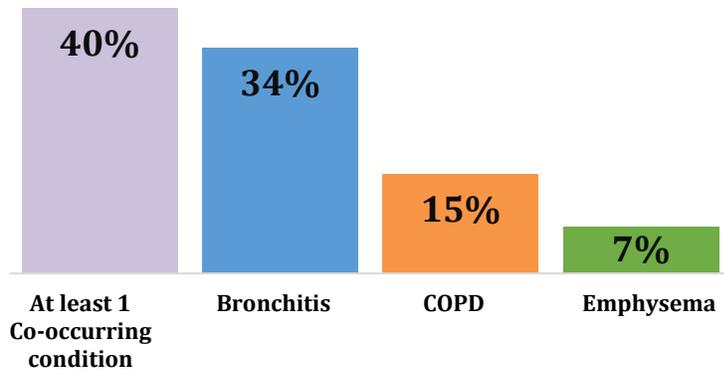


Asthma is a chronic lung disease that cannot be cured, but can be controlled with proper asthma education and management. In 2015, an estimated 830,000 Illinois adults had current asthma (8.4%). Current asthma is defined as an affirmative response to the question “do you still have asthma?” as self-reported on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The data for this update is obtained through the Asthma Call Back Survey (ACBS), a follow-up to the BRFSS.

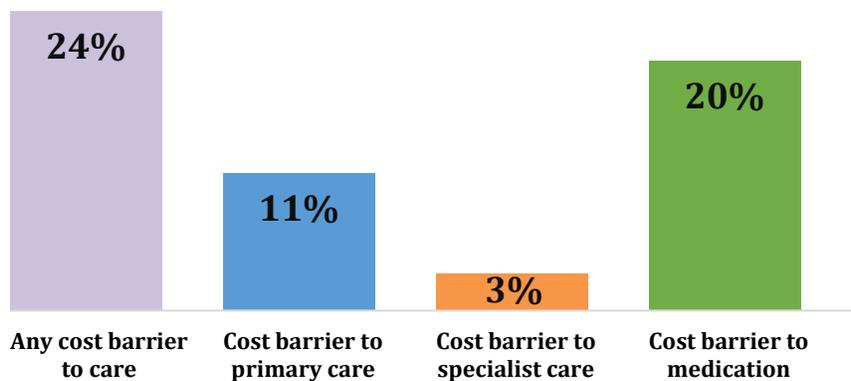
This edition highlights data from the Illinois Asthma Call Back Survey (ACBS) from 2011-2012.

It is not uncommon for Illinois adults with asthma to have at least one co-occurring condition



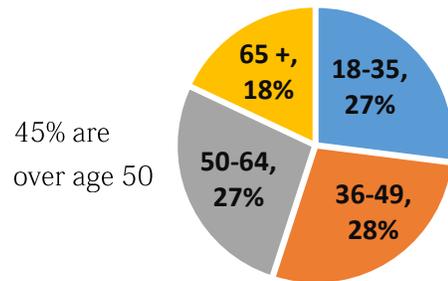
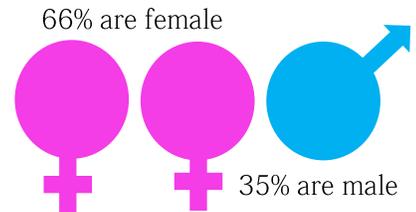
Among adults with current asthma, 40 percent report having at least one other co-occurring respiratory condition. Bronchitis is the leading co-occurring condition (34%), followed by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) (15%), and Emphysema (7%).

One quarter of Illinois adults with asthma face barriers to treatment.

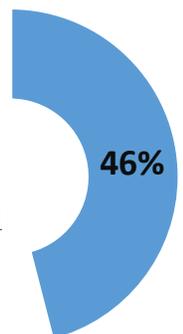


Approximately one quarter of Illinoisans faced at least one cost barrier to treatment. Cost barrier to medications (20%) was noted by more adults than barriers related to access primary care (11%) or specialist care (3%).

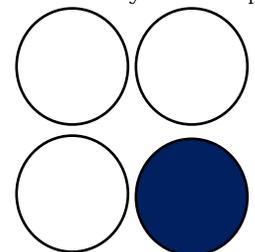
## Of Adults in Illinois with Asthma



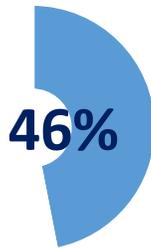
Nearly half report being diagnosed after the age of 21



76% are white, non-Hispanic  
24% are minority, non-Hispanic



## Half of all Illinois adults with asthma have uncontrolled asthma



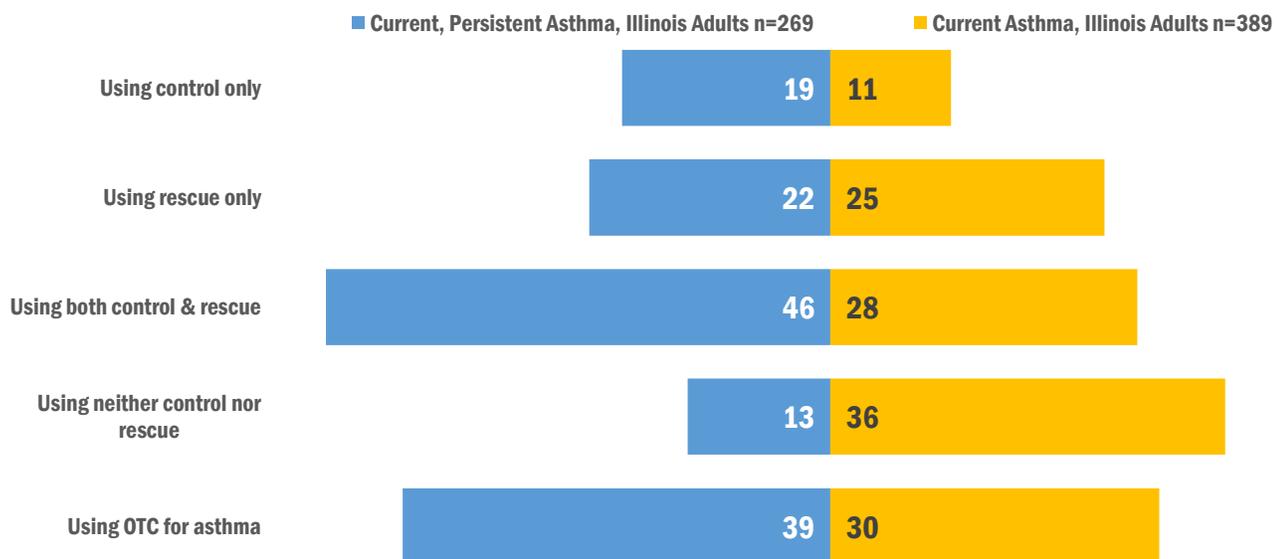
Uncontrolled asthma is associated with decreased quality of life and increased health care system use. Asthma control reflects the level of minimizing the frequency and intensity of symptoms and functional limitations. Almost half of Illinois adults (46%) met the definition for uncontrolled asthma.

An asthma attack may include coughing, chest tightness, wheezing, and trouble breathing. The attack happens in the body's airways, which are the paths that carry air to the lungs. About half (54%) of Illinois adults reported having an asthma attack in the past year.

## Half of all Illinois adults with asthma had an asthma attack last year



## Illinois adults with asthma are not using asthma medication as recommended



The figure above compares asthma medication use among Illinois adults with current asthma to adults with current, persistent asthma. Persistent asthma includes those on long-term control medications, regardless of asthma control status, and those not on long-term control medications whose asthma is not well-controlled or is very poorly controlled.

Less than half of adults with current asthma are using both a control and rescue medication, even among adults with current, persistent asthma. About one in ten (13%) adults with current, persistent asthma are not using a controller or a rescue medication.