



# ***The Burden of Asthma in Texas***

## A Texas Department of State Health Services Report

Updated September, 2008

### **Prevalence & Demographics**

- In 2006, an estimated 1.3 million adults and 599,000 children said they currently have asthma.
- The prevalence of asthma among adults is significantly higher for females than males and for African Americans than Whites and Hispanics.
- The prevalence of current asthma among adults is significantly higher for those whose household income is less than \$15,000 annually.
- Asthma prevalence is significantly higher for adults who are obese.

### **Effects**

- From 1999-2005, there were 1,831 deaths in which asthma was the underlying cause.
- More than two-thirds of adults reporting they currently have asthma experienced asthma symptoms in the past 30 days, and 15.3 percent experienced daily or continuous asthma symptoms in the past 30 days.
- Nearly one-third of adults reporting they currently have an asthma experience at least one day a year in which they are unable to work or carry out their usual activities due to their asthma.

### **Hospitalizations**

- Nearly a quarter of asthmatic adults surveyed had at least one visit to the emergency room or urgent care center for treatment of their asthma in the past 12 months.
- The hospitalization rate was 11.0 per 10,000 Texas residents in 2006, accounting for more than 25,000 admissions.
- The highest age-specific asthma hospitalization rate is among children aged 0 to 4 years (28.4 per 10,000 population in 2006).
- The asthma hospitalization rate of African Americans is more than two times that of Whites and Hispanics.
- From 2001 to 2006, the total charges for inpatient admissions for an asthma diagnosis were more than \$1.96 billion.
- In 2000, the total charges for inpatient admissions for an asthma diagnosis were more than \$93 million. By 2006, the total charges increased 320 percent (about \$298 million) to more than \$391 million.

### **More Information**

- To view the *Texas Asthma Burden Report* or the 2007-2010 Texas Asthma Plan, go to [www.dshs.state.tx.us/chronic/publications.shtm#asthma](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chronic/publications.shtm#asthma) or <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/asthma/reports.shtm>.
- For more information on asthma: [www.TexasAsthma.org](http://www.TexasAsthma.org).