

# Asthma in Franklin 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<sup>1,2</sup> and 420,000<sup>2,3</sup> children in Ohio had asthma.
- In Ohio, 10.8 percent of adults have asthma compared to 9.7 percent in Franklin County<sup>1</sup>.
- An estimated 84,070 adults in Franklin County have asthma<sup>1,2</sup>.
- In Ohio, 14.2 percent of children have asthma, compared to 15.8 percent in Franklin County<sup>1</sup>.
- An estimated 44,272 children in Franklin County have asthma<sup>2,3</sup>.



**1 in 9**  
adults in Ohio  
have asthma

**1 in 7**  
children in Ohio  
have asthma



## 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<sup>1</sup>.
- Boys are more likely to have asthma than girls. In Ohio, 17 percent of boys and 12 percent of girls have asthma<sup>3</sup>.

### 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<sup>3</sup>.

### 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<sup>1</sup>.

### 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<sup>1</sup>.

### 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<sup>4</sup>.
- In Franklin County, 1,838 visits were made for asthma in 2012 a rate of 16.5 per 10,000 residents<sup>4</sup>.
- 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<sup>4</sup>.
- In Franklin County, 8,039 visits were made for asthma in 2012, at a rate of 58.9 per 10,000 residents<sup>2,4</sup>.

### It's deadly.

- Twelve people in Ohio die from at asthma every month.
- In 2012, 146 people in Ohio died from asthma. In Franklin County, there were 17 deaths in 2012<sup>5</sup>.

**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  
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[www.odh.ohio.gov/asthma](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/asthma)