



Number of children in the US under 18 years of age who have been diagnosed with asthma



Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization for children



868,000

Number of emergency department visits for children under 15 each year

ASTHMA IN CHILDREN

Asthma is a long-term, or chronic, disease that causes the airways in your lungs to swell, become inflamed, and clog with mucus.

The muscles in your chest tighten as they try to keep your airways open, and that tightening can make it hard to breathe.



Number of all children who have asthma in the US



Total number of lost school days in school-aged children with asthma flare-ups each year, making asthma one of the leading causes of school absenteeism



Age by which most children with asthma experience their first symptoms

DID YOU KNOW?

Asthma can run in families.

Asthma appears more frequently in children who are obese or exposed to tobacco smoke.

Asthma symptoms can become worse with colds, exercise, allergies, tobacco smoke or other irritants to the breathing tubes.

The younger the age of diagnosis, the greater the chance a child will outgrow asthma.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Common symptoms of asthma in children include:

- coughing spells
- wheezing or whistling sound when the child exhales
- shortness of breath
- rapid breathing periodically
- chest tightness
- chest pain
- tiredness and/or less energy during play from poor sleep
- coughing or wheezing that worsens with a cold or flu

If you suspect your child may have asthma, see your doctor as soon as possible. To learn more about the triggers, risks, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of childhood asthma, go to www.chestnet.org/Foundation/Patient-Education-Resources/Asthma.

