

# TRIBAL ASTHMA DATA PROFILE: Minnesota

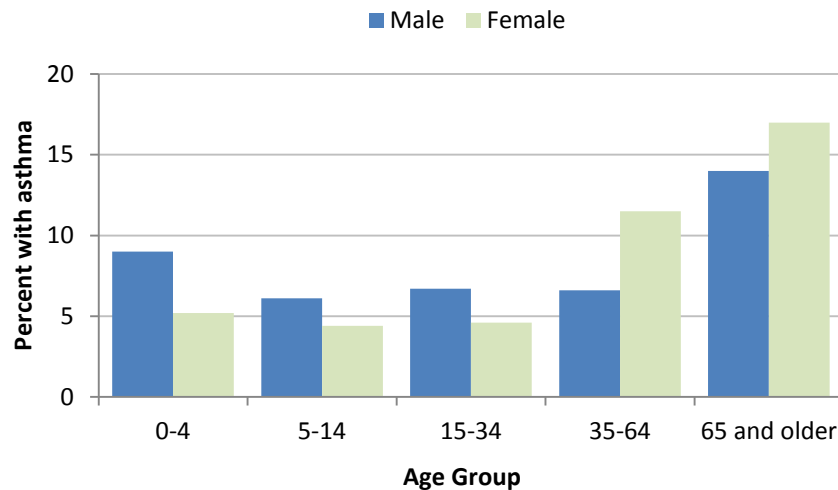
## Asthma Statistics

### Among active users of tribal health care in Minnesota:

- 7% of preschool aged children have asthma: 1 in 14 preschool children
- 5% of school aged children have asthma: 1-2 students in a classroom of 30
- 4% of young to middle aged adults have asthma
- 9% of adults and 16% of the elderly have asthma

Among children under age 5, boys are almost twice as likely as girls to have asthma. Among young to middle age adults, men are more likely to have asthma. In the older age groups, women are more likely to have asthma. Asthma rates are highest among the elderly, however the high rates may also be due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a chronic lung disease that becomes more common with age and is difficult to distinguish from asthma.

### Active Users of Tribal Health Care in Minnesota Who Have Asthma



Age Group	Total		Females		Males	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-4	367	7%	128	5%	239	9%
5-14	391	5%	161	4%	230	6%
15-34	580	4%	342	5%	238	7%
35-64	1,238	9%	823	12%	415	7%
65+	390	16%	238	17%	152	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,966</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>6%</b>

Data source: IHS General Data Mart, 2008-2009

### What is asthma?

Asthma is a chronic lung disease. Symptoms include wheezing, chest tightness, coughing, and shortness of breath. Many factors (known as “asthma triggers”) can bring on an asthma attack in a person who has asthma, including viral infections, pollen, dust mites, second-hand smoke, and stress. The majority of problems associated with asthma, including hospitalizations, are preventable through control of asthma triggers, appropriate medication use, monitoring of the disease, and patient education in asthma care.

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## Technical Notes

The data presented in this fact sheet come from the IHS General Data Mart, a source of IHS encounter data. Queries of Data Mart were run by the Bemidji Area IHS Office statistician. The Minnesota Department of Health received summary information from the BAO to create this report. No data that could be used to identify individuals or tribes was released.

Active users of tribal health care were defined as individuals who had at least one face-to-face encounter or prescription filled during the two-year reporting window (2008-2009). The table on the right shows the number of active users by age group.

Individuals were identified as having asthma if they met any of the following criteria during the reporting years:

- one or more emergency department visits for asthma,
- one or more hospitalizations for asthma,
- one or more outpatient visits for asthma,
- two or more asthma medications

**NOTE:** The data presented in this report may not be comparable with asthma data from other sources. In this report, people were identified as having asthma based on encounter data (i.e., office visits, emergency department visits, hospitalizations and medications dispensed). Reports on asthma that are based on survey data (e.g., Minnesota Student Survey) tend to show higher percentages of people with asthma than reports based on encounter data.

Age Group	Total # of active users, 2008-2009
0-4	5,138
5-14	7,400
15-34	13,928
35-64	13,391
65+	2,486
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,343</b>

This report is the result of a collaboration between the Minnesota Department of Health Asthma Program, Project AIR and the Bemidji Area IHS Office.

Tribes may request asthma data for their communities by contacting Jason Douglas, Bemidji Area Office statistical officer, 218-444-0550, [jason.douglas@ihs.gov](mailto:jason.douglas@ihs.gov).

For more information on Project AIR, please contact: Joel Stokka, [unityhealthnet@gmail.com](mailto:unityhealthnet@gmail.com).

For more information on Minnesota asthma data, please contact: Wendy Brunner, MDH Asthma Program epidemiologist, 651-201-5895, [wendy.brunner@state.mn.us](mailto:wendy.brunner@state.mn.us).

