

CHAPTER 7: ASTHMA

Lifetime and Current Asthma among Adults in 2006

Definitions **Lifetime Asthma:** Responding “Yes” to the following question: “Have you ever been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional that you had asthma?”

Current Asthma: Responding “Yes” to the lifetime asthma question and “Yes” to the following question: “Do you still have asthma?”

Prevalence

Lifetime Asthma

WV: 11.9% (95% CI: 10.5-13.2) in 2006.

US: 12.7% (95% CI: 12.5-13.0) in 2006.

West Virginia ranked 39th among 50 US States and DC in 2006.

Current Asthma

WV: 8.6% (95% CI: 7.4-9.7) in 2006.

US: 8.2% (95% CI: 8.0-8.4) in 2006.

West Virginia ranked 22nd among 50 US States and DC in 2006.

Time Trends

Between 2000 and 2006 the prevalence of lifetime asthma and the prevalence of current asthma increased only slightly among West Virginia adults.

Gender

Lifetime Asthma

Men: 9.5% (95% CI: 7.6-11.4) in 2006.

Women: 14.1% (95% CI: 12.2-16.0) in 2006.

Women had a significantly higher prevalence of lifetime asthma than men in 2006.

Current Asthma

Men: 5.3% (95% CI: 3.9-6.6) in 2006.

Women: 11.7% (95% CI: 9.9-13.5) in 2006.

In 2006, women were significantly more likely than men to have current asthma.

Current Asthma

Age

The current asthma prevalence did not differ significantly by age.

Current Asthma

Education

The prevalence of current asthma was significantly higher among adults without a high school diploma.

Current Asthma

Household Income

Current asthma was significantly more prevalent among adults with a household income of less than \$15,000. In fact, the poorest adults were about four times more likely to have asthma than the wealthiest adults.

WV 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: 8.6% in 2006)

Table 7.1 Lifetime asthma by demographic characteristics: WVBRFSS, 2006

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
TOTAL	1,491	9.5	7.6-11.4	2,287	14.1	12.2-16.0	3,778	11.9	10.5-13.2
Age									
18-24	67	17.2	7.4-27.1	78	*17.6	6.9-28.3	145	17.4	10.1-24.7
25-34	150	* 7.3	2.9-11.7	264	11.3	7.2-15.4	414	9.3	6.3-12.3
35-44	232	6.4	3.2-9.6	366	14.0	10.0-18.0	598	10.2	7.6-12.8
45-54	331	8.9	5.7-12.1	428	15.5	11.8-19.2	759	12.2	9.7-14.7
55-64	369	10.2	6.6-13.7	464	14.2	10.7-17.6	833	12.2	9.7-14.7
65+	338	9.2	6.0-12.4	674	13.0	10.3-15.8	1,012	11.4	9.3-13.5
Education									
Less than H.S.	256	13.5	9.2-17.9	358	23.2	18.3-28.0	614	18.2	14.9-21.5
H.S. or G.E.D.	594	11.8	8.4-15.2	895	12.7	10.3-15.1	1,489	12.3	10.2-14.4
Some Post-H.S.	281	* 6.5	1.9-11.0	540	16.2	10.9-21.4	821	12.0	8.4-15.7
College Graduate	356	5.4	2.9-7.8	491	8.0	5.5-10.5	847	6.7	4.9-8.4
Income									
Less than \$15,000	168	16.4	10.6-22.2	412	19.5	14.8-24.2	580	18.4	14.7-22.1
\$15,000- 24,999	267	13.9	8.3-19.6	462	17.8	13.3-22.2	729	16.1	12.5-19.6
\$25,000- 34,999	214	* 9.6	3.8-15.5	278	10.0	6.4-13.7	492	9.8	6.3-13.4
\$35,000- 49,999	237	* 8.8	3.3-14.4	285	10.6	5.9-15.2	522	9.6	6.0-13.3
\$50,000- 74,999	225	6.6	2.9-10.4	272	12.7	8.0-17.5	497	9.6	6.6-12.6
\$75,000+	247	6.0	2.7-9.3	261	5.4	2.6-8.1	508	5.7	3.5-7.9

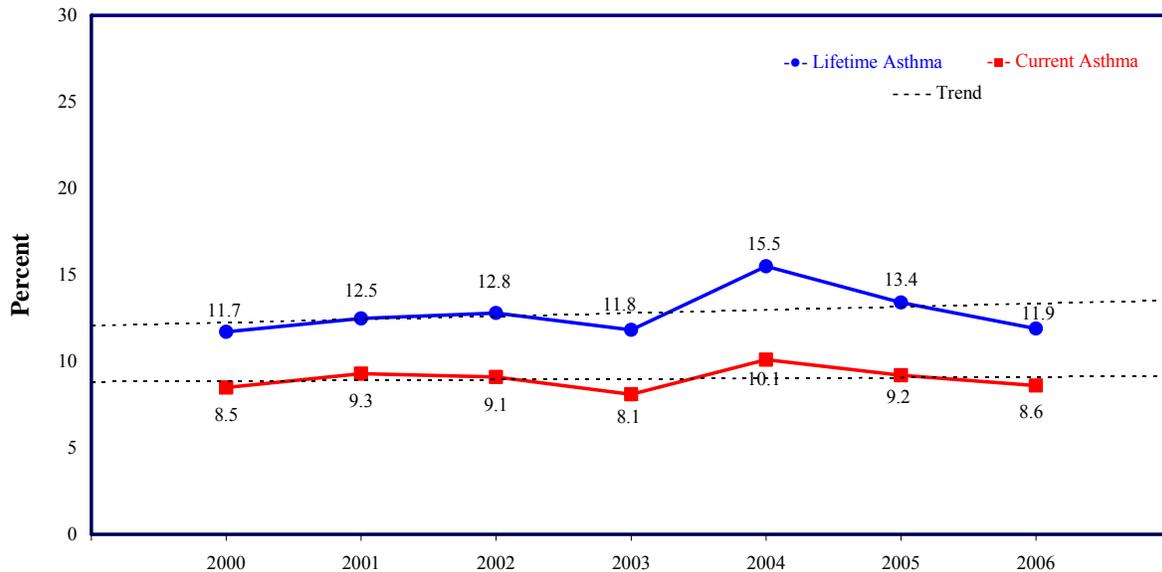
* Use caution when interpreting and reporting this specific estimate. See the detailed discussion of estimates in the Methodology section.

Table 7.2 Current asthma by demographic characteristics: WVBRFSS, 2006

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
TOTAL	1,488	5.3	3.9-6.6	2,281	11.7	9.9-13.5	3,769	8.6	7.4-9.7
Age									
18-24	67	* 4.9	0.0-11.0	78	*17.0	6.3-27.7	145	10.7	4.5-17.0
25-34	150	* 4.4	1.2-7.6	264	8.0	4.5-11.6	414	6.2	3.8-8.6
35-44	232	* 3.2	1.0-5.5	364	12.2	8.3-16.0	596	7.7	5.4-10.0
45-54	330	6.0	3.3-8.7	428	12.0	8.7-15.2	758	9.0	6.9-11.1
55-64	367	5.6	2.8-8.4	462	11.5	8.4-14.6	829	8.6	6.5-10.7
65+	338	7.5	4.5-10.4	672	10.8	8.2-13.4	1,010	9.4	7.5-11.3
Education									
Less than H.S.	255	10.0	6.2-13.8	357	20.8	16.2-25.5	612	15.3	12.2-18.3
H.S. or G.E.D.	593	5.7	3.6-7.7	891	10.0	7.8-12.1	1,484	7.8	6.3-9.3
Some Post-H.S.	280	3.3	0.0-7.0	540	13.9	8.7-19.0	820	9.3	5.9-12.8
College Graduate	356	* 3.1	1.2-5.0	490	5.9	3.7-8.1	846	4.5	3.0-6.0
Income									
Less than \$15,000	167	12.7	7.3-18.0	410	17.7	13.1-22.3	577	15.9	12.4-19.5
\$15,000- 24,999	267	9.0	4.9-13.0	461	14.7	10.4-18.9	728	12.1	9.2-15.1
\$25,000- 34,999	214	* 3.2	0.7-5.6	277	7.2	4.1-10.4	491	5.1	3.1-7.1
\$35,000- 49,999	237	* 5.0	0.2-9.8	285	8.3	3.9-12.6	522	6.5	3.3-9.8
\$50,000- 74,999	224	* 1.7	0.1-3.3	271	8.5	4.4-12.5	495	5.0	2.8-7.1
\$75,000+	247	3.2	1.1-5.3	261	4.4	1.9-6.9	508	3.7	2.1-5.3

* Use caution when interpreting and reporting this specific estimate. See the detailed discussion of estimates in the Methodology section.

Figure 7.1 Lifetime and current asthma by year: WVBRFSS, 2000-2006



Source: West Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (WVBRFSS), West Virginia Health Statistics Center, January 2008.
 Population: Non-institutionalized adults age 18 and older residing in West Virginia.
 Definition of Lifetime Asthma: Responding “Yes” to the following question: “Have you ever been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional that you had asthma?”
 Definition of Current Asthma: Responding “Yes” to the lifetime asthma question and “Yes” to the following question: “Do you still have asthma?”

Figure 7.2 Current asthma by county: WVBRFSS, 2002-2006

