



Asthma: The New Epidemic

Nine million U.S. children under 18 years of age (12%) have ever been diagnosed with asthma. As the age increases, the proportion of children ever diagnosed with asthma increases. Experts worry that a new epidemic has begun.

- Children in poor families (16%) are more likely to have ever been diagnosed with asthma than children in families that are not poor (11%).
- Children in single-mother families (17%) are more likely to have ever been diagnosed with asthma than children from two-parent families (11%) or single-father families (10%).
- More than 4 million children (6%) had an asthma attack in the past 12 months. Boys were more likely than girls to have had an asthma attack in the past 12 months (7% versus 5%).
- Non-Hispanic black children are more than twice as likely as Hispanic children to have had an asthma attack in the past 12 months (9% versus 4%).
- Children in fair or poor health are almost seven times as likely to have had an asthma attack in the past 12 months as children in excellent or very good health (29% versus 4%).



Boys are more likely than girls to be diagnosed with asthma (14% versus 10%).