

CHAPTER 15: ASTHMA

Lifetime Asthma: Have ever been told by health professional that they had asthma.

Current Asthma: Currently have asthma. Expressed as a percentage of all adults.

State Prevalence *Lifetime asthma: 11.8%* (95% CI: 10.6-13.0); 22nd among 54 BRFSS participants. National prevalence: 12.0% (95% CI: 11.7-12.2).

Current asthma: 8.1% (95% CI: 7.1-9.1); 17th among 54 BRFSS participants. National prevalence: 7.7% (95% CI: 7.5-7.9). Of those who had ever been diagnosed with asthma, 69.2% reported that they still had asthma (95% CI: 63.8-74.5).

Time Trends Data on asthma have been collected since 2000. The prevalence of lifetime asthma increased from 11.7% to 12.8% between 2000 and 2002 and then decreased to 11.8% in 2003. Current asthma prevalence decreased from a high of 9.3% in 2001 to a low of 8.1% in 2003.

Gender *Lifetime asthma:*
Men 9.6% (95% CI: 7.8-11.4); **Women 13.9%** (95% CI: 12.2-15.6).

Current asthma:
Men 5.3% (95% CI: 4.0-6.6); **Women 10.7%** (95% CI: 9.2-12.2).

Women had a significantly higher prevalence of lifetime and current asthma than men. Between 2002 and 2003, the prevalence of lifetime and current asthma decreased (but not significantly) among both men and women; however, the declines were greater for men.

Age Generally, lifetime asthma rates were higher in younger ages, whereas current asthma rates were higher in older ages. The relationship between asthma prevalence and age was inconsistent across gender. Women had a significantly higher prevalence of current asthma than men at ages 35 to 64.

Education There was not a significant relationship between either lifetime or current asthma status and educational attainment. The highest rate of both lifetime and current asthma was among adults without a high school diploma (15.1% and 11.5%, respectively).

Household Income The prevalence of both lifetime and current asthma significantly decreased as household income increased. Adults in the wealthiest households had a significantly lower rate of lifetime asthma than those with an income less than \$25,000. They were also significantly less likely to currently have asthma than those earning less than \$35,000.

Quick Stats

- 69.2% of adults who had ever been diagnosed with asthma reported that they still had asthma. Men were significantly more likely than women to report that they no longer had asthma (44.4% versus 22.2%; see Figure 15.2).

West Virginia Healthy People 2010 Objectives

Objective 24.5 Reduce the prevalence of current asthma among adults aged 18 years and older to 7.7% or lower. (Revised 2003) (Baseline: 8.5% in 2000; Current: 8.1% in 2003)

Table 15.1: Prevalence of lifetime asthma: WVBRFSS, 2003

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
TOTAL	1,321	9.6	(7.8-11.4)	2,025	13.9	(12.2-15.6)	3,346	11.8	(10.6-13.0)
Age									
18-24	92	14.3	(6.9-21.7)	111	10.8	(4.9-16.8)	203	12.6	(7.8-17.4)
25-34	187	11.7	(6.7-16.8)	268	15.7	(10.8-20.5)	455	13.7	(10.2-17.2)
35-44	235	6.3	(3.4-9.3)	321	16.7	(12.2-21.3)	556	11.6	(8.9-14.4)
45-54	284	8.6	(5.1-12.1)	388	14.9	(11.1-18.7)	672	11.8	(9.2-14.3)
55-64	250	5.1	(2.3-8.0)	397	16.5	(12.4-20.6)	647	10.9	(8.3-13.5)
65+	272	12.2	(8.0-16.3)	529	9.7	(7.1-12.2)	801	10.7	(8.4-12.9)
Education									
Less than H.S.	244	12.2	(7.4-17.0)	390	18.0	(13.7-22.3)	634	15.1	(11.9-18.4)
H.S. or G.E.D.	529	10.4	(7.4-13.4)	792	12.4	(9.9-14.9)	1,321	11.5	(9.5-13.4)
Some Post-H.S.	265	5.1	(2.4-7.9)	476	14.7	(11.0-18.3)	741	10.5	(8.1-12.9)
College Graduate	280	10.2	(6.6-13.9)	366	11.8	(8.3-15.2)	646	11.0	(8.4-13.5)
Income									
Less than \$15,000	171	12.3	(6.5-18.2)	355	19.5	(15.1-23.9)	526	16.5	(12.9-20.0)
\$15,000- 24,999	261	13.1	(8.2-18.1)	460	18.7	(14.5-23.0)	721	16.3	(13.1-19.5)
\$25,000- 34,999	194	7.7	(3.7-11.8)	269	15.1	(10.3-20.0)	463	11.6	(8.4-14.8)
\$35,000- 49,999	211	10.1	(5.4-14.8)	267	8.8	(4.9-12.6)	478	9.5	(6.4-12.6)
\$50,000- 74,999	168	6.1	(2.8-9.3)	225	12.0	(7.6-16.5)	393	9.0	(6.3-11.8)
\$75,000+	183	5.5	(2.0-9.1)	146	9.1	(4.5-13.6)	329	6.8	(4.0-9.6)

Table 15.2: Prevalence of current asthma: WVBRFSS, 2003

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
TOTAL	1,319	5.3	(4.0-6.6)	2,022	10.7	(9.2-12.2)	3,341	8.1	(7.1-9.1)
Age									
18-24	92	5.2	(0.3-10.1)	111	7.4	(2.7-12.1)	203	6.2	(2.8-9.7)
25-34	187	4.5	(1.4-7.6)	267	10.8	(6.6-15.1)	454	7.7	(5.0-10.3)
35-44	233	3.1	(1.1-5.0)	320	13.8	(9.6-17.9)	553	8.6	(6.2-11.0)
45-54	284	5.2	(2.4-8.0)	388	12.5	(9.0-16.0)	672	8.8	(6.6-11.1)
55-64	250	3.4	(1.1-5.7)	397	13.7	(10.0-17.5)	647	8.7	(6.4-10.9)
65+	272	10.0	(6.2-13.7)	528	6.7	(4.6-8.8)	800	8.0	(6.1-10.0)
Education									
Less than H.S.	244	8.0	(4.0-11.9)	389	14.8	(10.7-18.9)	633	11.5	(8.6-14.3)
H.S. or G.E.D.	529	5.4	(3.4-7.5)	792	10.0	(7.7-12.3)	1,321	7.8	(6.3-9.3)
Some Post-H.S.	264	3.5	(1.1-5.8)	475	9.7	(6.8-12.6)	739	7.0	(5.0-8.9)
College Graduate	279	4.3	(2.1-6.5)	365	9.4	(6.2-12.6)	644	6.8	(4.8-8.7)
Income									
Less than \$15,000	171	5.3	(1.8-8.8)	355	15.1	(11.1-19.0)	526	11.0	(8.2-13.7)
\$15,000- 24,999	260	9.6	(5.3-13.9)	458	14.4	(10.7-18.2)	718	12.3	(9.5-15.1)
\$25,000- 34,999	193	6.0	(2.4-9.5)	269	13.6	(8.9-18.2)	462	10.0	(7.0-13.0)
\$35,000- 49,999	211	3.2	(0.7-5.8)	267	7.6	(3.9-11.2)	478	5.3	(3.1-7.5)
\$50,000- 74,999	168	4.7	(1.8-7.5)	224	7.7	(4.0-11.3)	392	6.2	(3.8-8.5)
\$75,000+	183	3.0	(0.2-5.8)	146	5.5	(2.2-8.8)	329	3.9	(1.7-6.0)

Figure 15.1: Current asthma prevalence by county: WVBRFSS, 2000-2003

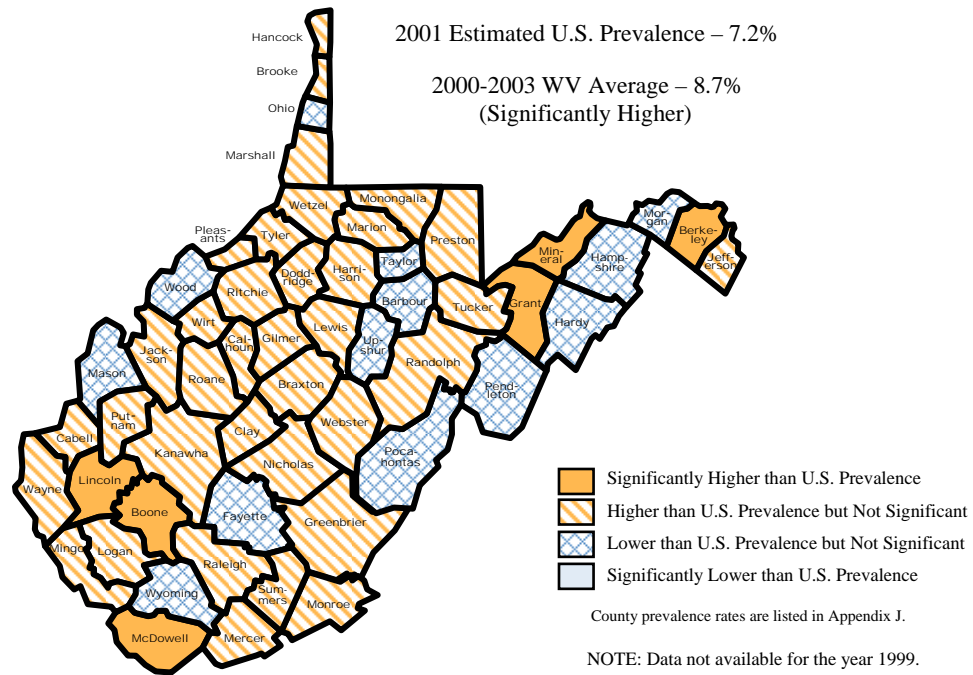


Figure 15.2: Current asthma status among adults who have ever had asthma: WVBRFSS 2003

