

# Asthma IN NORTH CAROLINA

- 217,333 children under the age of 18 in North Carolina have asthma. That's 9.8% of all N.C. children<sup>1</sup>, higher than the U.S. rate of 9.3%<sup>2</sup>.
- 348,176 children in North Carolina have been diagnosed with asthma. That's 15.7% of N.C. children<sup>1</sup>, higher than the U.S. rate of 13.5%<sup>2</sup>.

1 out of every 10 North Carolina children has asthma



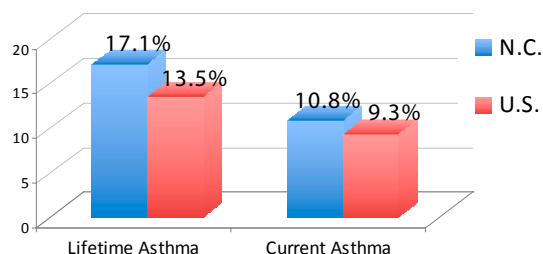
## Asthma is the most common chronic disease in children.

Asthma, a major chronic illness among school-age children, is the leading cause of school absenteeism. Asthma has been the leading, chronic health condition reported by N.C. schools, affecting 83,440 students in the 2006-2007 school year.<sup>3</sup>

**In 2007, approximately 59,115 N.C. children visited emergency departments due to asthma** (27.2% of children with current asthma)<sup>1</sup>. In 2006, there were 2,867 child hospitalizations due to asthma in North Carolina.<sup>4</sup>



Percentage of children who have asthma, N.C. and U.S. (2006)



**N.C.'s rates of lifetime and current childhood asthma continue to be higher than the U.S. averages.**



1 out of every 5 N.C. adults with asthma has visited the emergency room

- 110,493 N.C. adults have reported visiting the emergency room due to asthma, or 20.7% of those with current asthma.<sup>5</sup>



“Poorer asthma control is associated with **substantial quality of life impairment**. Asthma control predicts quality of life, even after taking into account asthma severity and lung function.”<sup>7</sup>

### Asthma in Adults

- 828,046 adults in North Carolina have had asthma, or approximately 12.1% of adults.<sup>5</sup>
- 533,781 adults in North Carolina currently have asthma. That’s 7.8% of all adults in the state<sup>5</sup>, compared with the U.S. rate of 8.2%.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2006, there were 7,655 hospitalizations of adults due to asthma in North Carolina.<sup>4</sup>
- Between 1999 and 2007, asthma caused more than 1,000 deaths in North Carolina. Twice as many of those deaths occurred among adult women than in men<sup>4</sup>.



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 North Carolina Asthma Program  
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