

One in Six High School Students Reports Asthma

Thursday, August 11, 2005

WebMD

One in six U.S. high school students reports having asthma, and a third of them note having an asthma episode or attack in the past year.

Those numbers appear in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Data came from anonymous surveys given to more than 13,000 students in grades 9-12 nationwide.

Overall, nearly 19 percent of the students stated that they had ever been told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma. Slightly fewer -- 16 percent, or about one in six -- noted current asthma.

Of students reporting current asthma, about 38 percent said they had had an asthma episode or attack in the previous year. Those asthma attacks or episodes were more often reported by girls and younger students (ninth graders). The reasons for that aren't clear, states an editorial note from the CDC.

Hispanic students were less likely than blacks or whites to report current or past asthma. About 15 percent of Hispanic students reported ever having asthma, compared to 21 percent of blacks and 19 percent of whites.

Many teachers -- and certainly school nurses -- are familiar with helping children with asthma. Still it's important to take steps to ensure that your child gets adequate attention and that all the relevant people at school are familiar with what is needed to help your child.

1. Approximately how many students stated that they had ever been told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma?
2. Approximately how many less students noted current asthma in comparison to those mentioned in question number one?
3. Who was asthma attacks or episodes most often reported by?
4. In paragraph form, compare and contrast the students reported ever having asthma by ethnic group?
5. If the time is currently Friday, August 12, 2005 at approximately 3:45 p.m., how many hours remain until the deadline to submit this assignment? Is that enough time to complete your work in other courses? Explain.