

Hospitalizations for Asthma



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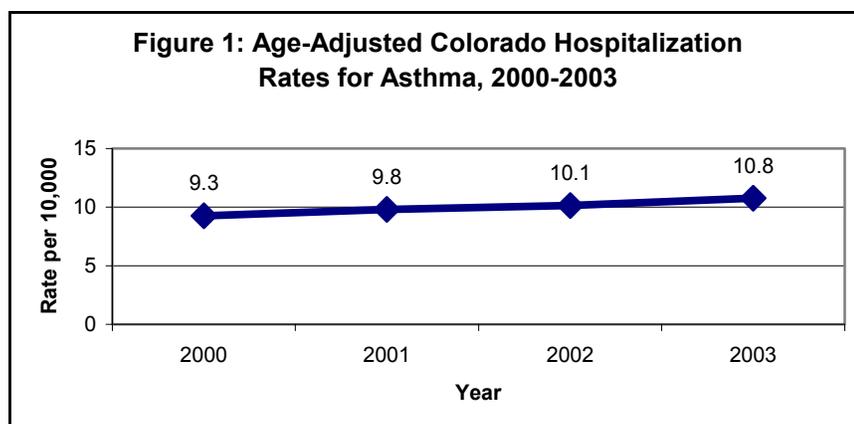
Asthma Hospitalizations Can Be Prevented

Asthma is a chronic respiratory disease characterized by episodes of swelling of the bronchial tubes (inflammation) and tightening of the muscles around the airways. Asthma is one of the most common chronic diseases in Colorado, affecting over 280,000 adults in Colorado in 2003.¹ Asthma can range from a relatively mild disease to quite severe enough to cause death.

Although very little is known about how to prevent asthma, effective asthma management by patients and their health care providers can minimize or prevent morbidity and mortality associated with the disease. Asthma hospitalizations are considered preventable because patients with well-managed disease should be able to both stay out of the hospital and lead active lives.

Hospital Discharge Data

Hospital discharge data collected by the Colorado Health and Hospital Association was utilized for this report. This analysis includes all inpatient (overnight) hospital stays in Colorado from 2000-2003 where asthma was listed as the primary discharge diagnosis coded to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9-CM, codes 493.XX.) The data reflects the number of inpatient hospitalizations for asthma, as opposed to the number of individuals hospitalized. Rates have been age-adjusted to the 2000 standard U.S. population using the direct method applied to the following age groupings: ≤ 4 , 5-14, 15-34, 35-64, ≥ 65 . Rates are calculated per 10,000 population.



Source: Colorado Health and Hospital Association

References: ¹ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2003.

Hospitalization Trends

Figure 1 shows the age-adjusted rate of hospital discharge for asthma as the principal diagnosis from 2000 through 2003. There were 3921 asthma hospitalizations in 2000, 4256 in 2001, 4504 in 2002, and 4821 in 2003. The rate remained relatively stable through this period, with a very subtle climb from 9.3 hospitalizations per 10,000 in 2000 to 10.8 per 10,000 in 2003.

