

Definition/Description:

Asthma

Asthma is described as a chronic lung disease. Symptoms include intermittent wheezing or shortness of breath triggered by specific environmental exposures or exercise. These symptoms frequently appear in children before the age of five years. Chronic exposure to specific indoor and outdoor allergens in childhood appears to be consistently associated with development of childhood asthma.¹

Asthma Rate

This is the rate of asthma cases within a two-year period. Crude rates are reported by age group for the region and by community area.

Methodology:

Cases were defined by Manitoba Health as “discrete patients” having at least one physician visit for asthma treatment within a two-year period. Evidenced by ICD-9-CM code(s): ___ in the Manitoba Health Medical Claims database. Two years of data (2001/02-2002/03) were used, with the denominator being the region or community area population from the same years, as appropriate. Crude rates and counts (number of cases) are presented in this indicator, by age group for children and youth 19 years of age and under.

Source:

The source of the data was Manitoba Health Medical Claims database, as reported in the *Asthma Report 2003, Manitoba Health, 2004*. The data table was produced by the Population Health and Health System Analysis Unit, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, 2004.

¹ Asthma definition derived from: Brownson, RC, Remington, PL, and Davis, JR (eds). (1998) Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Control. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association. pp.375-386.

Findings:

Community Area	Age Group									
	Under 1		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-19	
	Cases	Rate per 1000 Population	Cases	Rate per 1000 Population	Cases	Rate per 1000 Population	Cases	Rate per 1000 Population	Cases	Rate per 1000 Population
St. James-Assiniboia	41	69.5	347	148.2	420	119.8	434	126.7	304	88.4
Assiniboine South	18	60.2	171	125.2	255	109.2	326	118.1	216	74.5
Fort Garry	22	30.6	446	149.7	594	145.6	568	129.6	407	90.7
St. Vital	29	44.1	353	132.2	462	117.3	513	121.9	317	78.1
St. Boniface	28	55.6	259	118.0	357	113.5	343	111.7	197	65.6
Transcona	23	61.8	213	129.5	319	135.3	271	110.3	150	63.4
River East	84	86.6	644	150.4	785	133.4	683	107.6	411	65.6
Seven Oaks	67	116.5	443	181.8	627	177.2	535	139.9	329	85.4
Inkster	61	143.9	394	220.9	455	174.7	355	138.1	181	76.3
Point Douglas	91	161.9	477	195.5	446	137.1	359	116.9	212	78.3
Downtown	124	121.1	849	213.6	735	153.8	508	108.9	281	61.1
River Heights	34	60.9	322	148.0	389	142.6	318	116.5	213	77.7
Winnipeg Health Region	622	85.7	4918	162.4	5844	138.6	5213	119.8	3218	75.2

Highlights:

Note: Only crude rates are referred to in this narrative.

Regional Rates:

- The asthma treatment rate for children and youth ranges from 75.2 per 1000 population in 15-19 year-olds to 162.4 per 1000 population in 1-4 year-olds.
- Infants under one year of age have an asthma treatment rate of 85.7 per 1000 population.
- Children 5-9 years of age have an asthma treatment rate of 138.6 per 1000 population, and children 10-14 years of age have a rate of 119.8 per 1000 population.

Community Area Rates:

- There is substantial variation in the asthma rates among the community areas.
- The highest asthma treatment rates were found in 1-4 year-olds living in Inkster, Point Douglas and Downtown community areas. These rates were 220.9, 195.5, and 213.6 per 1000 population, respectively.
- Seven Oaks, Inkster, Point Douglas and Downtown community areas tend to have the highest rates of asthma treatment within each age group, although the order (from highest to lowest) varies.