

## **Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS): Asthma Content**

The MEPS is a set of large-scale surveys of families and individuals, their medical providers, and employers across the United States. MEPS is the most complete source of data on the cost and use of health care and health insurance coverage. The survey consists of two main components: the Household component and the Insurance component, in addition to other components such as in 1996 a Nursing Home component and a Medical Provider component which is included in the MEPS Household. Asthma questions on lifetime prevalence, current prevalence, age of diagnosis, asthma attacks, medications, and home treatment are asked on the MEPS Household component.

**Administered by** the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), DHHS

**Website:** <http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/index.jsp>

### **Sampling Frame and Methodology:**

- Continuous survey; annual data release

Household Component:

- Drawn from a nationally representative subsample of National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
- Panel design sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population over two years
- Geography: National, selected states

Insurance Component:

- Sample of private and public sector employers
- Geography: National, regional, state, and metropolitan areas

### **Respiratory Health Content:**

- Asthma lifetime and current prevalence
- Asthma attacks
- Age of diagnosis
- Medication and device use
- Health care use including emergency department and hospital discharges
- Healthcare coverage
- Expenditures for asthma

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### **Most Recent Survey and Available Data:**

MEPS 2013 Household Questionnaire: [http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/survey\\_comp/survey.jsp#Questionnaires](http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/survey_comp/survey.jsp#Questionnaires)

MEPS 2013 Insurance Questionnaire: [http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/survey\\_comp/survey\\_ic.jsp](http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/survey_comp/survey_ic.jsp)

MEPS 2013 Data & Documentation: [http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data\\_stats/download\\_data\\_files.jsp](http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/download_data_files.jsp)

### **Questionnaire, Data Access, & Technical Information:**

Household Component: [http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/survey\\_comp/household.jsp](http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/survey_comp/household.jsp)

Insurance Component: [http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/survey\\_comp/Insurance.jsp](http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/survey_comp/Insurance.jsp)

All Years Data and Documentation: [http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data\\_stats/download\\_data\\_files.jsp](http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/download_data_files.jsp)

All Years Questionnaires: [http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/survey\\_comp/survey\\_questionnaires.jsp](http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/survey_comp/survey_questionnaires.jsp)

Technical Data Information: [http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data\\_stats/data\\_overview.jsp](http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/data_overview.jsp)

### **Results, Reports, & Publications:**

Summary Data Table Search (Includes Expenditures by Medical Condition by year):

[http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data\\_stats/quick\\_tables.jsp](http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/quick_tables.jsp)

Publications Search: [http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data\\_stats/publications.jsp](http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/publications.jsp)

Asthma Topic Results: [http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data\\_stats/MEPS\\_topics.jsp?topicid=4Z4](http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/MEPS_topics.jsp?topicid=4Z4)

Developed by: CDC National Asthma Control Program: <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/NACP.htm>

Updated April 2015

## Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

### MEPS Survey Questions - Household Component:

	1999	2000-2002	2003	2004-2006	2007-2013
{Have/Has} {you/{PERSON}} ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that {you/he/she} {have/has} asthma?					
How old {were/was} {you/{PERSON}} when the asthma was first diagnosed? IF LESS THAN ONE YEAR OLD WHEN DIAGNOSED, ENTER 0 FOR AGE.					
{During an earlier interview, it was mentioned that {you/{PERSON}} {have/has} asthma.} {Do/Does} {you/{PERSON}} still have asthma?					
During the past 12 months, {have/has} {you/{PERSON}} had an episode of asthma or an asthma attack?					
When did {you/{PERSON}} last have an episode of asthma or an asthma attack?					
During the past 3 months, (have/has) (PERSON) used the kind of prescription inhaler that you breathe in through your mouth that gives quick relief from asthma symptoms?					
During the past 3 months, did (PERSON) use more than three canisters of this type of inhaler?					
(Have/Has) (PERSON) ever taken the preventive kind of asthma medicine used every day to protect your lungs and keep you from having attacks? Include both oral medicine and inhalers. This is different from inhalers used for quick relief.					
(Are/Is) (PERSON) now taking this medication (that protects the lungs) daily or almost daily?					

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### MEPS Survey Questions - Household Component:

	1999	2000-2002	2003	2004-2006	2007-2013
(Do/Does) (PERSON) take any prescription medications for (PERSON)'s asthma?					
(Do/Does) (PERSON) use any of these steroid inhalers for (PERSON)'s asthma?					
A peak flow meter measures how hard you can blow air out of your lungs. (Do/Does) (PERSON) currently have a peak flow meter at home?					
Did (PERSON) ever use the peak flow meter?					
When did (PERSON) last use the peak flow meter? Was it within the last seven days, more than seven days ago but within the last thirty days, or more than thirty days ago?					

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