

Investment in research saves lives and money

facts about:

Asthma

Today:

- About 20 million Americans have asthma and 6 million of them are children.
- Asthma is the most common cause of missed school days: 15 million annually.
- Minority populations and people living in poverty suffer disproportionately from asthma.
- Two million asthma-related emergency room visits are made each year.
- The number of Americans with asthma has increased by more than 150 percent since 1980.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS (WWW.CDC.GOV/NCHS/FASTATS/ASTHMA.HTM)
 AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION (WWW.LUNGUSA.ORG)

SAVING LIVES
 SAVING MONEY

HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

- The American Lung Association has created a nationwide clinical research network to study asthma. The first study showed that flu vaccines are safe for people with asthma and can prevent serious illness in 70 to 90 percent of cases.*
- Clinical research shows that regular use of inhaled steroids prevents asthma attacks better than treatments taken only at the time of an attack.**

SOURCE: *NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE, 345:1529-1536, 2001 (WWW.NEJM.ORG)
 **GUIDELINES FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF ASTHMA—UPDATE ON SELECTED TOPICS 2002, NATIONAL ASTHMA EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM EXPERT PANEL REPORT, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (WWW.NHLBI.NIH.GOV/GUIDELINES/ASTHMA/INDEX.HTM)

HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY:

- Research demonstrates that a targeted intervention that provides appropriate medication and education for patients with persistent asthma cuts costs per patient in half for hospitalization, emergency room visits, and physician office visits.*
- An NIH-sponsored study of inner-city children with asthma showed that reducing exposure to cockroaches, other insects and tobacco smoke results in 21 fewer days with asthma-related symptoms and about four fewer missed school days a year.**

SOURCE: *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MANAGED CARE, 7(9):897-906, 2001 (WWW.AJMC.COM)
 **NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE, 351:1068-1080, 2004 (WWW.NEJM.ORG)

Lasker/Funding First

The medical and health research policy program of the Mary Woodard Lasker Charitable Trust
www.fundingfirst.org
www.laskerfoundation.org

“If you think research is expensive, try disease.”
 — Mary Lasker 1901–1994

The Cost:

- The estimated cost of asthma in 2002 was \$16.1 billion—\$11.5 billion in direct medical expenses and \$4.6 billion in lost earnings because of illness and death.*
- In addition to medical costs, working parents of children with asthma lose about \$1 billion a year in productivity.**

SOURCE: *MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY: 2004 CHART BOOK ON CARDIOVASCULAR, LUNG, AND BLOOD DISEASES, NATIONAL HEART, LUNG, AND BLOOD INSTITUTE, 2004 (WWW.NHLBI.NIH.GOV)
 **ASTHMA: A CONCERN FOR MINORITY POPULATIONS. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OCTOBER 2001 (WWW.NIAID.NIH.GOV)

survivor



NAME: MICHAEL TODD BLUNT

AGE: 10

DISEASE: ASTHMA

Michael Blunt, 10, had his first asthma attack as an infant. The attack terrified his mother, Crystal, who had also suffered from asthma as a child. All three of her children have asthma. Michael’s condition is the most severe. Crystal says that Michael’s life was in danger on many occasions because of his asthma.

One year Michael was hospitalized more than a dozen times because he was unable to breathe. The severity of his condition caused him to be hospitalized for three to seven days each time.

Michael attends Penn Wynne Elementary School in Ardmore, PA. “He has missed a lot of school over the years,” says his mother, “but his teachers have been supportive so he was able to keep up with his schoolwork. It also helps that he is really smart.”

Now Michael takes three medications a day and uses an inhaler to try to prevent attacks. “I worry about the long-term effects of the steroids,” Crystal admits. “I hope that scientists can figure out why some people have asthma and find a way to stop it.”

facts about: } Asthma

Hope for the Future:

Years of asthma research funded by the NIH and CDC have been translated into a unique project called the Healthy Homes Initiative (HHI). Environmentally safe homes are being provided for low-income families with an asthmatic child through a collaboration of academic, government, private and citizen organizations. The project is sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and will determine if limiting exposure to environmental triggers can reduce asthma-related hospitalizations.*

Asthma is a complicated disease for which the root causes still are not known. Researchers are continually searching for and discovering ways to better prevent, diagnose and manage asthma.

SOURCE: *HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF URBAN HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT (WWW.HUD.GOV/OFFICES/LEAD/HHI/INDEX.CFM)

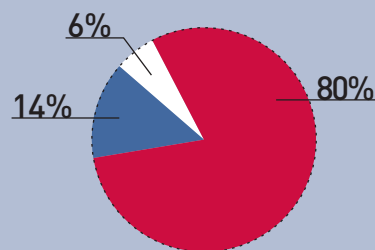
The Bottom Line:

The economic and social burdens of chronic diseases like asthma are growing in the U.S. Increased investment in research is needed now to solve the long-term problem of preventing and managing asthma and other respiratory-related illnesses.

Strong support for basic research

Even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic science research, which advances the frontiers of knowledge, is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.

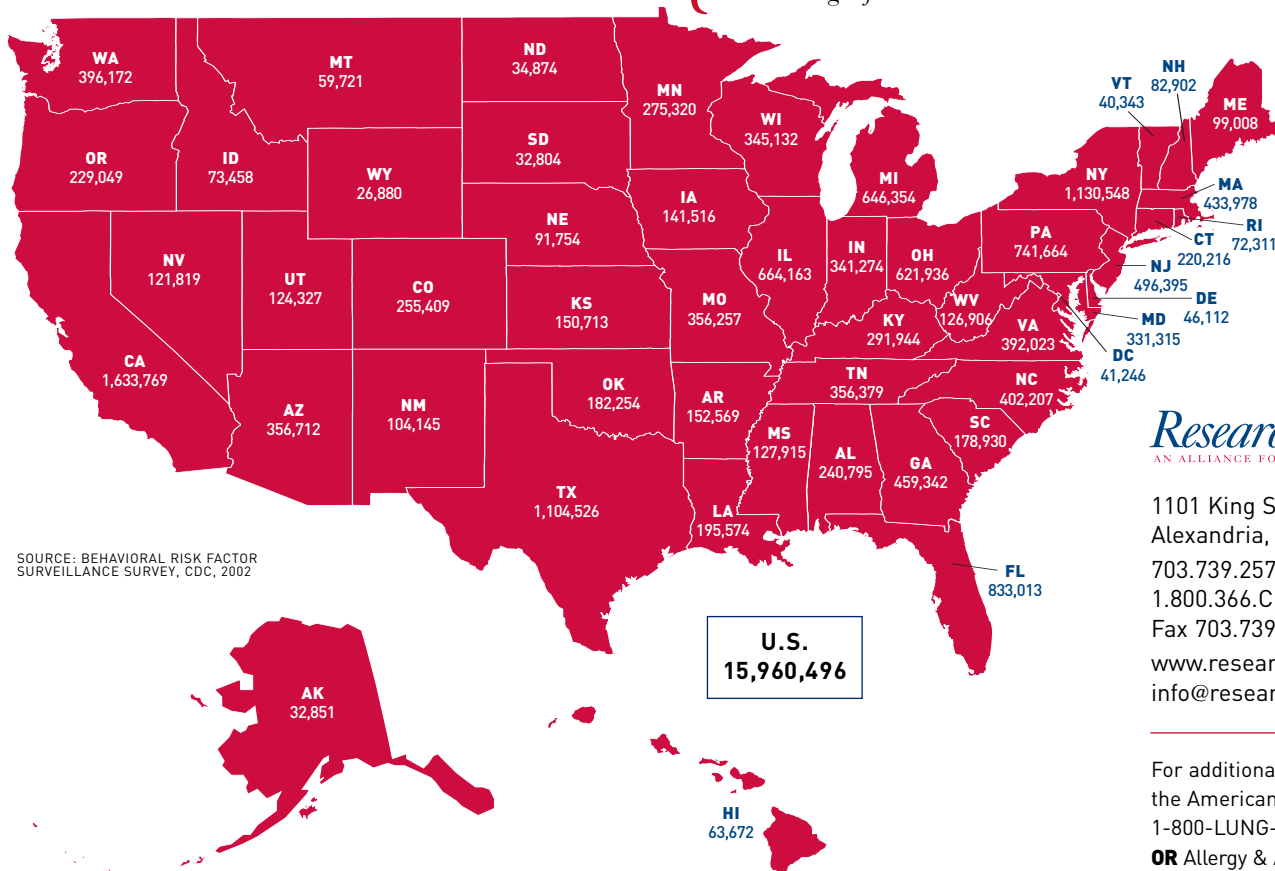
- Strongly / somewhat agree
- Strongly / somewhat disagree
- Don't know



SOURCE: "TAKING OUR PULSE: THE PARADE/RESEARCH!AMERICA POLL" CONDUCTED BY CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY, 2004

Estimated Number of Adults with Asthma in 2002

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also estimates that 6 million children under the age of 18 have asthma.



SOURCE: BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SURVEY, CDC, 2002

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