

Asthma



Asthma is a disease of the respiratory system and one of the most common chronic diseases in the United States. It is a leading cause of disability in children. Although it is a serious disease, its symptoms can be managed and people with asthma can lead full lives.

Compared to whites, Connecticut Latinos are more than 3 times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma, more than 4 times more likely to have gone to the emergency room because of asthma; and more than 1.5 times more likely to die from causes related to asthma.

Latino children in Connecticut have the highest prevalence of asthma:

17.4 % Latino

15.2% other

11.2% black

9.1% white

Counties with the highest number of adults with current asthma:

Hartford 69,000

Fairfield 59,000

New Haven 51,000

People with asthma are supposed to see a doctor at least twice a year, but less than half of Latino adults follow this guideline. In Connecticut:

55 % of Latinos report not having a routine check-up for asthma in the last 12 months, compared to:

51.3 black

48.4 white

Latino adults were more likely to report activity limitation in the past 12 months because of their asthma. Of adults reporting activity limitation:

59.3 % Latino

26.0 % white

25.7% black

Latino adults were more likely to report difficulty sleeping because of their asthma.

Latino adults were less likely to report taking medication to prevent an asthma attack than white adults.

Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health, Asthma in Connecticut 2008: A Surveillance Report

An initiative of the Hispanic Health Council