



Asthma Burden Facts

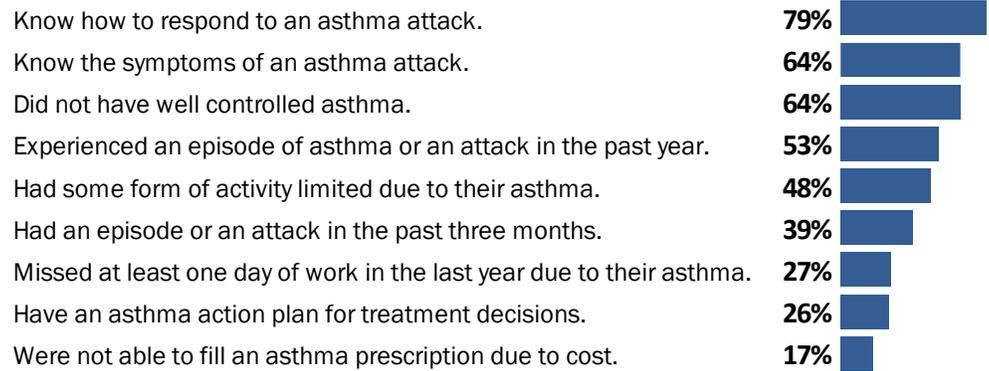
- Asthma is a serious chronic condition that affects thousands of children and adults in Montana.
- A little over half (**53%**) of adults with asthma in Montana have experienced asthma symptoms in the past year.
- Taking asthma medication is an important part of controlling asthma. Almost 1 in 5 (**17%**) adults are not able to fill their asthma medications due to cost.
- Montanans are also charged millions each year on asthma-related hospital and emergency department visits, which could be prevented with proper asthma control.

The Problem

Asthma is a common chronic condition that impacts the lungs. People with asthma experience wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and nighttime or early morning coughing. Asthma can be properly controlled by eliminating triggers, visiting the doctor for regular asthma checkups, and taking medications as prescribed. In 2021, 10% of adults and 5% of children were reported as currently having asthma.

Figure. A majority of Montanans with asthma know the symptoms and how to respond to an asthma attack.

Percentage of adults in Montana with asthma who:



The Cost of Uncontrolled Asthma in 2022

The estimated total charges of asthma-related emergency department visits in Montana was nearly \$4.2 million. With 1,771 total visits, the typical charge for a single visit was \$2,346. Asthma related hospitalizations in Montana had almost \$4.9 million in charges. With 308 reported asthma-related hospital stays, this meant the average charge was \$15,769. Furthermore, there were 37,128 asthma-related Medicaid claims for 10,009 distinct Medicaid recipients.

Table. Montanans were charged over \$10 million for asthma-related emergency department visits and hospitalizations in 2022.

	Emergency Department	Hospitalizations
Total Charges	\$4,153,910	\$4,856,816
Stays/visits	1,771	308
Average Cost	\$2,346	\$15,769

Contact

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Resources

For more information and resources, visit the Montana Asthma Program website at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/asthma/>



Program Activities

- The Montana Asthma Control Program (MACP) offers quality improvement assistance to health care facilities to promote and improve evidence-based care for Montanans with asthma.
- The MACP provides educational opportunities for healthcare providers. Hundreds of Montana healthcare providers have received continuing education through MACP's Big Sky Pulmonary Conference, asthma educator review courses, and webinars.
- The MACP is the primary source for asthma data in Montana. Surveillance reports are developed three times per year and provided to health care providers and asthma stakeholders around the state. Additional reports and evaluations are released throughout the year.
- The Montana Asthma Home Visiting Program (MAP) trains public health nurses and respiratory therapists to empower people with uncontrolled asthma and their families with the knowledge and tools they need to manage the disease. Nearly all participants have well-controlled asthma after completing the program and experience a decrease in ED visits, hospitalizations, and daily symptoms. There are 9 sites funded to provide this service across all counties, with a recent virtual option added.
- The MACP offers free trainings to school nurses, coaches, and childcare providers on how to help youth manage asthma in their respective environments. To date, a combination of more than 400 school staff, coaches, and childcare staff have completed on-line trainings for continuing education credits.
- The Montana Asthma Advisory Group (MAAG) currently has over 50 members representing 40+ organizations and agencies statewide. Organizations or individuals can join the MAAG by completing a registration form at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/asthma/advisorygroup>

Sources

1. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (MT DPHHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Adult Asthma Call Back Survey (ACBS). 2020
2. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey (BRFSS) Data. 2021.
3. Montana Hospital Discharge Data System. Office of Epidemiology and Scientific Support, Public Health and Safety Division. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Data provided courtesy of participating MHA members. 2022
4. Montana Emergency Department Discharge Data. Office of Epidemiology and Scientific Support, Public Health and Safety Division. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. 2022
5. Montana's Program for Automating and Transforming Healthcare (MPATH). Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Medicaid Claims Data. 2022