



# ASTHMA IN AUSTRALIA

**1 IN 9**  
AUSTRALIANS REPORT HAVING ASTHMA  
Nearly 2.8 million people<sup>1</sup>

## HOSPITALS AND EMERGENCY IN 2022-23




Over  
**31,000**  
Australians were hospitalised for asthma  
(up from 25,000 during years with COVID-19 pandemic measures)<sup>3</sup>

About  
**97,000**  
Australians presented to Emergency Department with asthma  
(up from 77,000 in 2021-22 and 74,000 in 2016-17)<sup>4</sup>

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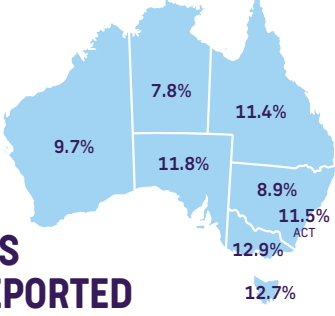
Over  
**90%**  
of asthma hospitalisations were **potentially preventable** with optimised care in the community<sup>3,5</sup>



**43%**  
of asthma hospitalisations were in **children aged 0-14**<sup>3</sup>

**10.8%** OF AUSTRALIANS REPORTED HAVING ASTHMA IN 2022<sup>1</sup>



Persons (%)  
State/Territory




| State/Territory | Prevalence (%) |
|-----------------|----------------|
| NT              | 7.8%           |
| QLD             | 9.7%           |
| NSW             | 11.8%          |
| VIC             | 11.4%          |
| SA              | 8.9%           |
| TAS             | 12.7%          |
| ACT             | 11.5%          |
| WA              | 12.9%          |

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**16%** OF FIRST NATIONS AUSTRALIANS REPORTED HAVING ASTHMA IN 2018-19<sup>2</sup>

**474** AUSTRALIANS DIED FROM ASTHMA IN 2023<sup>7</sup>



325 females




149 males

**43%** of asthma deaths were in women aged 75 years and over<sup>8</sup>


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Asthma mortality decreased in 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic measures, but **returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022 and 2023**, with **1.3 and 1.4 deaths per 100,000 people** (adjusted for age)<sup>7</sup>





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**MORTALITY RATES ARE HIGHER FOR:**<sup>6</sup>



People living in outer regional areas




People living in areas of highest socio-economic disadvantage



First Nations people

**ASTHMA WAS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DISEASE BURDEN IN 2023 FOR CHILDREN**<sup>9</sup>

(aged 1-14 years)




**4<sup>th</sup> leading cause** for adolescents and young adults (aged 15-24 years)<sup>9</sup>


**10<sup>th</sup> leading cause** for all ages combined<sup>9</sup>

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**7<sup>th</sup> leading cause** of disease burden for First Nations people in 2018<sup>2</sup>

**ONLY 1 IN 3 PEOPLE WITH ASTHMA:**





Use regular daily medication<sup>1</sup>



Have an Asthma Action Plan<sup>1</sup>

For medical advice on how to best treat and manage your asthma, speak to your doctor.  
To speak with an Asthma Educator, call 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462) or visit [asthma.org.au](http://asthma.org.au)



1. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). National Health Survey 2022: Asthma [Internet, cited 2024 Jan 2]. www.abs.gov.au 2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). First Nations people with asthma [Internet, cited 2024 Jan 2]. www.aihw.gov.au 3. AIHW. Principal diagnosis data cubes. Separation statistics by principal diagnosis, 2020-21 to 2022-23. www.aihw.gov.au 4. AIHW. Emergency department care. Data tables 2022-23; 2021-22; 2016-17. www.aihw.gov.au 5. AIHW. Admitted patients care 2022-23 8: Safety and quality of health systems. www.aihw.gov.au 6. AIHW. Asthma [Internet, cited 2024 Jan 4]. www.aihw.gov.au 7. ABS. Causes of Death, Australia, 2022 and 2023 data cubes [Internet, cited 2024 Nov 1]. www.abs.gov.au 8. National Asthma Council Australia. Asthma mortality statistics 2023 infographic [Internet, cited 2024 Nov 1]. www.nationalasthma.org.au 9. AIHW. Australian Burden of Disease Study 2023 [Internet, cited 2024 Jan 5]. www.aihw.gov.au