Asthma Statistics

There are more than 14 million Americans who have asthma. Asthma problems account for over 500,000 hospital admissions per year. From 1982 to 1992 there has been a 42% increase in the number of people diagnosed with asthma. During the same time period there was a 40% rise in deaths due to asthma.

Source: National Asthma Education Prevention Program, 1997

- **Americans with asthma: 14.6 million**
- **Children with asthma: 4.8 million children under age 18**
- **Asthma prevalence: 5.4 percent of Americans reported having asthma in 1994, a 75 percent increase since 1980**
- **Asthma prevalence in pre-school children: 5.8 percent of children under age 5 had asthma in 1994 (as reported by a family member), a 160 percent increase since 1980**
- **Asthma deaths: more than 5,000 each year**
- **Asthma-related hospitalizations: 466,000 in 1994**
- **Emergency room visits for asthma: 1.9 million in 1995**
- **Healthcare costs for asthma care: estimated at more than $6 billion a year**
- **Missed schooldays due to asthma: more than 10 million a year**
- **Loss in productivity by working parents caring for children who miss school due to asthma: an estimated $1 billion a year**

Sources:

1. ***Vital and Health Statistics,*** **December 1995; 10(193): table 62.**
2. **"Surveillance for asthma - United States 1960-1995," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report,* April 24, 1998; 47(SS-1).**
3. ***Monthly Vital Statistics Report,*** **August 14, 1997; 46(1): table 6.**
4. **"HHS Targets Efforts on Asthma," Department of Health and Human Services, May 21, 1998.**
5. **"Asthma: A Concern for Minority Populations," National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, January, 1997.**