

ASTHMA: TAKE ACTION, TAKE CONTROL

asthma.chestnet.org

ASTHMA HEALTH DISPARITIES

Asthma crosses all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. It is more common among African-American, Hispanic and Native American populations, particularly those living in poor urban areas.

RATE OF ASTHMA-RELATED ER VISITS AND DEATHS COMPARED WITH CAUCASIANS

| | ER VISITS | DEATHS |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| African-American children: | 4.5X HIGHER | 7X HIGHER |
| African-American adults: | 2.8X HIGHER | 3X HIGHER |
| Hispanic children: | 2.1X HIGHER | 2X HIGHER |

Native Americans

30%
MORE LIKELY
to have asthma

Asthma-related deaths

20%
HIGHER



Minority children
are
LESS LIKELY
to take daily
asthma medication

Asthma prevalence among

Puerto Ricans is

2X

GREATER

than other Hispanic populations



INCOME LEVEL AND EDUCATION PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ASTHMA PREVALENCE

Adults with an annual income of
<\$75,000
are
MORE LIKELY
to have asthma

Adults who didn't finish high school are
MORE LIKELY
to have asthma



People with asthma who earn
<\$50,000
per year are
twice as likely
to have an
asthma flare



ADULTS WHO CANNOT AFFORD THEIR ASTHMA MEDICATION:
1 in 4
African-Americans
1 in 5
Hispanics

FACTORS THAT CAN LEAD TO ASTHMA DISPARITIES



• **ACCESS TO CARE** – Limited or lack of transportation can result in patients missing or rescheduling doctor appointments and forgoing or delaying medication use.



• **INCOME** – Poverty can affect access to healthcare and health insurance, forcing low-income patients to skimp on medical care, including preventive medications.



• **ENVIRONMENTAL ALLERGENS AND IRRITANTS** – People with asthma who live in urban areas with substandard housing are exposed to more asthma triggers, including mold, dust mites, cockroaches and mice, cigarette smoke and vehicular exhaust from nearby highways.



• **EDUCATION INEQUALITY** – A lack of knowledge and understanding of the disease can lead to problems such as using asthma inhalers incorrectly or not following through on treatment.



• **LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES** – People with asthma who speak Spanish as a primary language may struggle to get appropriate health services.

TALK WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS ABOUT POLICIES THAT IMPACT COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCING A GREATER BURDEN OF ASTHMA.