

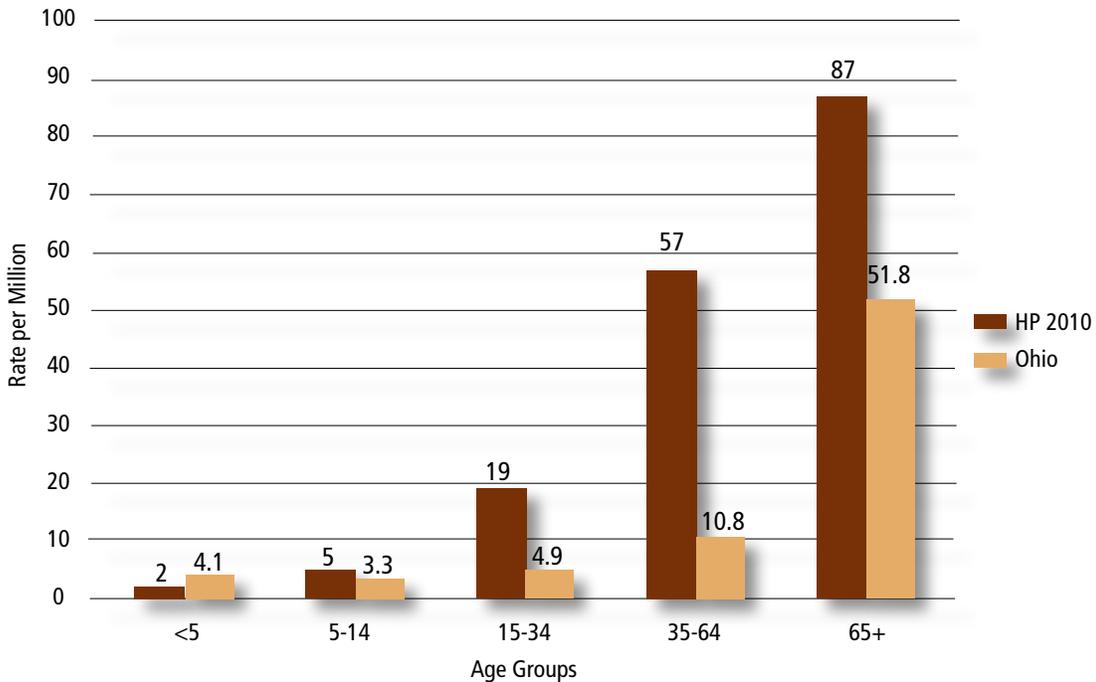
Asthma Deaths in Ohio, 1990-2007

Deaths due to asthma are fairly rare, but in almost every case, preventable. Nationally, there are close to 5,000 deaths per year from asthma. In Ohio, there has been an average of 161 asthma deaths per year since 1990. Successful asthma management reduces symptoms and improves quality of life. Failure to maintain good control of the disease results in a higher risk of mortality. Deaths can occur among individuals with mild intermittent asthma as well as those with severe persistent asthma.

Asthma is not a leading cause of death and mortality rates have remained stable over the past 18 years. The Ohio asthma death rate was 1.3 deaths per 100,000 residents during 2007, comparable to the national rate of 1.4. With so few deaths per year occurring in Ohio, rates are highly variable and must be interpreted cautiously. For example, while the asthma death rate for children under five years of age is 4.1 per million, compared to a Healthy People 2010 benchmark of 2 million. However, this rate represents three child deaths in Ohio. Each death can make the rate vary tremendously.

As recommended by Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, deaths where asthma is the primary cause are selected from these data. From 1990 to 1998, these are deaths with primary cause coded to ICD-9 (International Classification of Diseases, version 9) codes 493.XX. Deaths occurring from 1999 to 2007 are classified according to ICD-10. ICD-10 codes for asthma are J45 and J46. Mortality data from the Ohio Department of Health's Center for Health and Vital Statistics were used to calculate asthma mortality rates from 1990-2007.

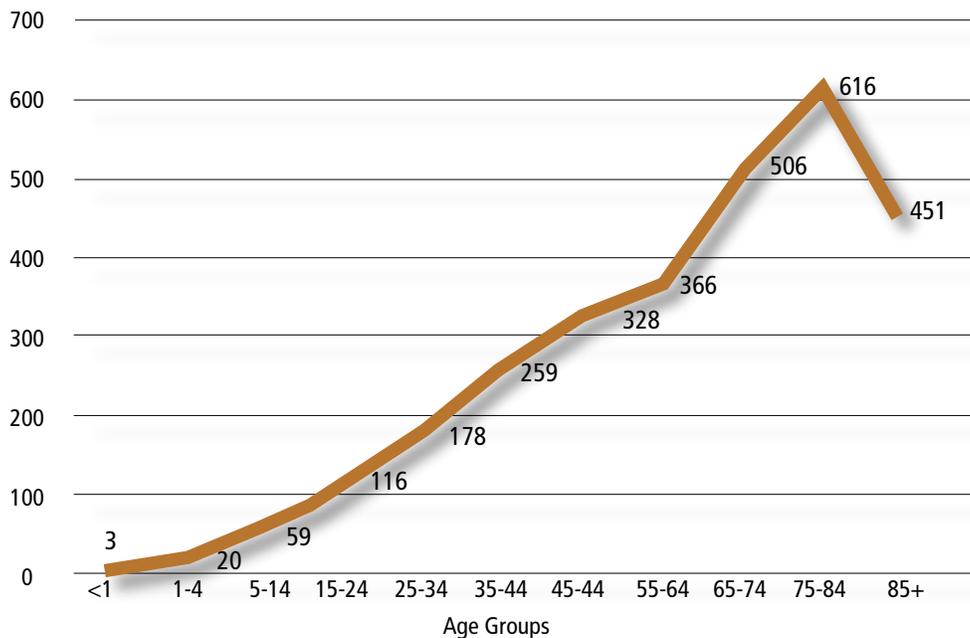
Asthma Death Rates for Ohio, 2007, Compared to HP 2010 Goals



Source: Ohio Department of Health, Center for Vital and Health Statistics, Year 2007.

Healthy People 2010's first objective in the respiratory section is reduce asthma deaths. Mortality for asthma in Ohio is below all recommended Healthy People 2010 age group targets, except for children under five.

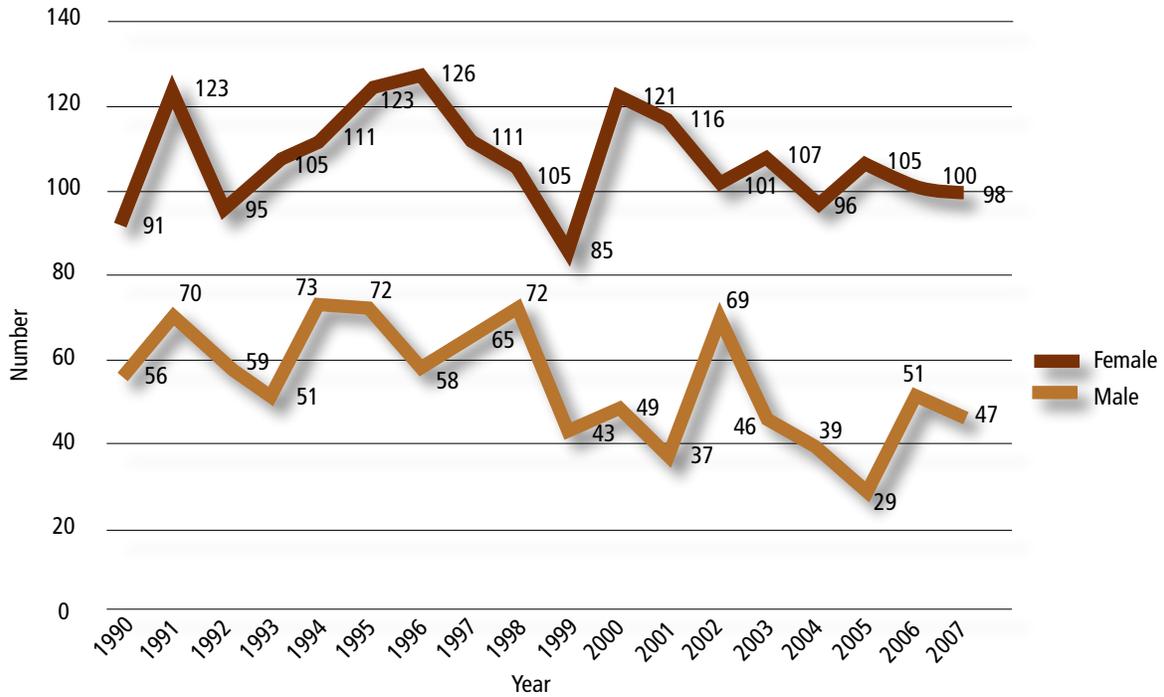
Number of Asthma Deaths in Ohio, by Age, 1990-2007



Source: Ohio Department of Health, Center for Vital and Health Statistics, Years 1990-2007.

Asthma deaths among children are rare, with fewer than 100 occurring among children under the age of 15 during the past 18 years. During 1990-2007, the majority of asthma deaths occurred in adults 55 years of age and older. Since 1990, the most common age group for asthma deaths in Ohio has been the 75-84 year range.

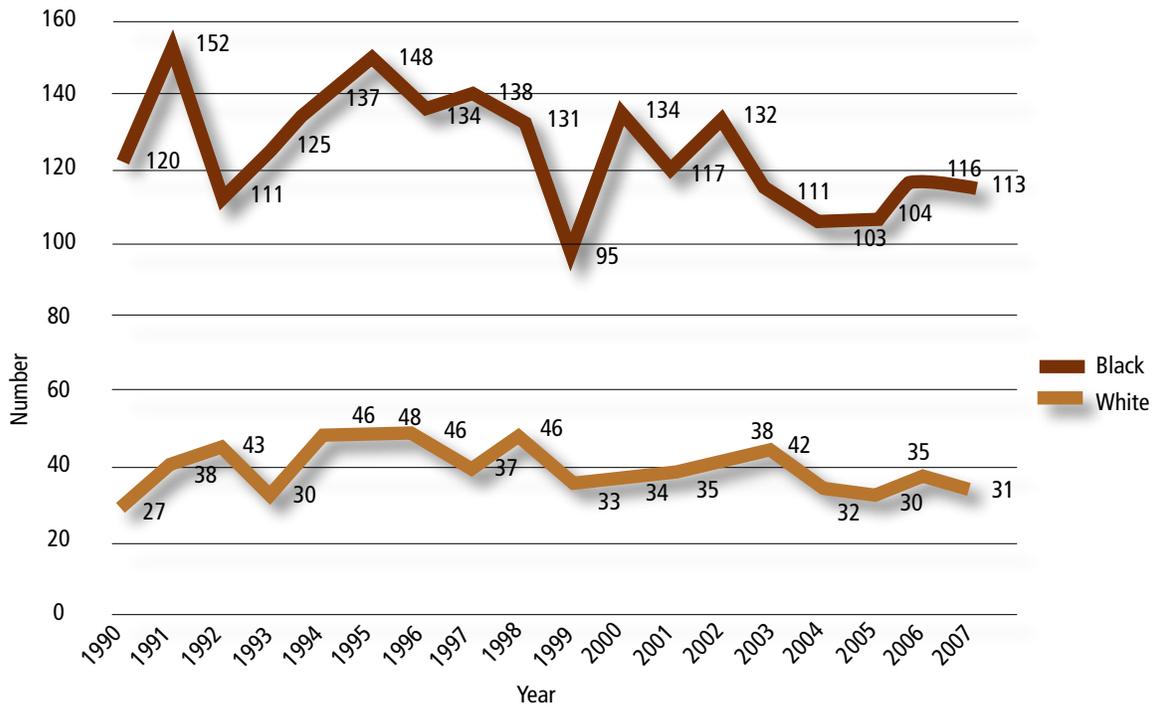
Ohio Asthma Deaths, by Sex, 1990-2007



Source: Ohio Department of Health, Center for Vital and Health Statistics, Year 2007.

Asthma deaths are higher in adult females than adult males, reflecting the sex differences seen in asthma prevalence, hospitalization and Medicaid utilization. In 2007, there were twice as females who died from asthma, compared to males in Ohio.

Ohio Asthma Deaths, by Race 1990-2007



Source: Ohio Department of Health, Center for Vital and Health Statistics, 1990-2007.

Black residents of Ohio have a higher mortality rate from asthma than white residents. While 12 percent of the Ohio population is black, they represent 27 percent of asthma deaths.