

# ASTHMA: TAKE ACTION, TAKE CONTROL

asthma.chestnet.org

## ASTHMA HEALTH DISPARITIES

Asthma crosses all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. It is more common among African-American, Hispanic and Native American populations, particularly those living in poor urban areas.

### RATE OF ASTHMA-RELATED ER VISITS AND DEATHS COMPARED WITH CAUCASIANS

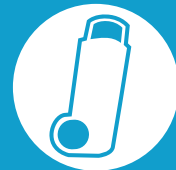
	ER VISITS	DEATHS
African-American children:	<b>4.5X</b> HIGHER	<b>7X</b> HIGHER
African-American adults:	<b>2.8X</b> HIGHER	<b>3X</b> HIGHER
Hispanic children:	<b>2.1X</b> HIGHER	<b>2X</b> HIGHER

### Native Americans

**30%**  
MORE LIKELY  
to have asthma

Asthma-related deaths

**20%**  
HIGHER



Minority children  
are  
**LESS LIKELY**  
to take daily  
asthma medication

Asthma prevalence among

**Puerto Ricans** is

**2X**

**GREATER**

than other Hispanic populations



### INCOME LEVEL AND EDUCATION PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ASTHMA PREVALENCE

Adults with an annual income of  
**<\$75,000**  
are  
**MORE LIKELY**  
to have asthma

Adults who didn't finish high school are  
**MORE LIKELY**  
to have asthma



People with asthma who earn  
**<\$50,000**  
per year are  
**twice as likely**  
to have an  
asthma flare



ADULTS WHO CANNOT AFFORD THEIR ASTHMA MEDICATION:  
**1 in 4**  
African-Americans  
**1 in 5**  
Hispanics

## FACTORS THAT CAN LEAD TO ASTHMA DISPARITIES



• **ACCESS TO CARE** – Limited or lack of transportation can result in patients missing or rescheduling doctor appointments and forgoing or delaying medication use.



• **INCOME** – Poverty can affect access to healthcare and health insurance, forcing low-income patients to skimp on medical care, including preventive medications.



• **ENVIRONMENTAL ALLERGENS AND IRRITANTS** – People with asthma who live in urban areas with substandard housing are exposed to more asthma triggers, including mold, dust mites, cockroaches and mice, cigarette smoke and vehicular exhaust from nearby highways.



• **EDUCATION INEQUALITY** – A lack of knowledge and understanding of the disease can lead to problems such as using asthma inhalers incorrectly or not following through on treatment.



• **LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES** – People with asthma who speak Spanish as a primary language may struggle to get appropriate health services.

TALK WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS ABOUT POLICIES THAT IMPACT COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCING A GREATER BURDEN OF ASTHMA.