



# Kent Health Department

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## FACT SHEET

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[www.kentpublichealth.org](http://www.kentpublichealth.org)

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### Asthma in Children

■ In 2015, 15% of Portage County parents reported their children ages 0-11 years had been diagnosed with asthma.

Source: **Portage County Community Health Assessment**

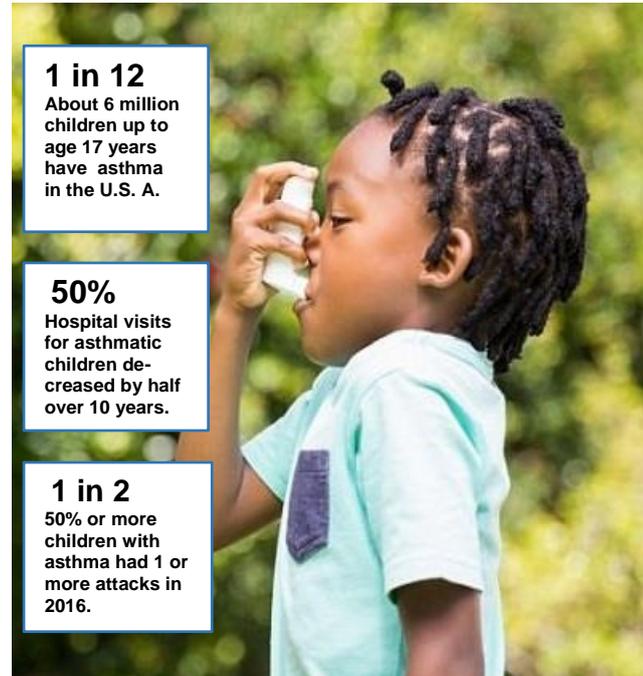
#### Working Together to Get it Under Control

Asthma is a serious disease causing wheezing, difficulty breathing, and coughing. Over a lifetime, it can cause permanent lung damage. About 16% of black children and 7% of white children have asthma. While we don't know exactly what causes asthma, we do know how to prevent asthma attacks or at least make them less severe. Today, children with asthma and their caregivers report fewer attacks, missed school days, and hospital visits. More children with asthma are learning to control their asthma using an asthma action plan. Still, more than half of children with asthma had one or more attacks during 2016. Every year, 1 in 6 families with asthmatic children have visited the Emergency Department for treatment with about 1 in 20 children being hospitalized due to asthma related causes.

Want to learn more? Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion



**1 in 12**  
About 6 million children up to age 17 years have asthma in the U.S. A.

**50%**  
Hospital visits for asthmatic children decreased by half over 10 years.

**1 in 2**  
50% or more children with asthma had 1 or more attacks in 2016.

### PROBLEM

#### Asthma Attacks: Still Too Many

- About 50% of children with asthma had an attack in 2016.
- Asthma attacks have occurred more frequently among children younger than age 5.
- About 50% of children prescribed medicines to control asthma do not use them regularly.
- Emergency and urgent care visits related to asthma attacks were highest among children ages 0-4 and non-hispanic black children.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE?

#### Everyone Can:

- Take steps to reduce asthma triggers in the home and never smoke around children.
- Make sure children use their asthma control medicine as prescribed.
- Learn about asthma, how to manage it, and how to recognize the early childhood warning signs of an asthma attack:  
<http://www.aafa.org/page/asthma-in-infants>

#### What Can Cause an Asthma Attack?

- Tobacco Smoke
- Dust Mites
- Outdoor Air Pollution
- Cockroach Allergens
- Pets
- Mold
- Smoke From Burning Wood or Grass
- Other Triggers: Infections linked to influenza (flu), colds, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), sinus infections, allergies, breathing in chemicals, acid reflux, physical exercise, medications, bad weather, cold air, foods, and fragrances.

(Source: Centers for Disease Control, Vital Signs, Asthma <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/faqs.htm>)



Resource:  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
1-800-CDC-INFO(232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232- 6348  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)