

## Asthma in Oklahoma

- Asthma is the leading cause of absenteeism from school in OK from a chronic illness
- **64** Oklahomans died from asthma in 2005

- **9.2%** of children in Oklahoma have asthma (about 80,000 children)
- **1 out of 13** school aged children in Oklahoma have asthma

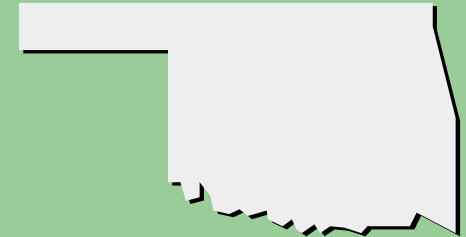
- About **30%** of adults with asthma currently smoke in Oklahoma
- About **60%** of adults reported that they had an asthma attack in the last 12 months (2005)

- **30%** of adults with asthma were unable to work at least one day in the past year because of asthma
- About **30%** of adults went to the ER for their asthma in the past year



# Oklahoma Asthma Initiative

TARGETING ASTHMA TOGETHER



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[www.asthmaok.org](http://www.asthmaok.org)

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# Oklahoma Asthma Initiative

The **Oklahoma Asthma Initiative** (OAI) is a statewide partnership of individuals and organizations working together to reduce the burden of asthma within our state.

Asthma is a serious issue in Oklahoma and we need you to help us combat this problem. There are several workgroups working to achieve our goal:

- Medical Professional
- Community
- Patient and Caregiver
- Public Policy
- Public Relations
- Data and Surveillance

**We need you!** To join the Oklahoma Asthma Initiative or to learn if this is a partnership in which you would like to become involved. Please contact us at (918) 747-3441 for more information or visit [www.asthmaok.org](http://www.asthmaok.org)

## 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.

## What Causes Asthma:

- Although there is no known cause for asthma, there are certain triggers

## Common Asthma Triggers



Triggers are things that can cause asthma symptoms or attacks:

### **Allergens:**

- Dust mites
- Animal dander
- Cockroach droppings and remains
- Mold
- Pollen

### **Inhalants:**

- Strong odors (like perfume, gasoline fumes, hairspray, paint)
- Ozone (outdoor)
- Smoke (tobacco & wood)

# OAI's Mission

**Our mission** is to improve the health status of Oklahomans affected by asthma. To meet this mission the OAI provides a forum for information exchange among all members of the circle of care for people with asthma and has begun examining the various problems associated with asthma from a systematic perspective.

The OAI has adopted the Healthy People 2010 objectives as measures for achieving the overall goal. The OAI workgroups are actively engaged in activities that are designed to have an impact in the areas of reduced number of asthma related deaths, hospitalizations, emergency room visits, school/work days missed, limitations on activity due to asthma.

To this end, the OAI workgroups are engaging in pilot projects aimed at improving systems of care and educating caregivers and providers related to asthma.