

BRFSS Fact Sheet

Asthma



Tennessee
Department of Health

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In 2002, an estimated 20 million Americans had asthma, and the disease was responsible for 11.8 million lost work days, 1.9 million emergency room visits and 4,261 deaths.¹ Yet most of the problems caused by asthma could be averted if persons with asthma and their doctors managed the disease according to established guidelines.² Effective management of asthma includes regular doctor visits, taking asthma medications as prescribed and limiting exposure to asthma triggers such as tobacco smoke, dust or perfumes.³ One of the Healthy People 2010 goals is to promote respiratory health through better prevention, detection, treatment and education efforts.² Appropriate care and improved education of asthma patients are important for reaching this goal and for increasing the quality and years of healthy life among all Tennesseans with asthma.

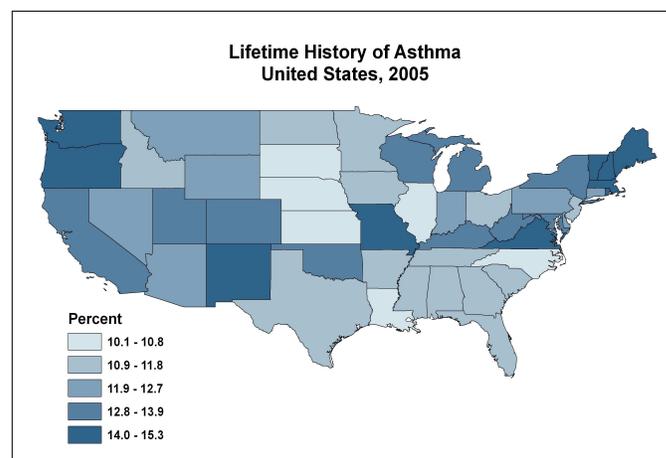
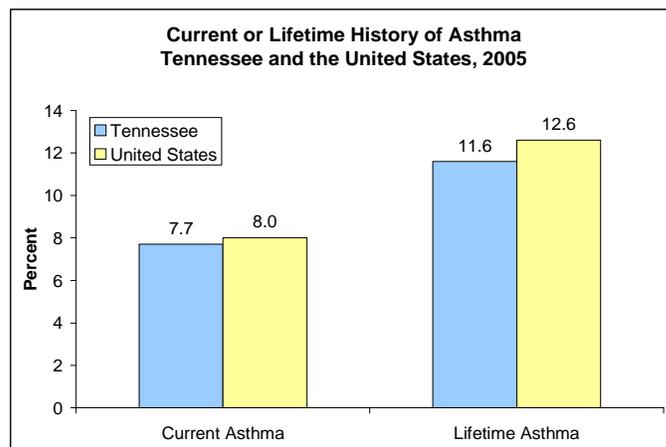
- In 2005, 11.6% of adult Tennesseans reported having *ever* been told by a healthcare provider that they had asthma (i.e. lifetime history of asthma), compared to 12.6% for the United States.⁴ 7.7% reported that they *currently* have asthma, compared to 8.0% for the United States.⁴

- Among all 50 states, the prevalence of ever having asthma ranged from 10.1% in Louisiana to 15.3% in Rhode Island.⁴

- Among adults with a lifetime history of asthma, 67.7% (± 6.2)* reported that they *still* have asthma.

- The percentage of persons who had ever been told they had asthma was highest among black females (18.8%), followed by white females (12.8%) and by black and white males (9.5% and 9.4%, respectively).

- There were only small variations in lifetime history of asthma among different age groups.



References:

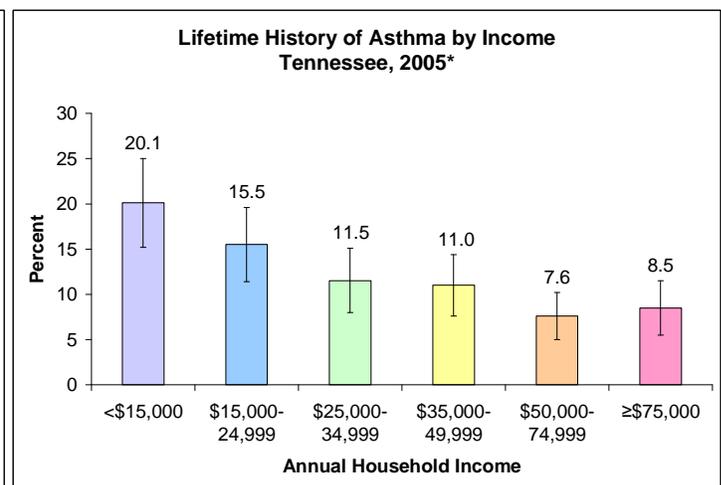
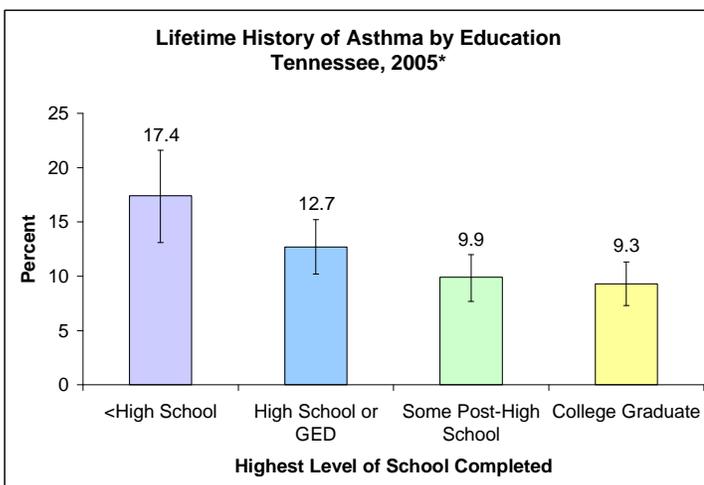
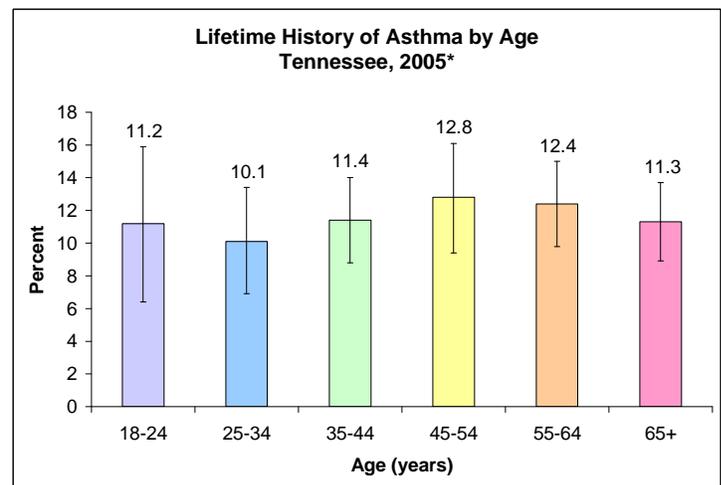
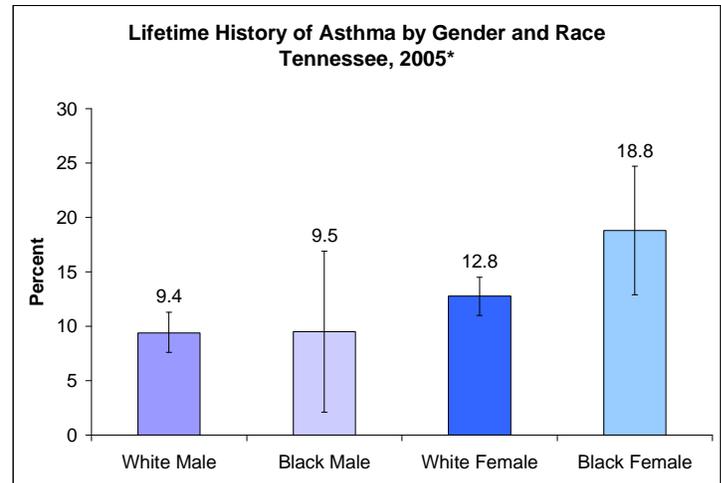
1. National Center for Health Statistics (www.cdc.gov/nchs)
2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health*. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, November 2000.
3. American Lung Association (www.lungusa.org)
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/brfss)

Prepared by the Tennessee Department of Health; Office of Policy, Planning and Assessment; Surveillance, Epidemiology and Evaluation section based on 2005 TN Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data.

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- The percentage of persons who had ever been told they had asthma decreased with increasing education level, from 17.4% among those with less than a high school education to 9.3% among college graduates.
- The percentage of persons who had ever been told they had asthma decreased with increasing annual household income, from 20.1% among those with an income of less than \$15,000 to approximately 7-9% among those with an income of \$50,000 or more.



*The number above each column indicates the percent value for that column. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals, as do ranges for percentages given in the text.