

2012 Work-Related Asthma in Mississippi Fact Sheet



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Asthma is a chronic lung disease. It affected about 18.7 million adults (aged ≥ 18 years) and 7.0 million children (aged < 18 years) in the United States in 2010.¹ Although the exact cause of asthma is unknown and it cannot be cured, it can be controlled with self-management education, appropriate medical care, and avoiding exposure to environmental triggers.

Work-related asthma (WRA) accounts for at least 10 percent of all cases of adult asthma. WRA includes work aggravation of preexisting asthma and new-onset asthma induced by occupational exposure. Occupational exposure to very high concentrations of an irritant substance can produce reactive airway dysfunction syndrome, while exposure to allergenic substances can result in allergic occupational asthma.²

Triggers that cause work-related asthma

Triggers are things that start asthma attacks. Each person can have unique triggers.

Some workplace triggers include:

- Chemicals in paints, cleaning products and other items;
- Dust (dander) from animals and insects;
- Dust from wood, latex gloves, flour and/or poorly cleaned buildings; and
- Mold in damp or water-damaged areas of buildings

For more information, contact:

Mississippi State Department of Health,
Asthma Program: (601) 576-8165

American Lung Association of

Mississippi: (601) 206-5810

Data Source: Mississippi Asthma Call-back Survey, 2012.

2012 MS Asthma* Call-back Survey Questions	
*Includes people with current asthma and who were employed at the time of survey	Yes
Was your asthma caused by chemicals, smoke, fumes or dust in your current job?	44.9%
Was your asthma first caused by things like chemicals, smoke, dust or mold in your current job?	11.8%
Were your asthma symptoms made worse by things like chemicals, smoke, dust or mold in any previous job you ever had?	61.5%
Was your asthma first caused by things like chemicals, smoke, dust or mold in any previous job you ever had?	19.2%
Did you ever lose or quit a job because things in the workplace, like chemicals, smoke, dust or mold, caused your asthma or made your asthma symptoms worse?	24.9%
Did you and a doctor or other health professional ever discuss whether your asthma could have been caused by, or your symptoms made worse by, any job you ever had?	20.6%
Have you ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that your asthma was caused by, or your symptoms made worse by, any job you ever had?	18.4%
Have you ever told a doctor or other health professional that your asthma was caused by, or your symptoms made worse by, any job you ever had?	29.1%

References:

1) National Surveillance of Asthma: United States, 2001-2010 http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_03/sr03_035.pdf

2) Sami Youakim, M.D., M.Sc., McGill University Faculty of Medicine, Montreal, Quebec *Am Fam Physician*. 2001 Dec 1;64(11):1839-1849.