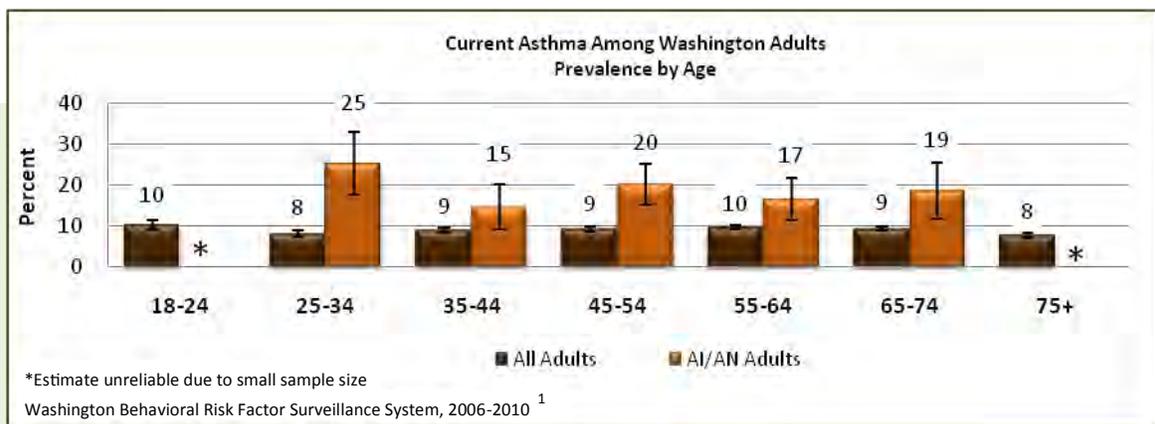


Asthma Among American Indians and Alaska Natives

Washington has the seventh highest American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) population in the nation, with 29 federally recognized tribes.

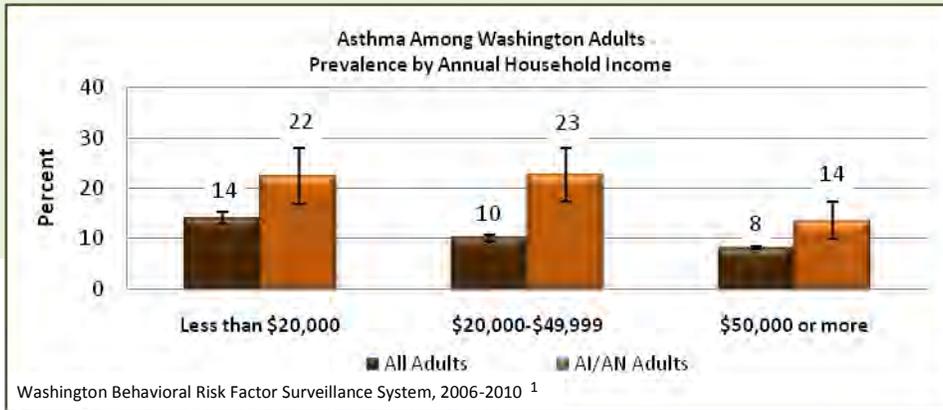


For people between the ages of 25 and 74, the asthma rate of AI/AN is nearly double that of the general population.

- An estimated 18,000 AI/AN adults and 2,550 AI/AN youth in Washington State have had asthma at some point in their lives.
- The ten year combined asthma death rate of AI/AN is two times higher than the general population.
- About 13,000 AI/AN adults and 1,450 AI/AN youth currently have asthma. The majority live in urban and suburban areas, whereas only about 3,500 live in rural areas.
- AI/AN have a higher prevalence of asthma at every income and education level, compared to the general population.

Socioeconomic Status

- The socioeconomic status of people and where they live and work strongly influences their health. People with lower socioeconomic status are more likely to have asthma for both AI/AN and the population in general².
- Asthma prevalence for AI/AN adults is about two times higher than the general population and is higher at all income levels.



About one-quarter of AI/AN with income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level have asthma.*

Next Steps & Moving Forward

Policies in schools, communities, and healthcare settings should be developed to support good asthma management.

To address some of the inequities stated on this fact sheet, good asthma management might include increasing regular healthcare checkups, using asthma action plans, and increasing availability of asthma home visit programs.

This is only a short list of the strategies that could be used to address asthma management. For more guidance, contact the Asthma Program.



References & Notes

¹Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, supported in part by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Cooperative Agreement U58/CCU022819 and DP001996-1.

²Crimmins EM, Hayward MD, and Seeman TE. Race/Ethnicity, Socioeconomic Status, and Health. In: Anderson NB, Bulatao RA, Cohen B, eds. Critical Perspectives on Racial and Ethnic Differences in Health in Late Life. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2004.

*Federal Poverty Level (FPL) – A general term which refers to the federal poverty guidelines, an income level based on the number of people in a family unit. The poverty threshold is calculated annually by the Health and Human Services for administrative purposes, such as determining financial eligibility for federal programs.

In this fact sheet, FPL is defined as people who are above 200 percent FPL, 100-200 percent FPL (near poor), or below FPL

For more details about facts and data mentioned here, please see our report titled '[Asthma among Native Americans and Alaska Natives in Washington State](#)'.

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