

# Asthma

## Asthma

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disorder of the lungs, characterized by wheezing, coughing, difficulty breathing, and chest tightness.<sup>6</sup> The estimate of adults who indicated they ever had asthma or currently have asthma is shown in Table 10.

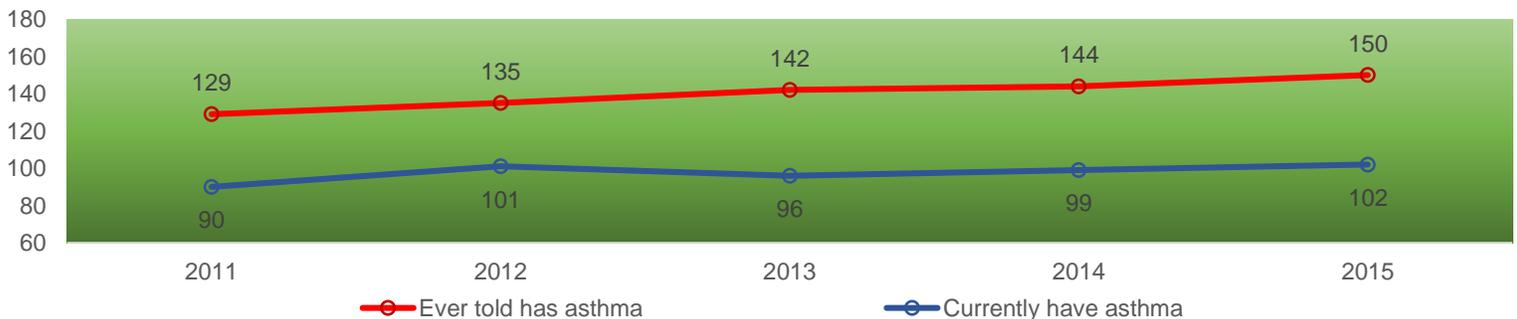
- In 2015, 15 percent of Pennsylvania adults reported they were ever told they had asthma and 10 percent of Pennsylvania adults reported they currently have asthma.
- Pennsylvania men (12 percent) who were ever told they had asthma had a significantly lower percentage than Pennsylvania women (18 percent) who were ever told they had asthma.
- Pennsylvania men (12 percent) who were ever told they had asthma had a significantly lower percentage than Pennsylvania women (18 percent) who were ever told they had asthma.
- Pennsylvania men (7 percent) who currently have asthma had a significantly lower percentage than Pennsylvania women (14 percent) who currently have asthma.
- Pennsylvania white, non-Hispanic adults (14 percent) who were ever told they had asthma had a significantly lower percentage than Pennsylvania Hispanic adults (25 percent) who were ever told they had asthma.
- Pennsylvania white, non-Hispanic adults (9 percent) who currently have asthma had a significantly lower percentage than Pennsylvania Hispanic adults (22 percent) who currently have asthma.
- The overall number of Pennsylvania adults per 1,000 Pennsylvania population who were ever told they had asthma and the overall number of those who currently have asthma increased in 2015 compared to previous years.

Table 10A: Asthma, 2015

Demographics	Ever Told Has Asthma*		Currently Have Asthma*	
	%	CI	%	CI
All adults	15	14-16	10	9-11
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	12	11-14	7	5-8
Female	18	16-20	14	12-15
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	22	18-27	13	10-17
30-44	15	12-18	10	8-12
45-64	14	12-16	10	9-12
65+	10	9-12	8	7-10
<b>Education</b>				
<High school	14	10-20	13	9-19
High school	15	13-17	11	9-13
Some college	17	14-19	10	8-12
College degree	13	11-15	8	6-10
<b>Household income</b>				
<\$15,000	23	18-29	20	16-26
\$15,000 to \$24,999	17	13-21	13	10-18
\$25,000 to \$49,999	14	11-17	8	6-11
\$50,000 to \$74,999	15	12-19	11	8-15
\$75,000+	12	10-14	7	5-8
<b>Race</b>				
White, non-Hispanic	14	13-16	9	8-11
Black, non-Hispanic	15	11-20	10	7-15
Hispanic	25	17-35	22	15-32

\*Excludes missing, don't know and refused

Figure 10: Asthma Prevalence per 1,000 Pennsylvania Population, Pennsylvania Adults, 2011-2015



## Ever Told Has Asthma Magnitude of Significant Differences – 2015

### Gender

- Female respondents were 1.6 times more likely to report they were ever told they have asthma than were male respondents.

### Age

- Respondents age 18-29 were:
  - 1.8 times more likely to report they were ever told they have asthma than were respondents age 45-64; and
  - 2.2 times more likely to report they were ever told they have asthma than were respondents age 65 and older.

### Household Income

- Respondents with a household income of less than \$15,000 were:
  - 2.1 times more likely to report they were ever told they have asthma than were respondents with a household income of \$25,000 to \$49,999; and
  - 2.3 times more likely to report they were ever told they have asthma than were respondents with a household income of \$75,000 or more.

### Race/ethnicity

- Hispanic respondents were 1.6 times more likely to report they were ever told they have asthma than were white, non-Hispanic respondents.

Table 10B: Magnitude of Significantly Different Demographics by Ever Told Has Asthma, 2015		
Significantly different demographics	Odds ratio	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female vs. male	1.6	1.3 - 1.8
<b>Age</b>		
18-29 vs. 45-64	1.8	1.4 - 2.2
18-29 vs. 65+	2.2	1.7 - 2.7
<b>Household income</b>		
< \$15,000 vs. \$25,000 to \$49,999	2.1	1.6 - 2.8
< \$15,000 vs. \$75,000+	2.3	1.8 - 3.1
<b>Race</b>		
Hispanic vs. white, non-Hispanic	1.6	1.1 - 2.4

## Currently Have Asthma Magnitude of Significant Differences – 2015

### Gender

- Female respondents were 2.1 times more likely to report they currently have asthma than were male respondents.

### Household Income

- Respondents with a household income of less than \$15,000 were:
  - 2.8 times more likely to report they currently have asthma than were respondents with a household income of \$25,000 to \$49,999;
  - 2.2 times more likely to report they currently have asthma than were respondents with a household income of \$50,000 to \$74,999; and
  - 3.4 times more likely to report they currently have asthma than were respondents with a household income of \$75,000 or more.
- Respondents with a household income of \$15,000 to \$24,999 were 1.8 times more likely to report they currently have asthma than were respondents with a household income of \$75,000 or more.

### Race/ethnicity

- Hispanic respondents were 2.0 times more likely to report they currently have asthma than were white, non-Hispanic respondents.

Table 10C: Magnitude of Significantly Different Demographics by Currently Have Asthma, 2015		
Significantly different demographics	Odds ratio	CI
<b>Gender</b>		
Female vs. male	2.1	1.7 - 2.5
<b>Household income</b>		
< \$15,000 vs. \$25,000 to \$49,999	2.8	2.0 - 3.8
< \$15,000 vs. \$50,000 to \$74,999	2.2	1.6 - 3.1
< \$15,000 vs. \$75,000+	3.4	2.4 - 4.6
\$15,000 to \$24,999 vs. \$75,000+	1.8	1.3 - 2.4
<b>Race</b>		
Hispanic vs. white, non-Hispanic	2.0	1.3 - 3.1