

Child and Adult Asthma Burden in Tarrant County, Texas, 2004-2010

Data Requested by

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America - Texas Chapter

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Executive Summary

Asthma is a significant public health issue in the United States and Texas. The burden of asthma in Texas varies by demographic factors such as sex, race/ethnicity, age, education, and weight status; and geographic area such as Public Health Region (PHR) and county. This report focuses on the burden of asthma in Tarrant County.

- According to the 2007-2010 Texas BRFSS, the prevalence of current asthma among children in Tarrant County was 10.0 percent and the prevalence of lifetime asthma was 14.7 percent, but neither was significantly different than the prevalence in Texas.
- For years 2007-2010, the prevalence of current and lifetime asthma in Tarrant County was significantly higher among adult females (current asthma 10.4 percent, and lifetime asthma 15.9 percent) compared to adult males (5.3 percent and 9.9 percent, respectively).
- The prevalence of current asthma was higher among adults whose highest education was high school (10.5 percent) compared to adults who were college graduates (6.2 percent).
- The prevalence of current asthma was higher among adults classified as morbidly obese (BMI \geq 40) (18.0 percent) compared to adults who were normal or underweight (6.7 percent), overweight (6.5 percent), or obese (7.3 percent).
- For years 2004-2010, the age-adjusted mortality rate (AAMR) for asthma in Tarrant County was significantly higher for: females (1.6 per 100,000 person-years) compared to males (0.9 per 100,000 person-years), for Blacks (2.5 per 100,000) compared to Whites (1.1 per 100,000 person-years), and the mortality rate was highest for adults aged 65 years and older (4.8 per 100,000 person-years).
- In Tarrant County in 2010, the age-adjusted hospitalization rate was significantly higher for females (11.2 per 10,000 person-years) compared to males (5.8 per 10,000); for African American, non-Hispanic (NH) (16.3 per 10,000) compared to White, NH (7.8 per 10,000), Hispanic (7.0 per 10,000) and other, NH (5.3 per 10,000).
- In Tarrant County in 2010, the asthma hospitalization rate was highest for adults over the age of 65 years at 21.0 per 10,000 compared to all other age groups.
- In Tarrant County, the age groups with the highest prevalence of current asthma were children ages 15-17 years and adults ages 35-64 years. People aged 65 and over had the highest hospitalization rate and the highest mortality rate.

While not inclusive of all demographic subpopulations or data sources, this report does provide insight into specific populations in Tarrant County which may be more heavily burdened by asthma.

Table 1. Current Asthma Prevalence among Children in Tarrant County and Texas by Demographics, Texas BRFSS 2007-2010

Demographic Variable	Tarrant County					Texas				
	Sample Size	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error	95% CI for prevalence		Sample Size	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error	95% CI for prevalence	
				Lower Limit	Upper Limit				Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Total	642	10.0	1.5	7.0	13.0	14,403	8.5	0.4	7.8	9.2
Sex										
Male	336	13.7	2.6	8.6	18.8	7,316	10.1	0.6	8.9	11.2
Female	300	6.5	1.5	3.5	9.5	6,918	7.0	0.5	6.0	8.0
Race/Ethnicity										
White	366	7.6	1.6	4.4	10.8	6,256	8.9	0.5	7.9	10.0
Black	81	18.4	4.8	8.9	27.8	1,147	14.3	1.6	11.1	17.5
Hispanic	159	8.7	3.1	2.6	14.7	6,273	7.0	0.5	6.0	8.0
Other	--	--	--	--	--	547	3.1	0.9	1.5	4.8
Age-group (years)										
0-14	454	8.7	1.7	5.5	11.9	10,375	8.5	0.4	7.7	9.4
0-4	167	7.2	2.9	1.4	12.9	3,267	6.3	0.8	4.8	7.8
5-9	142	8.8	2.4	4.2	13.5	3,366	10.1	0.8	8.5	11.7
10-14	145	11.6	3.2	5.3	17.8	3,742	9.5	0.7	8.1	10.1
15-17	129	12.8	4.0	5.0	20.7	2,780	8.6	0.8	7.0	10.2

Data Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2007-2010.

'--' Indicates sample size too small to be considered statistically valid.

Note: Data for children are based on information provided by an adult respondent about a child living in the home.

Survey questions: "Has a doctor, nurse or other health professional ever said that the child has asthma?" and "Does the child still have asthma?"

Numerator: Respondents who answered "Yes" to the previous survey questions.

Denominator: All respondents excluding refusals and unknowns.

Interpretation for Table 1:

- According to the 2007-2010 Texas BRFSS, the prevalence of current asthma among children in Tarrant County was 10.0 percent (95% Confidence Interval (CI): 7.0-13.0), which was not significantly higher than the state prevalence of 8.5 percent (95% CI: 7.8-9.2).
- In Tarrant County, the prevalence of current asthma was higher among male children (13.7 percent; 95% CI: 8.6-18.8) compared to female children (6.5 percent; 95% CI: 3.5-9.5), but was not significantly different.
- In Tarrant County, there was an increase in the prevalence of current asthma among children with increasing age, but it did not differ significantly by age group.

Table 2. Lifetime Asthma Prevalence among Children in Tarrant County and Texas by Demographics, Texas BRFSS 2007-2010

Demographic Variable	Tarrant County					Texas				
	Sample Size	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error	95% CI		Sample Size	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error	95% CI	
				Lower Limit	Upper Limit				Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Total	647	14.7	1.7	11.3	18.1	14,459	13.2	0.4	12.3	14.0
Sex										
Male	341	18.7	2.8	13.2	24.2	7,355	15.6	0.7	14.3	17.0
Female	300	10.8	2.0	6.8	14.8	6,935	10.7	0.6	9.6	11.8
Race/Ethnicity										
White	371	12.7	2.0	8.9	16.6	6,282	13.6	0.6	12.4	14.9
Black	81	19.1	4.9	9.5	28.7	1,150	17.5	1.7	14.1	20.8
Hispanic	159	15.6	3.8	8.1	23.0	6,295	12.0	0.7	10.6	13.3
Other	--	--	--	--	--	551	8.3	1.6	5.1	11.4
Age-group (years)										
0-14	456	13.5	2.0	9.6	17.4	10,411	12.9	0.5	11.8	13.9
0-4	167	9.9	3.3	3.3	16.4	3,271	8.6	0.9	6.9	10.3
5-9	142	12.7	3.0	6.8	18.7	3,380	14.7	0.9	12.9	16.5
10-14	147	22.3	4.0	14.4	30.2	3,760	16.0	0.9	14.2	17.8
15-17	132	18.5	4.2	10.2	26.7	2,791	14.8	1.0	12.8	16.8

Data Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2007-2010.

'--' Indicates sample size less than 50 respondents and/or too small to be considered statistically valid.

Note: Data for children are based on information provided by an adult respondent about a child living in the home.

Survey question: "Has a doctor, nurse or other health professional ever said that the child has asthma?"

Numerator: Respondents who answered "Yes" to the previous survey question.

Denominator: All respondents excluding refusals and unknowns.

Interpretation for Table 2:

- According to the 2007-2010 Texas BRFSS, the prevalence of lifetime asthma among children in Tarrant County was 14.7 percent (95% CI: 11.3-18.1) which was not significantly higher than the state prevalence of 13.2 percent (95% CI: 12.3-14.0).
- In Tarrant County, the prevalence of lifetime asthma was higher among male children (18.7 percent; 13.2-24.2) compared to female children (10.8 percent; 95% CI: 6.8-14.8), although this difference was not significant.
- In Tarrant County, although the prevalence of lifetime asthma among children did not differ significantly by age group, there was an increase in lifetime asthma prevalence with increasing age until late adolescence (age 10-14 years).

Table 3. Current Asthma Prevalence among Adults in Tarrant County and Texas by Demographics, Texas BRFS 2007-2010

Demographic Variable	Tarrant County					Texas				
	Sample Size	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error	95% CI		Sample Size	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error	95% CI	
				Lower Limit	Upper Limit				Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Total	2,689	8.0	0.1	6.6	9.3	57,265	7.3	0.2	7.0	7.7
Sex										
Male	960	5.3	1.0	3.3	7.3	20,231	5.7	0.3	5.1	6.2
Female	1,729	10.4	0.9	8.6	12.3	37,034	9.0	0.2	8.5	9.5
Race/Ethnicity										
White	2,004	8.6	0.9	6.8	10.4	35,151	8.4	0.2	7.9	8.9
Black	270	9.1	2.1	4.9	13.3	3,921	9.9	0.8	8.3	11.5
Hispanic	293	6.1	1.5	3.2	9.0	15,814	4.9	0.3	4.2	5.6
Other	97	4.9	1.7	1.5	8.3	1,756	6.6	1.0	4.7	8.5
Age-group (years)										
18-34	388	7.2	1.6	4.0	10.4	8,482	7.3	0.5	6.4	8.2
35-64	1,523	8.5	0.8	6.8	10.1	31,177	7.3	0.2	6.9	7.8
65+	743	7.7	1.2	5.3	10.0	17,606	7.6	0.3	7.1	8.2
Education										
<High School	222	9.3	2.3	4.8	13.7	8,775	6.3	0.5	5.3	7.2
High School Graduate	597	10.5	1.9	6.8	14.3	14,719	8.0	0.4	7.1	8.8
Some College	817	8.0	1.3	5.5	10.6	14,731	8.5	0.4	7.7	9.2
College Graduate or more	1,046	6.2	0.9	4.5	7.9	18,843	6.5	0.3	6.0	7.1
Weight Status										
Normal or underweight (BMI ≤ 24.9)	930	6.7	1.0	4.8	8.6	18,451	6.9	0.4	6.2	7.6
Overweight (BMI = 25.0-29.9)	898	6.5	1.0	4.5	8.4	19,472	6.3	0.3	5.7	6.8
Obese (BMI = 30.0-39.9)	444	7.3	1.7	3.9	10.7	9,782	7.7	0.5	6.8	8.6
Morbidly Obese (BMI ≥ 40)	268	18.0	3.7	10.7	25.3	5,925	12.3	0.7	10.9	13.7

Data Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2007-2010.

Survey questions: “Have you ever been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional that you had asthma?” and “Do you still have asthma?”

Numerator: Respondents who answered “Yes” to the previous survey questions.

Denominator: All respondents excluding refusals and unknowns.

Interpretation for Table 3:

- According to the 2007-2010 Texas BRFSS, the prevalence of current asthma among adults in Tarrant County was 8.0 percent (95% CI: 6.6-9.3) which was not significantly higher than the prevalence for Texas at 7.3 percent (95% CI: 7.0-7.7).
- In Tarrant County, the prevalence of current asthma was significantly higher among females (10.4 percent; 95% CI: 8.6-12.3) compared to males (5.3 percent; 95% CI: 3.3-7.3).
- In Tarrant County, the prevalence of current asthma was higher among adults whose highest education was high school (10.5 percent) compared to adults who were college graduates (6.2 percent).
- In Tarrant County, the prevalence of current asthma was significantly higher among adults classified as morbidly obese (BMI \geq 40) (18.0 percent; 95% CI: 10.7-25.3) compared to adults who were normal or underweight (6.7 percent; 95% CI: 4.8-8.6), overweight (6.5 percent; 95% CI: 4.5-8.4), or obese (7.3 percent; 95% CI: 3.9-10.7).
- In Tarrant County, the prevalence of current asthma among adults did not differ significantly by race/ethnicity, age-group, or highest level of education.

Table 4. Lifetime Asthma Prevalence among Adults in Tarrant County and Texas by Demographics, Texas BRFSS 2007-2010

Demographic Variable	Tarrant County					Texas				
	Sample Size	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error	95% CI		Sample Size	Prevalence (%)	Standard Error	95% CI	
				Lower Limit	Upper Limit				Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Total	2,701	13.0	0.9	11.2	14.8	57,507	12.5	0.3	12.0	13.0
Sex										
Male	964	9.9	1.4	7.2	12.6	20,304	11.1	0.4	10.3	11.9
Female	1,737	15.9	1.2	13.5	18.2	37,203	13.9	0.3	13.3	14.5
Race/Ethnicity										
White	2,013	14.9	1.1	11.7	16.1	35,314	14.4	0.4	13.7	15.0
Black	272	15.0	2.9	9.3	20.6	3,938	15.1	0.9	13.2	16.9
Hispanic	294	10.0	2.2	5.6	14.4	15,858	8.7	0.4	7.8	9.5
Other	97	8.5	2.7	3.2	13.8	1,766	12.8	1.5	9.9	15.6
Age-group (years)										
18-34	390	14.5	2.3	10.0	18.9	7,965	13.8	0.6	12.6	15.1
35-64	1,528	12.8	1.0	10.8	14.8	31,293	12.2	0.3	11.6	12.8
65+	748	10.5	1.3	8.0	13.1	17,681	11.4	0.4	10.7	12.1
Education										
<High School	222	10.1	2.3	5.6	14.6	8,807	9.3	0.6	8.2	10.4
High School Graduate	602	15.3	2.3	10.8	19.7	14,783	12.7	0.5	11.6	13.7
Some College	821	13.6	1.7	10.1	17.0	14,806	14.7	0.5	13.7	15.8
College Graduate or more	1,049	11.9	1.3	9.4	14.5	18,913	12.3	0.5	11.4	13.2
BMI										
Normal or underweight (BMI ≤ 24.9)	931	11.4	1.3	8.7	14.0	18,519	12.0	0.5	11.1	12.9
Overweight (BMI = 25.0-29.9)	905	12.2	1.5	9.3	15.0	19,840	11.2%	0.7	10.4	12.0
Obese (BMI = 30.0-39.9)	715	16.3	2.2	12.1	20.5	15,798	15.2	0.6	14.2	16.3
Morbidly Obese (BMI ≥ 40)	444	12.8	2.5	7.8	17.8	9,829	13.5	0.7	12.0	15.0

Data Source: Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2007-2010.

Survey question: “Have you ever been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional that you had asthma?”

Numerator: Respondents who answered “Yes” to the previous survey question.

Denominator: All respondents excluding refusals and unknowns.

Interpretation for Table 4:

- According to the 2007-2010 Texas BRFSS, the prevalence of lifetime asthma among adults in Tarrant County was 13.0 percent (95% CI: 11.2-14.8), which was not significantly higher than the prevalence for Texas at 12.5 percent (95% CI: 12.0-13.0).
- In Tarrant County, the prevalence of lifetime asthma among adult females (15.9 percent; 95% CI: 13.5-18.2) was significantly higher compared to males (9.9 percent; 95% CI: 7.2-12.6).
- In Tarrant County, the prevalence of lifetime asthma among adults was not significantly different by highest level of education or BMI. However, the prevalence of lifetime asthma was higher among adults whose highest level of education was a high school degree (15.3 percent; 95% CI: 10.8-19.7) compared to other education categories; and higher among adults categorized as obese (BMI = 30.0-39.9) (16.3 percent; 95% CI: 12.1-20.5) and lowest among adults categorized as normal or underweight (BMI \leq 24.9) (11.4 percent; 95% CI: 8.7-14.0).

Table 5. Crude and Age-adjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000 person-years for Asthma[†] by Demographics, Tarrant County, Public Health Region 3, and Texas, 2004-2010

Demographics	Tarrant County					Public Health Region 3					Texas				
	Crude Mortality Rate	AAMR*	95% CI		Number of Deaths	Crude Mortality Rate	AAMR*	95% CI		Number of Deaths	Crude Mortality Rate	AAMR*	95% CI		Number of Deaths
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit				Lower Limit	Upper Limit				Lower Limit	Upper Limit	
Total	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.5	132	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.2	422	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1,516
Sex															
Male	0.8	0.9	0.6	1.2	45	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	149	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	552
Female	1.5	1.6	1.3	2.0	87	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.5	273	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	964
Race/ Ethnicity															
White	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.4	74	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.2	258	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	861
Black	2.0	2.5	1.7	3.3	34	1.9	2.3	1.9	2.8	115	1.9	2.3	2.1	2.5	368
Hispanic	---	---	---	---	---	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.8	28	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.8	226
Other	---	---	---	---	---	0.9	1.4	0.8	2.1	21	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.6	61
Age-group (years)															
0-14	---	---	---	---	---	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	26	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	77
15-34	---	---	---	---	---	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	39	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	130
35-64	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.6	57	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.2	191	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	610
65+	4.8	4.8	3.5	6.2	48	4.4	4.4	3.7	5.1	166	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.5	699

Data source: Vital Statistics Unit, Center for Health Statistics, 2010, Texas Department of State Health Services.

[†] The coding system used for establishing cause of death is the ICD-10. The ICD-10 codes for asthma as defined by Vital Statistics are J45-J46 (<http://soupin.tdh.state.tx.us/icd10.htm>).

AAMR = Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate.

* Mortality rates by age-group cannot be age-adjusted. Crude rates are listed.

'---' indicates fewer than 20 asthma deaths. Number of deaths is too small to be considered statistically valid.

Note: Total mortality rates, and rates by sex and race/ethnicity are adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population.

Interpretation for Table 5:

- According to 2004-2010 Texas Vital Statistics Unit, in Tarrant County there were 132 asthma deaths, and the age-adjusted mortality rate (AAMR) for asthma was 1.3 per 100,000 person-years (95% CI: 1.1-1.5).
- In Public Health Region (PHR) 3, in which Tarrant County is located, there were 422 asthma deaths and the AAMR for asthma was 1.1 per 100,000 person-years (95% CI: 1.0-1.2). In Texas there were 1,516 asthma deaths and the AAMR for asthma was 1.0 per 100,000 person-years (95% CI: 1.0-1.1). There were no statistically significant differences for asthma mortality rates between Tarrant County, PHR 3, or Texas.
- In Tarrant County, the AAMR was significantly higher for females (1.6 per 100,000 person-years; 95% CI: 1.3-2.0) compared to males (0.9 per 100,000 person-years; 95% CI: 0.6-1.2). The crude mortality rate for females was 1.5 per 100,000 person-years and for males was 0.8 per 100,000 person-years.
- In Tarrant County, the AAMR was significantly higher for Blacks (2.5 per 100,000 person-years; 95% CI: 1.7-3.3) compared to Whites (1.1 per 100,000 person-years; 95% CI: 0.9-1.4). The crude mortality rate for Blacks was 2.0 per 100,000 person-years and for Whites was 1.2 per 100,000 person-years.
- In Tarrant County, the asthma mortality rate was significantly higher for adults aged 65 years and older (4.8 per 100,000 person-years; 95% CI: 3.5-6.2) compared to adults aged 35-64 years (1.2 per 100,000 person-years; 95% CI: 0.9-1.6). This same trend was seen in both PHR 3 and all of Texas.
- In Tarrant County between 2004 and 2010, there were fewer than 20 asthma deaths among children aged 0 to 14 years, and among persons age 15 to 34 years.

Table 6. Crude and Age-adjusted Hospitalization Rates per 10,000 person-years for Asthma by Demographics, Tarrant County and Texas, 2010

Demographics	Tarrant County						Texas					
	Admissions	Population Size	Crude Rate	AAHR†	95% CI		Admissions	Population Size	Crude Rate	AAHR†	95% CI	
					Lower Limit	Upper Limit					Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Total	1,478	1,809,034	8.2	8.7	8.2	9.1	25,587	25,145,561	10.2	10.5	10.4	10.6
Sex												
Male	496	887,235	5.6	5.8	5.3	6.3	9,808	12,472,280	7.9	7.9	7.8	8.1
Female	982	921,799	10.7	11.2	10.5	11.9	15,750	12,673,281	12.4	12.7	12.5	12.9
Race/Ethnicity												
White, non-Hispanic	763	952,474	8.0	7.8	7.3	8.4	10,831	11,562,682	9.4	9.1	8.9	9.2
Black, non-Hispanic	430	274,476	15.7	16.3	14.6	17.9	5,815	3,003,149	19.4	20.4	19.9	21.0
Hispanic	246	482,977	5.1	7.0	5.8	8.1	7,464	9,460,921	7.9	8.7	8.5	8.9
Other, non-Hispanic	39	99,107	3.9	5.3	3.5	7.1	1,304	1,118,809	11.7	13.7	12.9	14.5
Age Group (years)												
0-14	408	425,872	9.6	9.6	9.4	9.8	8,927	5,738,590	15.6	15.6	15.5	15.6
15-17	25	81,189	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	380	1,127,234	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
18-34	164	439,401	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.9	1,884	6,186,442	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1
35-64	542	701,187	7.7	7.7	7.5	8.0	8,614	9,491,409	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.1
65+	339	161,385	21.0	21.0	20.7	21.3	5,782	2,601,886	22.2	22.2	22.1	22.3

Data Source: Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC), Inpatient Hospital Discharge Public Use Data File, 2010.

Population Data Source: 2010 Census data, Center for Health Statistics, Texas Department of State Health Services.

AAHR = Age-Adjusted Hospitalization Rate.

† Hospitalization rates by age group cannot be age-adjusted.

Note: Total hospitalization rates, and rates by sex and race/ethnicity age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population.

Numerator = Number of hospital admissions with a principal diagnosis of asthma (ICD-9: 493.0-493.9).

Denominator = 2010 Population of Tarrant County or Texas.

Interpretation for Table 6:

- In 2010, the age-adjusted hospitalization rate (AAHR) due to asthma in Tarrant County was 8.7 per 10,000 (95% CI: 8.2-9.1), which was significantly lower than the state rate of 10.5 per 10,000 (95% CI: 10.4-10.6).
- In Tarrant County, females had a significantly higher AAHR for asthma (11.2 per 10,000; 95% CI: 10.5-11.9) compared to males (5.8 per 10,000; 95% CI: 5.3-6.3). The AAHR for females in Tarrant County was significantly lower than for females in all of Texas (12.7 per 10,000; 95% CI: 12.5-12.9).
- In Tarrant County, Black, non-Hispanic (NH) had a significantly higher AAHR due to asthma (16.3 per 10,000; 95% CI: 14.6-17.9) compared to White, NH (7.8 per 10,000; 95% CI: 7.3-8.4), Hispanic (7.0 per 10,000; 95% CI: 5.8-8.1) and other, NH (5.3 per 10,000; 95% CI: 3.5-7.1).
- The asthma hospitalization rate was highest for adults over the age of 65 years at 21.0 per 10,000 (95% CI: 20.7-21.3) in Tarrant County compared to all other age groups, but was significantly lower than the state rate for adults in the same age group (22.2 per 10,000; 95% CI: 22.1-22.3).
- The asthma hospitalization rate for children aged 0-14 years in Tarrant County (9.6 per 10,000; 95% CI: 9.4-9.8) was significantly lower than the state rate for children in the same age group (15.6 per 10,000; 95% CI: 15.5-15.6).

Limitations of the data used in this report:

- Child asthma prevalence estimates for the other race/ethnic subpopulation were not available due to small sample size.
- Prevalence estimates from BRFSS may underestimate the true prevalence of asthma among Texas children and adults because the survey does not identify undiagnosed cases of asthma.
- Mortality rates for the following subpopulations were not available due to low number of deaths: Hispanic and other race/ethnicity, and age group 0-14 and 15-34 years.
- Asthma mortality rates may be inaccurate due to coding errors. The coding of asthma and other respiratory deaths in the elderly is problematic due to difficulties in diagnosis and the presence of other co-morbid conditions that can lead to coding inaccuracies.
- The Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data results do not include HIV and drug/alcohol use patients.
- Hospitalization data are based on inpatient hospitalization and do not include emergency department (ED) visits which did not result in hospital admission. By not including these ED asthma visits, the burden of serious asthma episodes is not fully captured.
- The Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data represent the number of inpatient hospitalizations. Since the data have been de-identified and an individual can be hospitalized more than once for the same condition during the data collection period, multiple asthma hospitalizations for the same individual and the same diagnosis cannot be distinguished.
- Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data is not a complete source of information on asthma-related discharges because some hospitals in Texas are exempt from reporting requirements. This may result in an underestimation of the number and rate of related discharges.
- Incidence rates and patterns of newly diagnosed asthma cases are not captured by the data in this report. Using hospitalization data, we cannot determine if a hospitalization serves as an initial diagnosis of asthma.