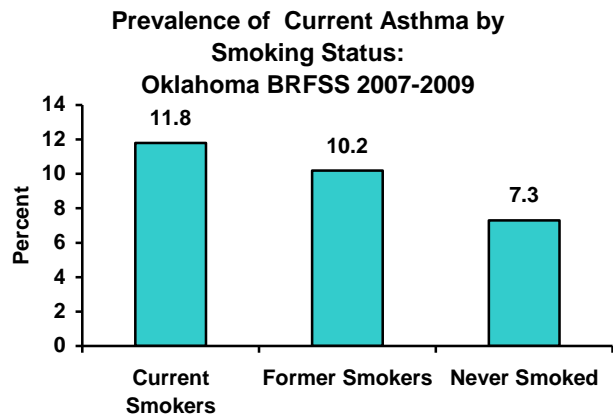
- ❖ 56.6% of adults with current asthma reported an asthma episode or attack during the past 12 months.
- ❖ People 35 years and over with current asthma were more likely to take asthma medications.
- ❖ Significantly higher proportions of receiving vaccine could be seen among those aged 65 years and over, or those with health coverage.

BURDEN OF ASTHMA

- ❖ 29.8% of adults with current asthma were unable to work or carry out usual activities at least one day during the past 12 months because of asthma.
- ❖ Prescription drugs represented the largest single direct cost. About 22.2% of adults with current asthma reported that there was a time in the past 12 months that they could not buy medication for asthma because of the cost when they needed.

ASTHMA AND TOBACCO

- ❖ In Oklahoma, 25.5% of adults reported they currently smoke in 2009, much higher than the national average of 17.9%.
- ❖ Among those adults with current asthma, 32.7% reported they currently smoke and another 27.0% said they were former smokers.
- ❖ Current smokers reported significantly higher proportions of having asthma than that among people never smoked (11.8% vs. 7.3%).
- ❖ Adults with current asthma may be exposed to second hand smoke in their working areas or the public areas of workplaces due to the fact that either there is no official smoking policy or smoking is allowed in those areas.



The Oklahoma Asthma Initiative (OAI) is a coalition of organizations and individuals working to improve the health status of Oklahomans affected by asthma. As such, the OAI is working in the following areas in an effort to implement and sustain changes: medical professional education, patient and caregiver education, community education, public policy, data and surveillance, and public relations.

For more information on asthma in Oklahoma contact:

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