

Asthma in California: A Surveillance Report

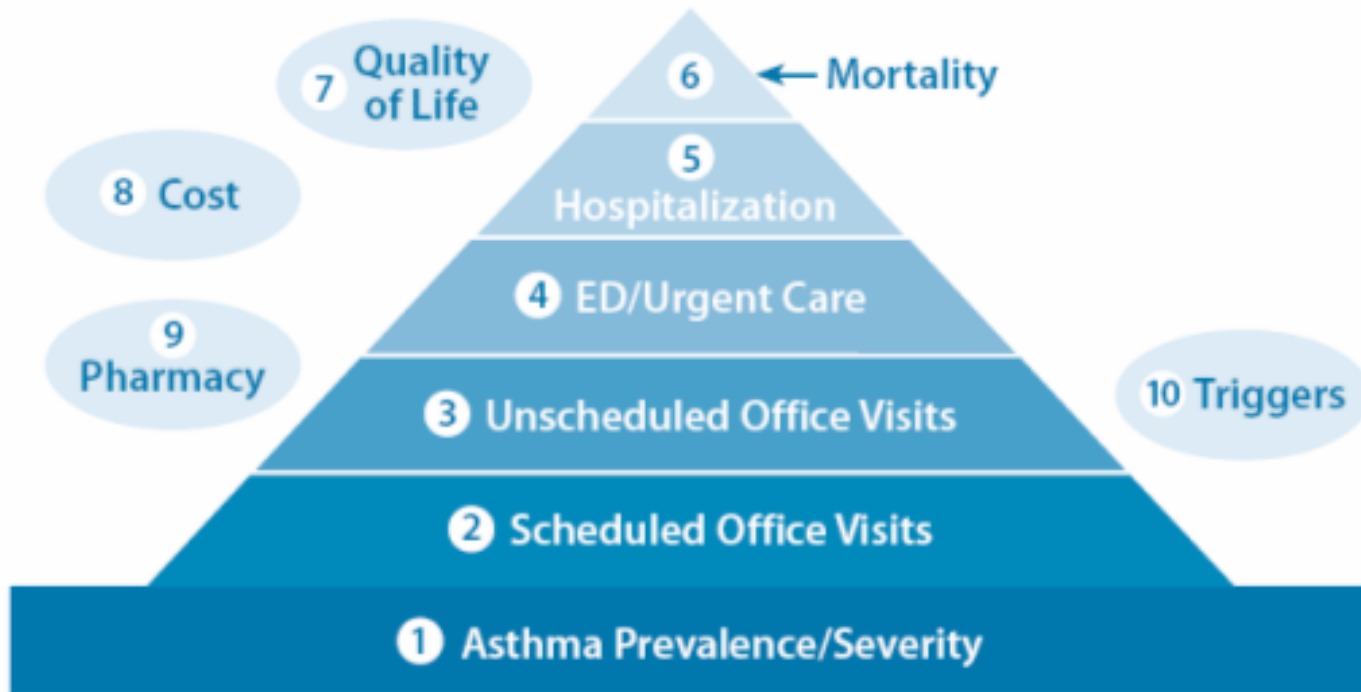
California Breathing and the
California Department of Public Health

Description of the Report

- Comprehensive picture of the burden of asthma in CA.
- Shows trends over time-grouped by age, sex, race/ethnicity, and income to examine disparities.
- Used to monitor/ evaluate public health programs, provides framework for asthma education, interventions, and policy.



Asthma Surveillance Pyramid



Asthma Disparities

- Race/ Ethnicity: Blacks have significant disparity. Also, AI/AN, Puerto Ricans, European Hispanics, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos.
- Income: Hospital/ED visits 4x times higher for lower income.
- Sex: female adults, male children
- Age: highest among children ages 5-17.
Hospitalization rates increasing among 65+

Surveillance Main Topics

- Nine key areas of examination:
 1. **Asthma Prevalence:** asthma prevalence among adults and children in CA.
 2. **Asthma Morbidity/ Management:** symptoms, missed school days, work/ activity limitations, routine check-ups, medication use, self-efficacy.
 3. **Health Status of People w/ Asthma:** co-morbidities, smoking status, access to care, and flu vaccinations
 4. **Environmental Triggers for Asthma:** exposure to secondhand smoke, indoor exposures, type of housing by asthma status, outdoor exposures

Main Topics Cont...

- 5. Work-Related Asthma:** 1) New-onset asthma, 2) work-aggravated asthma, pre-existing asthma made worse by workplace conditions; Industries and occupational exposures.
- 6. Asthma ED Visits:** age-adjusted visits, race/ ethnicity, sex, household income, by month, and expected source of pmt.
- 7. Asthma Hospitalizations:** same as ED, ALOS, average charge, and repeat hospitalizations
- 8. Asthma Among Medi-Cal Beneficiaries:** prescriptions, ED visits.
- 9. Asthma Mortality:** age-adjusted death rates by race/ ethnicity, sex YPLL, comparisons to Healthy People 2010 targets.

Healthy People 2010

- Based on comparisons to HP2010/2020 objectives, CA should focus asthma efforts on:
 - Decreasing hospitalization among 65+
 - Decreasing ED visits children (0-4) and adults (65+)
 - HP advising patients on environmental changes
 - HP providing written asthma management plans
 - HP instructing patients on proper inhaler use

Key Findings

- 1 in 8 – have been diagnosed with asthma.
- In 2010, over \$1 billion in annual charges.
- Blacks, have 40% higher asthma prevalence, 4x higher asthma ED visit and hospitalization rates, and 2x higher asthma death rates than Whites.
- Low income status is a determinate for increased asthma rates, hospitalization, ED visits, and asthma control.
- On average, exposed to 2-3 asthma triggers in the home. About 10 % of adults and 5 % of children with current asthma are exposed to secondhand smoke in the home.