

# Asthma

**Summary / Conclusion:** The prevalence rates for asthma were highest for residents with lower incomes, education levels and respondents that were unable to work. In 2004, region six had the highest prevalence rate for residents that were diagnosed with asthma by a health professional when compared with other regions within Louisiana.

**Prevalence of Asthma, overall and select categories. Behavioral Risk Factor Survey System, Louisiana 2006**

Characteristic+	Lifetime Asthma++			Current Asthma^		
	Sample size*	%	95% CI	Sample size*	%	95% CI
<b>Total</b>	784	10.7	[9.9 - 11.7]	465	5.8	[5.2 - 6.5]
<b>Age</b>						
18-24	65	16.3	[12.2 - 20.5]	34	7.5	[4.7 - 10.3]
25-34	105	10.4	[8.2 - 12.6]	59	5.8	[4.1 - 7.4]
35-44	118	8.3	[6.6 - 10]	69	4.9	[3.5 - 6.2]
45-54	177	9.9	[8.3 - 11.5]	95	5	[3.8 - 6.1]
55-64	159	11.2	[9.2 - 13.2]	113	7.5	[5.9 - 9.1]
65-74	102	10.1	[8.1 - 12.2]	62	5.9	[4.3 - 7.5]
75+	58	8.5	[6.1 - 10.8]	33	4.5	[2.8 - 6.2]
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	200	8.8	[7.4 - 10.3]	85	3.4	[2.6 - 4.3]
Female	584	12.5	[11.3 - 13.7]	380	8.1	[7.1 - 9]
<b>Race</b>						
White	561	10.9	[9.8 - 12]	334	6.1	[5.2 - 6.9]
Black	165	10.6	[8.7 - 12.5]	95	5.8	[4.4 - 7.2]
<b>Education</b>						
Less than HS Grad	139	12.6	[10 - 15.2]	96	7.9	[5.9 - 9.9]
High school grad/ GED	248	10.4	[8.8 - 12.1]	147	5.4	[4.4 - 6.5]
Some college/Grad	397	10.4	[9.2 - 11.7]	222	4.4	[4.6 - 6.5]
<b>HH Income</b>						
<25,000	276	13.5	[11.5 - 15.5]	180	8.4	[6.8 - 9.9]
25,000-34,999	98	11.3	[8.6 - 14]	59	5.4	[3.8 - 7]
35,000+	274	9.1	[7.8 - 10.4]	140	4.4	[3.5 - 5.3]
<b>Employment</b>						
Employed	366	9.1	[8 - 10.2]	188	4.4	[3.6 - 5.1]
Unemployed Homemaker/ Student	41	13.6	[8.5 - 18.7]	26	6.7	[3.5 - 9.9]
Retired	103	15	[11.4 - 18.5]	63	8.6	[6 - 11.2]
Unable to Work	166	9.9	[8.3 - 11.5]	102	5.9	[4.6 - 7.1]
	105	16.6	[12.9 - 20.3]	84	13	[9.7 - 16.3]

\* Percentages are based on weighted data estimates. Un-weighted sample size (lifetime)= 784.

Un-weighted sample size (current) =465

+In this analysis, data for each category are included only for persons for whom the data were available; excluded data were either unknown or refused..

++ The proportion of respondents that indicated that they were diagnosed with asthma by a health care professional at some point in time of their life..

^ The proportion of respondents that indicated that he or she currently has asthma..

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disorder of the lungs. Asthma is a disease of the lungs, specifically of the airways, which become narrowed, inflamed, and choked with mucus. These airway changes cause the breathing problems that occur in asthma. Asthma attacks are usually caused by tobacco smoke, cold air, inhaled allergens, medications, food and food additives, exercise, respiratory viral infections, weather (i.e. cold air), strong emotions, some alcoholic beverages, and irritants within the environment.

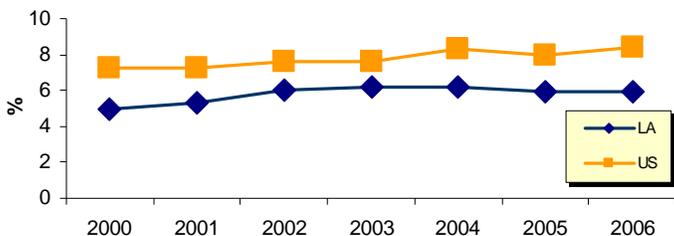
Asthma is one of the leading chronic conditions that cause restricted activity and the second highest chronic illness that effects children. Asthma related incidents accounts for 10.1 million missed days of school, and is the third-ranking cause of hospitalization among those younger than 15 years of age. Within the US population, the impacts of asthma for economic, health and social burdens vary. Medical costs for hospitalization, ED visits, and outpatient care for asthma related incidents have an tremendous impact on the economy.

In 2006, the estimated proportion of Louisiana residents that were told by a health care professional that he or she had asthma was 10.7% [95% CI: 9.9-11.7]. The estimated proportion of Louisiana residents that indicated that he or she currently has asthma was 5.8% [95% CI: 5.2-6.5] of population.

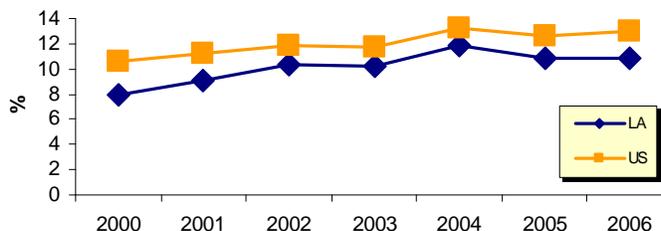
Age categories for persons 18 years or older had little effect as to whether a resident had been diagnosed with asthma throughout their life or currently had asthma in 2006.

Gender had a significant effect, females had higher prevalence rates for diagnosis for asthma and current asthma. Rates for residents that reported current asthma decreased as education levels increased. Households with low incomes (<25,000) had the highest prevalence rates for current asthma and lifetime asthma. Race had no significant effect with current asthma [p=.4012] or residents that had been diagnosed with asthma throughout life in Louisiana [p=.1279]. However, national mortality surveillance has reported that Blacks and Hispanics are two to six times more likely to die from asthma when compared to Whites.

Prevalence of people that currently have Asthma US & LA  
2000-2006 BRFSS



Prevalence of people that have been diagnosed with Asthma at some point in life LA & US 2000-2006 BRFSS

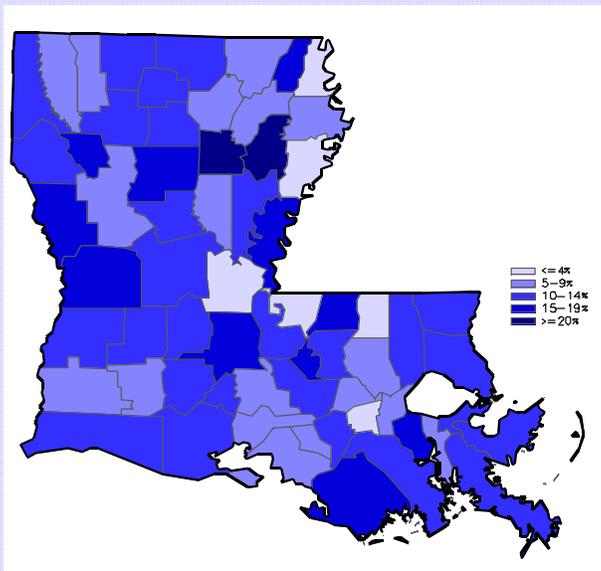


When observing the trend for the period of 2000-2006, Louisiana residents that indicated that he or she had been diagnosed with asthma increased by 2.8%. There was a marginal increase (.9%) of Louisiana residents that currently had asthma from years 2000-2006. The rates for Louisiana residents that reported being diagnosed with asthma at some point their life or currently having asthma was less than national rates from 2000-2006.

An estimated 48.2% [95% CI: 42.4-54.1] of Louisiana residents that indicated that he or she currently has asthma received a influenza vaccination within a year (LA BRFSS 2006).

In 2006, an estimated 115,979 households in Louisiana had a child with asthma.

Prevalence of LA residents that have been diagnosed with Asthma by Parish  
2004-2006\*\*and Region+



Parish	N	%	95% CI
Caldwell	55	29	[.4 - 57.5]
Franklin	137	21	[9.9 - 32.3]
Concordia	118	18.3	[7.6 - 29]
Red River*	46	16.6	[6 - 27.2]
Vernon	220	16.3	[8.4 - 24.2]
W Baton Rouge	83	15.9	[5.4 - 26.4]
W Carroll	69	15.7	[3.6- 27.7]
St Charles	191	15.5	[6.1 - 24.8]
Sabine	125	15.3	[6.1 - 24.4]
St Landry	369	15.3	[10.3 - 20.3]

\*Denotes categories less than 50 respondents. Inferences based on categories with less than 50 respondents should be used with caution.

\*\*The 2004, 2005, and 2006 BRFSS data files were combined to increase the sample size by parish

Region	N	%	95% CI
1	1017	12.8	[10.1- 15.4]
2	1000	12.7	[10.2 - 15.2]
3	981	11.6	[9.3 - 14]
4	1004	10.4	[8.1 - 12.6]
5	975	11.1	[8.8 - 13.4]
6	1006	13.9	[11.2 - 16.6]
7	1019	10	[7.8 - 12.1]
8	1017	11.7	[9.3 - 14.1]
9	1035	10.6	[8.5 - 12.8]

+LA Residents that have been diagnosed with asthma by region (LA 2004 BRFSS)