



ASTHMA BURDEN UPDATE

May 2011

■ ASTHMA BURDEN BRIEFS

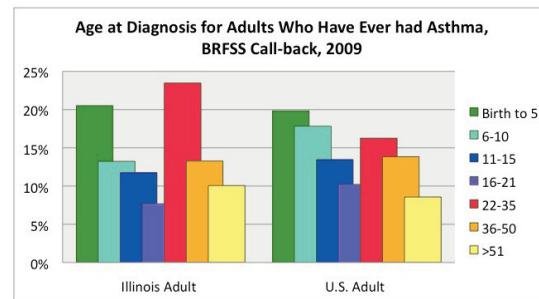
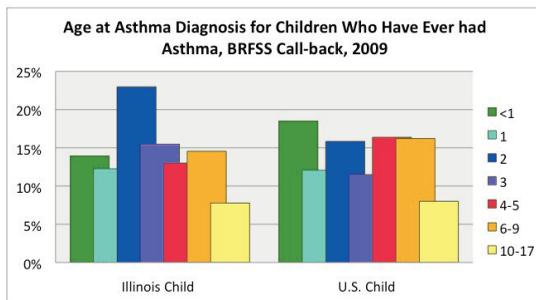
Asthma Burden Briefs will periodically be released to highlight updated asthma surveillance findings.

According to the Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 9 percent of adults and 9.2 percent of children in Illinois have current asthma. And, 13.3 percent of adults have ever been told they have asthma in their lifetime.

WHO HAS ASTHMA

Asthma is a chronic lung disease that cannot be cured, but can be controlled with proper asthma education and management. In 2009 in Illinois, an estimated 878,007 adults had current asthma (9% of the adult population) and, 294,587 children had asthma (9.2% of the child population) as reported by their caretakers. 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).

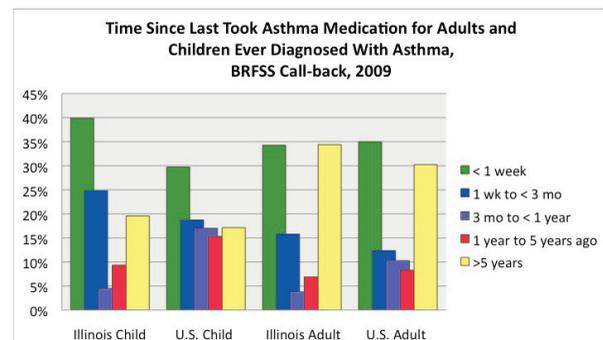
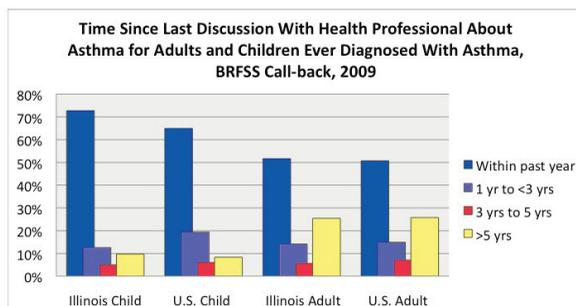
Nearly half (49.3%) of all children in Illinois with asthma are diagnosed between birth and age 2. Adults (aged 18 and older) in Illinois report being diagnosed with asthma between the ages of 22 and 35 (23.5%). Additionally, nearly half (46.8%) of adults with asthma in Illinois reported being diagnosed after the age of 21.



ASTHMA MANAGEMENT

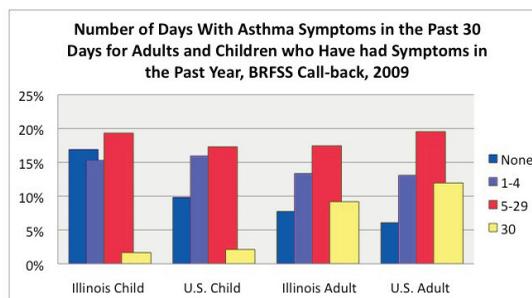
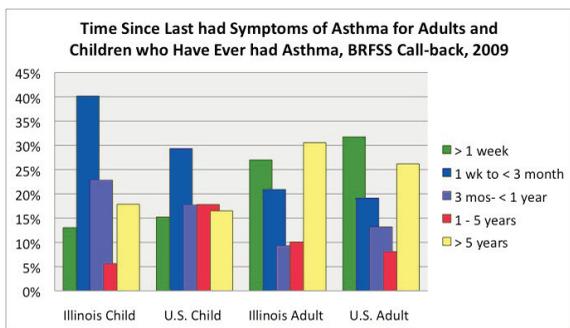
For Illinoisans ever diagnosed with asthma, the majority of children (72.8%) and adults (51.7%) report discussing their asthma with a health care professional within the past year, similar to national averages. A quarter of adults (25.4%) ever diagnosed with asthma indicate they have not spoken with a health professional in more than five years.

Illinois children ever diagnosed with asthma that have taken asthma medication within the past week (39.9%) compared to the adult counterpart (34.4%) and is higher than the national child aggregate (29.7%). A large percentage of adults ever diagnosed with asthma reported taking their asthma medication more than five years ago (34.4%) compared to ever diagnosed children (19.6%).



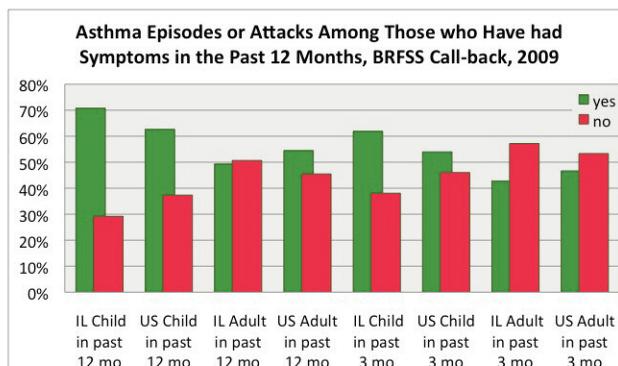
ASTHMA SYMPTOMS

There are large differences between the length of time since adults and children in Illinois have had any symptoms of asthma. Among those who have ever been diagnosed with asthma, 27 percent of adults reported having asthma symptoms within the past week compared to only 13 percent of children. Of adults and children who have had asthma symptoms in the past year, 9.2 percent of adults and 1.7 percent of children had symptoms every day.



ASTHMA EPISODES

For Illinoisans who have had asthma symptoms in the past 12 months, 70.8 percent of children and 49.3 percent of adults have had an asthma attack or episode in the same time period and 61.9 percent of children and 42.8 percent of adults have had an asthma attack in the past three months.



QUALITY OF LIFE

The majority of adults (31.2%) and children (43.7%) with current asthma do not have to limit their activity due to their asthma. A small percentage of adults with current asthma have to miss work or not carry out their usual activities between one to seven days (8.6%) or eight or more days (7.0%).

