

ASTHMA: A HEALTH JUSTICE ISSUE IN NEW HAVEN, CT

QUICK FACTS

ASTHMA DISPARITIES

- Asthma rates in New Haven's lowest income neighborhoods - Dixwell, Fair Haven, Hill North, Newhallville, West River/Dwight and West Rock/West Hills - are 23%, compared to 14% in CT and 13% nationally (1).
- As the charts below indicate, asthma disproportionately affects low-income residents and communities of color (1).

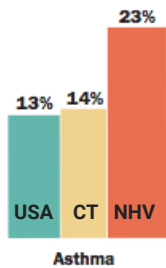


Figure 1: 2015 asthma rates in the U.S., Connecticut, and six New Haven neighborhoods (1)

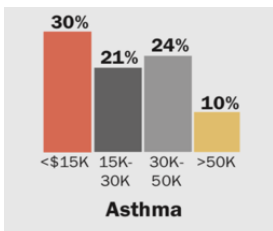


Figure 2: 2015 asthma rates in New Haven by annual income (1)

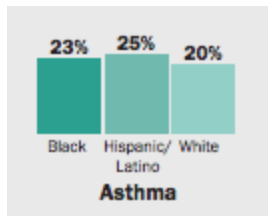


Figure 3: 2015 asthma rates in New Haven by race and ethnicity (1)

HEALTH



- New Haven ranked 7th amongst cities nationwide with the highest estimated asthma prevalence and 24th amongst the most challenging places to live with asthma (2).

- New Haven also has the highest rate of asthma hospitalizations in the state: 75 per 10,000 residents, compared to the statewide rate of 14 per 10,000 residents (3).

HOUSING

- New Haven has older housing (51% built before 1940), and the majority are renter-occupied and lack energy efficiency (4). These are some of the characteristics that make housing in NHV a reservoir for asthma triggers, such as dust, pests and mold.
- Remediation is often financially inaccessible, and advocating for improved conditions can be difficult and risky for marginalized and low-income families with limited affordable housing options.



SCHOOLS

- 14.7% of school children in New Haven have asthma, with higher rates among Latinx and Black students (5), negatively impacting attendance and leading to increased ER visits among children.



- Poor air quality in schools, chemical exposures, and insufficient availability of school nurses are key factors affecting children with asthma (6).

ENVIRONMENT

- New Haven County has the highest annual mortality rate from ozone pollution in the state, with a rate of 54.9 people per year (7).
- CT is routinely cited by federal monitors as having amongst the worst air pollution on the East Coast (8).



WORK-RELATED



- Nationally, about 15% of adults with asthma suffer from asthma caused by their work. Further, among the many adults with asthma, approximately 20 to 30% report that their asthma is exacerbated by exposures at work (9).

Prepared by the Yale Global Health Justice Partnership's Asthma Working Group (health.justice@yale.edu)

Citations: 1. Community Alliance for Research and Engagement (CARE). (2015). New Haven Health Survey. 2. Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. (2018). Asthma Capitals 2018: The Most Challenging Places to Live with Asthma. 3. Connecticut Department of Public Health. (2012). The Burden of Asthma in Connecticut. 4. United States Census Bureau. (2016). National Population Totals: 2010-2016. 5. Peng, J., Nepal, A., Kloter, A., & Hargrove, S. (2014). Connecticut School-based Asthma Surveillance Report 2014. School Years: Fall 2009 - Spring 2012. 6. Bakó-Biró Z.S., Clements-Croome, D.J., Kochhar, N., Awbi, H.B., & Williams, M.J. (2012). Ventilation rates in schools and pupils' performance. Building and Environment, 48, 215-223. 7. Cromar, K.R., Gladson, L.A., Perlmutter, L.D., Ghazipura, M., & Ewart, G.W. (2016). American Thoracic Society and Marron Institute Report: Estimated Excess Morbidity and Mortality Caused by Air Pollution above American Thoracic Society-Recommended Standards, 2011-2013. 8. Hladky, G. B. (2016). New Study: Air Pollution Killing 168 In Connecticut Each Year. Hartford Courant. 9. Balmes J, et al. American Thoracic Society statement: occupational contribution to the burden of airway disease. American Journal Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. 2003.