



Key asthma messages 2008

- About 2 million Australians have current asthma*
 - One in nine children
 - One in ten adults.
- In recent years, the prevalence of asthma has decreased among children and young adults.
- Indigenous Australians have more problems with asthma than other Australians
 - 1 ½ times as likely to have current asthma
 - Twice as likely to have hospital visits for asthma
 - 3 times as likely to die from asthma.
- People with asthma should have a written asthma action plan but most still don't.
- People with asthma are at least as likely to smoke as others are.
- One in nine children with asthma are exposed to tobacco smoke in their home.
- 402 people died due to asthma in 2006, one in four of them aged under 65 years.
- There has been a general pattern of decline in deaths due to asthma since the early 1990s.
- In 2004–05, \$606 million (1.2% of total health-care expenditure) was spent on asthma, over half of it on medication.

* Defined as ever being doctor-diagnosed and still having asthma (National Health Survey 2004–05)

