

Current State of Asthma in the US

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Current Concerns and Challenges

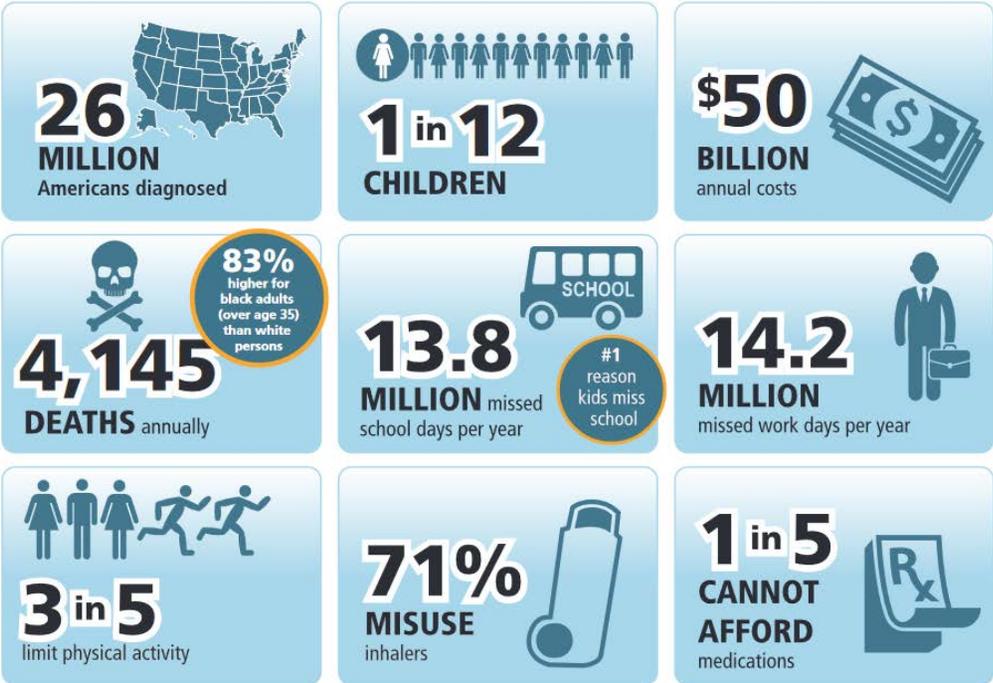
- Despite advancements in diagnosis and treatment, asthma can be life threatening.
- Even when allergies are not life threatening, they can have a profound effect on patients' daily life.
- Environmental challenges are likely to increase in the near future and make life more difficult for people with allergies and asthma.
 - Climate change
 - Pollution
 - Urban crowding

Current Concerns and Challenges

- As our population becomes more diverse, we need to understand how these conditions play out in patients of varying backgrounds.
- COVID-19 and future/emerging viruses create added uncertainty for people with asthma, can contribute to prolonged/persistent symptoms, and can make asthma management more complex
- The economic realities of healthcare put pressure on our ability to provide care to all who need it.

Asthma data as of 2022

Asthma



AllergyAsthmaNetwork.org



Recent Innovations

- Understanding of asthma as a spectrum vs. single disease
- Identifying allergy and asthma phenotypes, allowing work on precision medicine treatments for the future
- Treatment Innovations
 - Novel targeted asthma therapies approved
 - New routes of administration of allergen immunotherapy approved
 - Development of biologics for asthma and related allergic conditions
- Increased recognition of racial/ethnic/genetic and environmental differences in disease states among patients



Recent research

Some of the more popular themes in research we've published in our journal this year include:

- How to reduce hospitalizations for asthma patients
- How telemedicine and home monitoring can enhance care for allergy and asthma patients
- Techniques in asthma evaluation and assessment
- Outcomes for patients with various treatments
- Obesity as a risk factor for asthma

Many articles are free to the healthcare community at AnnAllergy.org



COVID and asthma

- The College is proud to be at the leading edge of publishing important research about COVID and asthma, as well as keeping allergists up to date on research from all journals so they can keep up with fast-moving developments.
- Allergists have been an important touchpoint for their patients with asthma during COVID.
 - It's more important than ever to keep up with medication
 - Many questions about vaccines as well as non-pharmaceutical interventions
 - Allergists can champion vaccines with their patients
 - As immunologists, we have special expertise in understanding how COVID and the vaccines affect the immune system.

Research on COVID and asthma

Just a few examples of recent studies building on those from earlier in the pandemic....

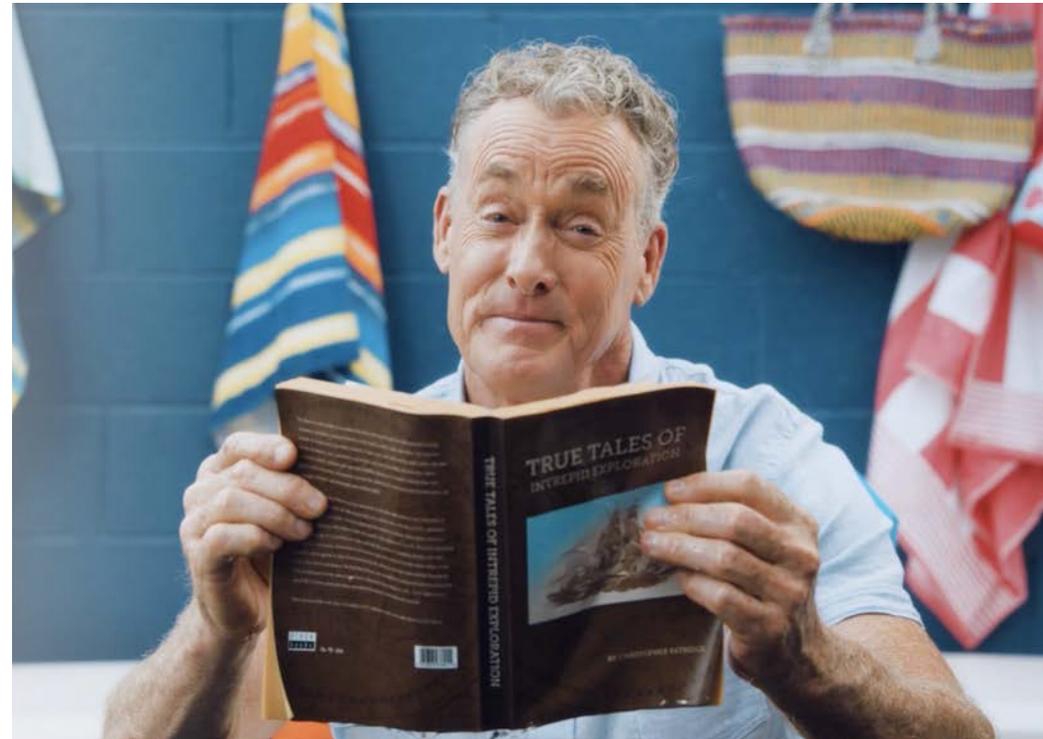
- A study being presented at the ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting this week showed that pediatric asthma admissions sharply declined during the strictest COVID isolation measures, suggesting that isolation measures may reduce respiratory virus triggers and contribute toward reduced pediatric asthma exacerbations.
- An article published in our journal, *Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology*, concluded that people with asthma are at considerably higher risk for negative psychological outcomes as a result of perceived dangers of COVID-19.
- More research is needed to help us understand which interventions may contribute to having fewer exacerbations, and how to achieve similar improvements even as the pandemic subsides.

COVID-19 related College priorities in 2022

- We have led the efforts to provide vital information about allergic reactions to COVID-19 vaccines
 - ACAAI COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force
- Support members who have been at the forefront in the fight against COVID-19
 - Monitor increased risk for asthma patients from COVID
 - Participate in vaccine development and testing
 - Provide allergy community with timely information about the pandemic, the disease, its treatment, diagnosis and prevention

College priorities in 2022

- “Time for an Allergist” campaign launched in September
- Celebrity ads with John C. McGinley (*Scrubs*)
- The goal is to educate primary care physicians and other providers about the difference that care from board-certified and fellowship-trained allergists can make for their patients, particularly for those whose symptoms are not well controlled.



“Time for an Allergist” continued

- The digital ads are targeted to primary care providers as well as the public, and are deployed via paid social, web ads and medical publication websites.
- The campaign microsite has been viewed more than 130,000 times and features our “Find an Allergist” tool.
- The videos have been viewed more than 1,000,000 times.
- Allergists have a tool kit to promote the campaign messages within their local networks
- AllergistFinder.com



College priorities continued

Work to decrease racial disparities and increase health equity in the treatment of patients with allergies and asthma

- Provide grant funding through the College's Foundation to practicing allergists to address health disparities and other challenges related to allergy care within their communities
- Partner with academic programs to increase awareness of the specialty among students from diverse backgrounds
 - Diversity Task Force
- Help raise awareness of racial disparities in asthma and allergy outcomes by providing many learning opportunities to keep our members at the cutting edge of knowledge.
- Provide more physician education and patient/public information in Spanish

Roundtable on Racial Disparities

- In February, the College hosted an important roundtable on Racial Disparities in Atopic Dermatitis and Food Allergy.
- Groups representing patients as well as providers participated.
- While the discussion did not specifically touch on asthma, as you know, there is a good deal of crossover with patients with all of these allergic conditions.
- A white paper and a journal article will soon be published with the proceedings of the roundtable.
- We need to continue working with others in the health care community to close gaps in care.

College Priorities continued

- **For our members**

- Deliver a world-class Annual Scientific Meeting each year
- Develop timely and practical resources for healthcare professionals and the public, (i.e. new Anaphylaxis Toolkit, Yardsticks on idiopathic anaphylaxis and genetic testing for primary immunodeficiency)
- Advocate for patient safety and fair payment
- Provide practice support during the pandemic

College Priorities continued

- **For our patients**

- Increase public awareness of the specialty and how allergists/immunologists can treat and help patients manage their allergies and asthma
- Increase awareness of our robust patient information and our public website, which currently has nearly 400,000 monthly unique visitors.
- Stay on top of public health and patient safety issues, and continue to advocate for patient safety throughout the pandemic and beyond

College Priorities continued

- **For our specialty**

- Continue to work collaboratively with lay organizations like AAN
- Work collaboratively with other specialty groups representing physicians and nurses who provide key touchpoints for asthma patients
- Amplify the College's position as an advocacy leader for the specialty
- Promote and publish world-class research to enable better diagnosis and treatment of allergy and asthma, as well as to advance the understanding of immunology



2022 Advocacy Priorities

- Advocate for continued coverage of telemedicine benefits and licensing flexibilities even after the Public Health Emergency has ended.
- Advocate to mitigate proposed cuts to physicians' reimbursement
- Reduce prior authorization burdens by supporting:
 - access to safe, effective and affordable medication and treatment options;
 - quality health care and insurance coverage;
 - innovative therapies and technologies to advance medical treatment.
- Support legislation requiring epinephrine autoinjectors to be available on planes.
- Limit insurance carriers' ability to impose unreasonable limits on step therapy.



We will always advocate for patients to have access to allergists' care and appropriate treatments.



Thank you!

Questions?