Asthma in Knox County and Ohio

What is asthma?

Asthma is a chronic disease that affects the airways in the lungs. During an asthma attack, airways become inflamed, making it hard to breathe. Asthma attacks can be mild, moderate, or serious — and even life threatening.

Symptoms of an asthma attack include:

- Coughing
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Wheezing
- Tightness or pain in the chest

We don't know for sure what causes asthma, but we do know that attacks are sometimes triggered by:

- Allergens (like pollen, mold, animal dander, and dust mites)
- Exercise
- Occupational hazards
- Tobacco smoke
- Air pollution
- Airway infections

There's no cure for asthma. People with asthma can manage their disease with medical care and prevent attacks by avoiding triggers.

Is asthma really a problem?

Yes. Asthma is a serious health and economic concern in the United States and Ohio.

- In 2014, an estimated 830,000 adults[1,2] and 420,000[2,3] children in Ohio had asthma.
- In Ohio, 10.8 percent of adults have asthma compared to 9.7 percent in Knox County[1].
- An estimated 4,139 adults in Knox County have asthma[1,2].
- In Ohio, 14.2 percent of children have asthma, compared to 15.8 percent in Knox County[1].
- An estimated 3,014 children in Knox County have asthma[2,3].

1 in 9
adults in Ohio have asthma

1 in 7
children in Ohio have asthma

Ohio Department of Health

National Center for Environmental Health
Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects

What makes a person more likely to have asthma?

Gender:

- Women are more likely to have asthma. In Ohio, 14.3 percent of women and 7 percent of men have asthma[1].
- Boys are more likely to have asthma than girls. In Ohio, 17 percent of boys and 12 percent of girls have asthma[3].

Race and ethnicity:

- Black children and adults are more likely to have asthma than white children and adults.
- More than 1 in 5 black children in Ohio have been diagnosed with asthma[3].

Education level:

- In Ohio, adults who didn't finish high school are more likely to have asthma than adults who graduated high school or college[1].

Income level:

- In Ohio, adults with an annual household income of $15,000 or less are more likely to have asthma than adults with incomes $35,000 and above[1].

It can make you sick.

- In Ohio during 2012, more than 17,000 inpatient hospital visits were made for asthma, at a rate of 15.1 visits per 10,000 residents[4].
- In Knox County, 36 visits were made for asthma in 2012 a rate of 7.81 per 10,000 residents[4].
- In Ohio during 2012, more than 65,000 emergency department visits were made for asthma, at a rate of 54.1 visits per 10,000 residents[4].
- In Knox County, 231 visits were made for asthma in 2012, at a rate of 44.4 per 10,000 residents[2,4].

It's deadly.

- Twelve people in Ohio die from at asthma every month.
- In 2012, 146 people in Ohio died from asthma. In Knox County, there were no deaths in 2012 [5].

Sources:

1. Centers for Disease Control, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Year 2014
2. US Census, 2014
3. Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey, 2012
4. Ohio Hospital Association Clinical-Financial Database, 2011-2012
5. Death Data, Ohio Department of Health, Center of Health and Vital Statistics, 2012

1 in 5
black Children in Ohio
have asthma

1 in 5 Children
below the poverty level in Ohio
have asthma

Almost 66,000 ED visits in 2012 for asthma in Ohio

For more information about asthma, contact Cynthia Weiss at:

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