

Asthma in Erie 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 8.2 percent in Erie County¹.
- An estimated 7,248 adults in Erie County have asthma^{1,2}.
- In Ohio, 14.2 percent of children have asthma, compared to 15.9 percent in Erie County¹.
- An estimated 1,631 children in Erie 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



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 asthma¹.
- Boys are more likely to have asthma than girls. In Ohio, 17 percent of boys and 12 percent of girls have asthma³.

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 asthma³.

Education level:

- In Ohio, adults who didn't finish high school are more likely to have asthma than adults who graduated high school or college¹.

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 above¹.

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 residents⁴.
- In Erie County, 96 visits were made for asthma in 2012 a rate of 14.8 per 10,000 residents⁴.
- 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 residents⁴.
- In Erie County, 629 visits were made for asthma in 2012, at a rate of 79.95 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 Erie County, there were no deaths in 2012⁵.

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:**

**Ohio Department
of Health
Asthma Program
614.728.3620**

www.odh.ohio.gov/asthma