

African American Asthma Statistics

- From 2001-2003, about 3,121,000 African Americans reported that they currently have asthma.¹
- Compared with white children, black children have a 260% higher ED visit rate, a 250% higher hospitalization rate, and a 500% higher death rate from asthma.²
- Through 2005, black children have an asthma prevalence rate 60% higher than white children.²
- African Americans were three to four times more likely than whites to be hospitalized for asthma, and were four to six times more likely to die from asthma.³
- African American Women have the highest asthma mortality rate of all groups, more than 2.5 times higher than Caucasian women.³
- Non-Hispanic blacks had an asthma attack prevalence about 30% higher than non-Hispanic whites.⁴
- Asthma is 26 percent more common in African American children than in white children.⁵
- African Americans are five times more likely to seek care at an emergency room for asthma than Caucasians.⁶
- Insured African Americans with asthma are more likely than insured whites to be hospitalized for asthma-related health conditions and are less likely to be treated by an asthma specialist.⁷

1 U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Asthma and African Americans. Available at:

<http://www.omhrc.gov/templates/content.aspx?vl=3&vlID=532&ID=6170>

2 Akinbami L. The State of Childhood Asthma, United States, 1980–2005. Advance Data from Vital and Health Statistics, No. 381.

Revised December 29, 2006. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad381.pdf>

3 "Asthma: A Concern for Minority Populations," NIAID, NIH 2001. Available at:

<http://www.blackhealthcare.com/BHC/Asthma/Description.asp>

4 Akinbami L.J. Asthma Prevalence, Health Care Use and Mortality: United States, 2003-05. Available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/asthma/asthma.htm>

5 Kids who get prescription asthma drugs visit ER less often, University of Michigan study shows. Available at:

<http://www.med.umich.edu/opm/newspage/2003/kidsasthma.htm>

6 National Center for Health Statistics. Asthma Prevalence, Health Care Use and Mortality, 2002

7 Edward Zoratti, Suzanne Havstad, Juan Rodriguez, et al., "Health Service Use by African Americans and Caucasians with Asthma in a Managed Care Setting," American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine 158 (August 1998), pp. 371-377.