Asthma is a serious chronic lung disease that affects many Mississippians, especially children. Asthma can cause recurrent episodes of wheezing, coughing, breathless or difficulty breathing, and chest tightness. The cause of asthma is unknown and cannot be cured but with proper care and treatment, can be controlled.

45.0% ER visits in the past year
43.9% Hospital visits in the past year

3.5 million
3.5 million children suffered from an asthma attack or episode in the past year.

13.8 million
13.8 million school days missed in the US

6.1 million
6.1 asthma currently affects and estimate of 6.1 million children under 18 years old.

$56 billion dollars spent a year in the US on children with asthma.

Current
8.6% boys
4.6% girls
25% more girls than boys can’t see a doctor because of cost

8.4% Black
5.1% White
33.5% more African American children than caucasian children can’t see a doctor because of cost.

In 2017, the overall current asthma prevalence among children aged 0-17 years was 11.4% in Mississippi and 15.3% for children with lifetime asthma.

Data Sources:
Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2017 • MS Hospital Discharge Data, 2016 • American Lung Association, 2018