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During 2005 through 2009, about one in every eight (12.7%) Cleveland adults said that they had currently suffered from asthma during the year surveyed. Overall, at least one in every six (17.6%) said they ever had asthma at some time during their lifetime. These estimates are based on new analyses of data from the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) collected from more than 6,300 Cleveland residents who participated in the survey between 2005-2009.

The first condition, "current asthma", is defined as a wheeze with tight, constricted airways in the past year. The second condition, "lifetime asthma", is defined as having been diagnosed with asthma during their lifetime. This data brief is focused on the prevalence of current asthma among Cleveland adults.

Rates vary by age and sex

In the BRFSS surveys of Cleveland adults, rates of current asthma reported during 2005

through 2009 were twice as high among females (16.8%) than males (7.4%). This difference in current asthma across gender is consistent with state and national data. In addition, rates for both men and women appear to increase slightly from 2005-2007 to 2008-2009. See Figure 4 for these local results. For 2005-2007, current asthma prevalence was 15.3% for women, 7.0% for men compared to 18.4% for women and 7.7% for men for 2008-2009.

"One in every six women in Cleveland had asthma."

The local data also confirm the small but steady increase in current asthma as adults increase in age up to 65 years (Figure 4). At age 65 and after, the rate of current asthma drops slightly, consistent with data for Ohio and nationwide.

Locally, current asthma rates do not appear to differ by race. In Cleveland, black/African American adults were just as likely to currently have asthma as white adults, (12.3% for black adults and 12.0% for white adults, 2005-2009).

Lastly, current asthma rates for 2009 in Cleveland were significantly greater than that for Ohio and the US, Allegheny County

Asthma In Cleveland



(Pittsburgh) and Wayne County (Detroit). See Figure 3. We make this conclusion because the 95% confidence interval for Cleveland does not overlap the intervals for Ohio, Allegheny and Wayne counties and is higher than the median rate for the US.

Current asthma in Cleveland Neighborhoods

The neighborhoods with the highest current asthma levels were those closest to the city center. Figure 1 shows current asthma prevalence across groups of Cleveland neighborhoods. The highest levels were in northwestern (14.7%), eastern (14.2%), and eastern corridor neighborhoods (14.3%), and lowest on the far west side (10.9%) and southeast of Cleveland (11.0%). While these differences across neighborhoods were not statistically significant, it is clear that people in some neighborhoods are more affected by the disease than others.

Figure 2 shows how current asthma varied between the two survey periods across Cleveland neighborhoods. The Northwest (NW) neighborhoods showed the widest variation in the number of people with asthma from 2005-2009, from 12.7% (almost 1 in 8 adults) from 2005-07 to 16.8% (1 in 6 adults) in 2008-09. However, these changes in time were not statistically significant.

Lastly, Cleveland adults with current asthma were 74% more likely to have high blood pressure, and 84% more likely to be obese. They were nearly three times (2.93 times) more likely to see their health as fair or poor than those without current asthma, and 2.6 times more likely to have limited activity for at least one day in the past month due to physical or mental health issues.

For more detailed statistical figures, visit www.prchn.org/brfss.

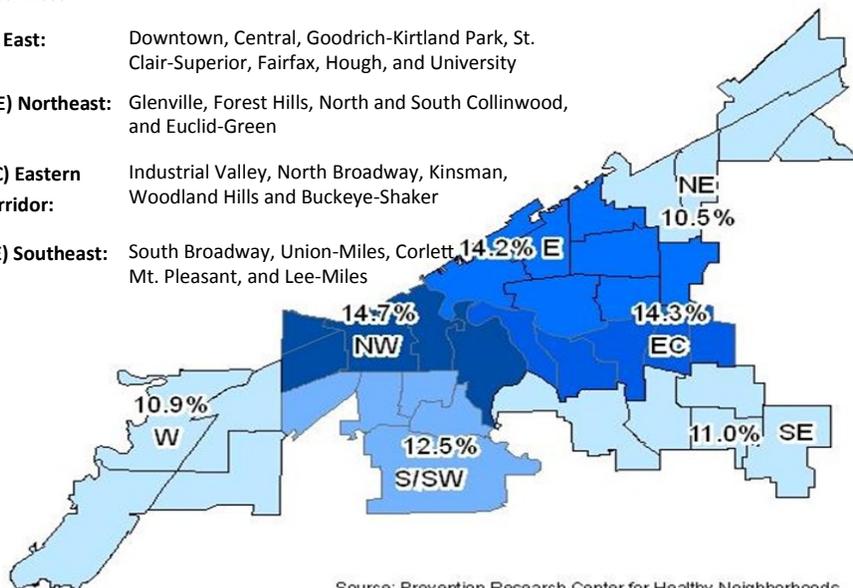
Figure 1.

Prevalence of asthma in Cleveland neighborhoods, 2005-2009

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Cleveland neighborhood clusters

- (W) West** Riverside, Puritas-Longmead, Kamms Corner, and Jefferson
- (NW) Northwest** Edgewater, Cudell, Detroit-Shoreway, Ohio City/Near West Side, and Tremont
- (S/SW) South/Southwest:** West Boulevard, Stockyards, Clark-Fulton, Brooklyn-Center, and Old Brooklyn
- (E) East:** Downtown, Central, Goodrich-Kirtland Park, St. Clair-Superior, Fairfax, Hough, and University
- (NE) Northeast:** Glenville, Forest Hills, North and South Collinwood, and Euclid-Green
- (EC) Eastern Corridor:** Industrial Valley, North Broadway, Kinsman, Woodland Hills and Buckeye-Shaker
- (SE) Southeast:** South Broadway, Union-Miles, Corlett, Mt. Pleasant, and Lee-Miles



Source: Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods Case Western Reserve University



