

Asthma Matters:

Asthma In Oklahoma's Children

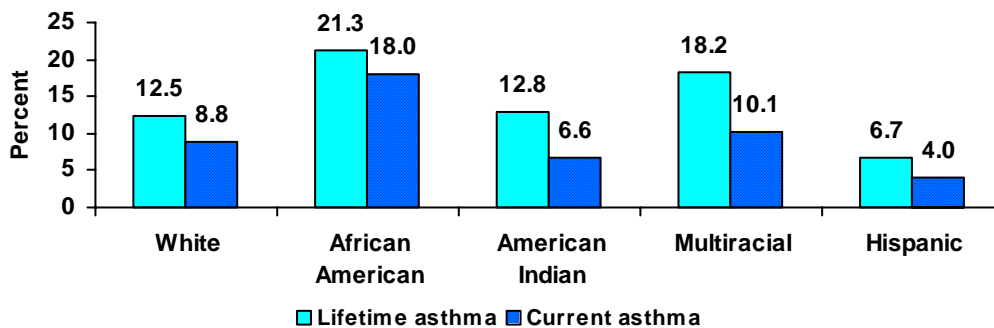
What is Asthma?

Asthma is a chronic lung disease with 2 main components: inflammation (airway swelling and irritation) and bronchoconstriction (tightening of the muscles surrounding the airways). Both cause airways to narrow, making it hard to breathe.

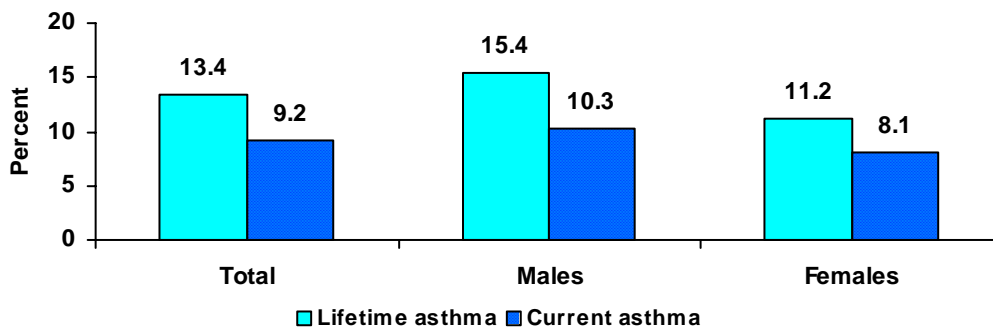
Fast Facts: Asthma in Oklahoma Children

- In Oklahoma, 116,800 children (13.4%) younger than 18 years of age have ever been told by a health professional that he/she had asthma (**lifetime asthma**), and 80,200 of them (9.2%) still having asthma (**current asthma**), according to National Survey of Children's Health.
- In Oklahoma, Hispanic children had significantly lower prevalence for lifetime and current asthma than Non-Hispanic White children ($P < 0.05$).
- Boys tend to have a slightly higher prevalence of lifetime asthma and current asthma than girls ($P > 0.05$).

Prevalence of Lifetime and Current Asthma by Race/Ethnicity in Oklahoma Children



Prevalence of Lifetime and Current Asthma by Gender in Oklahoma Children



Asthma Health Care Utilizations in Children

- In Oklahoma, asthma affects nearly 1 in 13 school-aged children, and is the leading cause of school absenteeism due to a chronic illness.
- In the year 2005, there were 846 hospital admissions with asthma as the primary diagnosis among Oklahoma children 0-4 years old (hospitalization rate of 3.47/1,000).
- Among Oklahoma Medicaid beneficiaries with asthma as the primary diagnosis, about half (51.0%) of them were kids younger than 10 years of age, in which, more than half were in 1-4 years old.

Asthma Management & Control in Children

- For the children with current asthma, 40.5% took their asthma medication within 24 hours. Another 50.3% of them took asthma medication in the last 1-7 days.
- 32.8% of the families that have children with current asthma reported the health difficulty caused by asthma was moderate; and another 2.4% of the families reported severe difficulty caused by asthma.
- 16.8% of the families that have children with current asthma report that the asthma put a medium amount or great deal of burden on the family.
- Among Oklahoma children younger than 18 years old with lifetime asthma:
 - 51.5% experienced an episode of asthma or asthma attack during the past 12 months.
 - 3.9% stayed overnight in a hospital because of asthma during the past 12 months.
- For Oklahoma children younger than 18 years old with current asthma:
 - 71.9% experienced an episode of asthma or an asthma attack during the past 12 months.
 - 5.1% stayed overnight in a hospital because of asthma during the past 12 months.
- For children having an asthma episode or attack, 6.4% had to stay overnight in a hospital.

Tobacco Use and Children with Asthma

- In Oklahoma, 31.3% of children with current asthma live in the households where someone uses cigarettes, cigars, or pipe tobacco.

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, we are 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.

Information on this fact sheet was obtained from the National Survey of Children's Health.
For more information and comments about asthma, please contact:

Chronic Disease Service
Oklahoma State Department of Health
1000 NE 10th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73117
Tel: (405) 271-4072 Fax: (405) 271-6315



Oklahoma Asthma Initiative
American Lung Association of the Central States
1010 E 8th Street, Tulsa, OK 74120
Tel: (918) 747-3441 Fax: (918) 747-4629

