

# ASTHMA IN SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN, FLORIDA 2013

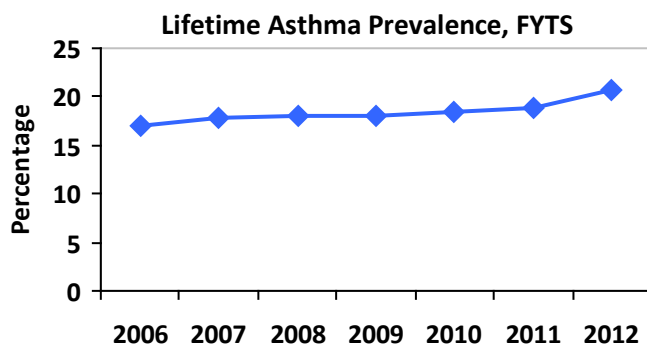
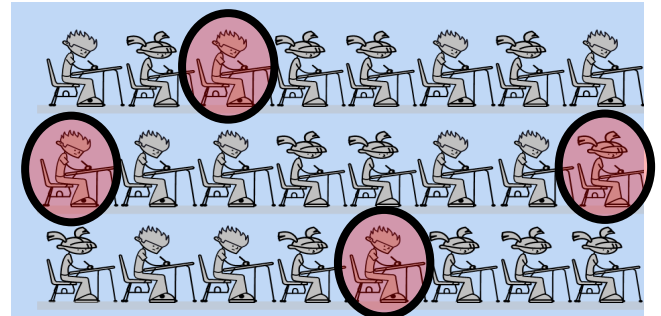
***If you think asthma isn't impacting your students – THINK AGAIN!***

***Approximately 461,200 instructional hours were lost due to asthma in school year 2012-2013***

## **Asthma among Florida Students**

In 2012, approximately 1 out of 5 Florida public middle and high school students (20.5%) had been told by a doctor or nurse that they have asthma at sometime in their life (lifetime asthma).<sup>i</sup> In addition, approximately 1 out of 6 middle and high school students (17%) reported having had an asthma attack in the past year. This means that in a classroom of 24 students, approximately 4 have had a recent asthma attack.<sup>i</sup>

## **Students with a Recent Asthma Attack**

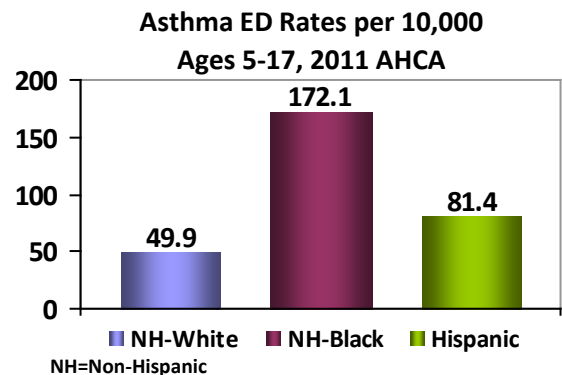


## **Asthma is On the Rise**

Asthma prevalence is increasing among all ages in Florida and nationally. From 2006 to 2012, the prevalence of lifetime asthma among Florida public middle and high school increased by 21% from 17.0% to 20.5%.<sup>i</sup>

## **Disparities and the Achievement Gap**

Emergency department (ED) visits are a key indicator of asthma severity and/or poor asthma control. Among Florida residents ages 5-17, the rate of ED visits among non-Hispanic blacks (172.1 per 10,000) was more than 3 times the rate for NH-whites (49.9 per 10,000) and more than twice the rate for Hispanics (81.4 per 10,000).<sup>ii</sup> The impact of uncontrolled asthma on academic achievement should not be overlooked.



The subgroups disproportionately impacted by asthma mirror the subgroups identified by a recent Florida Department of Education (DOE) report as having lower levels of academic proficiency. The more severe a child's asthma, the more likely they are to miss school and have symptoms that interfere with participation in class and physical activity.<sup>iii</sup>

## **Schools can Help Control Asthma!**

Implementing robust, school-based asthma management programs, starting in elementary school, could enable significant health and educational achievement gains for those students most in need. Visit [www.floridaasthmacoalition.com/schools](http://www.floridaasthmacoalition.com/schools) to learn how your school can take action.

***What Can You Do? Become an Asthma-Friendly School!!***

<sup>i</sup> Data from the Florida Youth Tobacco Survey, [www.floridachronicdisease.org/FYTS/intro.htm](http://www.floridachronicdisease.org/FYTS/intro.htm)

<sup>ii</sup> Rates calculated using data from the Agency for Health Care Administration and population estimates from [www.FloridaCharts.com](http://www.FloridaCharts.com)

<sup>iii</sup> Moonie, S. A., Sterling, D. A., Figgs, L. Castro, M. Asthma Status and Severity Affects Missed School Days. 2006. Journal of School Health, 76.