



- The Asthma Coalition of Mississippi (ACM) strives to eliminate asthma among Mississippians by promoting education, prevention and management of asthma throughout the state. The coalition is divided into nine regional districts (corresponding to the state's nine Public Health Districts) each containing six workgroups (advocacy/policy, community, data/surveillance, environment, healthcare and school health).
- The ACM workgroups have seven main goals:
 1. Reduce asthma hospitalization rates among children and adults.
 2. Decrease asthma disparities in all Public Health Districts.
 3. Reduce the burden of asthma on Mississippians.
 4. Increase healthcare provider and patient education related to asthma.
 5. Encourage healthcare providers to use standard patient-specific Asthma Action Plans.
 6. Enhance community health education.
 7. Reduce the impact of natural disasters/emergency events on people with asthma and other respiratory diseases.
- The ACM grew out of a partnership between the American Lung Association of Mississippi and the Mississippi Department of Health.
- ACM's first project was to develop the leading asthma initiative in the state, the State Asthma Plan. Now, implementation and evaluation of the State Asthma Plan have moved to the forefront.
- The Statewide Asthma Plan will ensure that people with asthma have access to asthma information, care, and services; and, it will help ACM members to coordinate their activities and reduce duplication of efforts. The State Asthma Plan will be available in print and on the Internet by June 2006.

Information about Asthma in Mississippi

- Asthma is a chronic, inflammatory disease of the airways that causes recurrent episodes of wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and cough. The symptoms are associated with variable airflow limitation that is completely or partially reversible either spontaneously or with treatment.
- Asthma is an important public health problem in Mississippi and it is on the rise, especially in children, African-Americans, and women.
- In Mississippi, asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism.
- Asthma incidence, prevalence, and mortality vary according to race, socioeconomic status, and access to health care. Asthma morbidity and mortality are largely preventable through improved medical management and patient education regarding the factors (triggers) associated with asthma attacks.
- In 2003, 4,316 persons were admitted at least once to a hospital in the Jackson, Mississippi, Metropolitan Tri-county area. (Some persons have multiple visits, which is why there is such a difference between the number of persons with at least one visit and the total number of visits.)
- Of the 8,181 hospital visits, 1,902 were children age 0-4 years and an additional 1,872 were children age 5-12.
- During the five-year period 1999-2003, asthma was the cause of 237 deaths in Mississippi.
- In 2003, Mississippi's adult population was approximately 2.1 million and an estimated 228,852 persons or 10.9% of the population had a history of asthma sometime during their lifetime. An estimated 144,407 adults or 6.9% of the population had currently existing asthma.



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