Asthma and Allergy Statistics

Asthma Statistics:

- In 2009, approximately 24.6 million people in the United States (or 8.2%) were reported to have asthma.
- An estimated 300 million people worldwide suffer from asthma, with 250,000 annual deaths attributed to the disease.
- Approximately 250,000 people die prematurely each year from asthma. Almost all of these deaths are avoidable.
- Workplace conditions, such as exposure to fumes, gases or dust, are responsible for 11% of asthma cases worldwide.
- About 70% of asthmatics also have allergies.
- It is estimated that the number of people with asthma will grow by more than 100 million by 2025.
- In 2008, asthma hospitalizations were 1.5 times higher among female than male patients.
- 13 million school days are missed each year due to asthma.
- Asthma accounts for about 10.1 million missed work days for adults annually.
- Asthma was responsible for 3,384 deaths in the United States in 2005.
- The annual economic cost of asthma is $19.7 billion. Direct costs make up $14.7 billion of that total, and indirect costs such as lost productivity add another $5 billion.
- Prescription drugs represented the largest single direct medical expenditure related to asthma, over $6 billion.
- The prevalence of asthma in adult females was 23% greater than the rate in males, in 2006.
- Nine million U.S. children under 18 have been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lifetime.
- Nearly 4 million children have had an asthma attack in the previous year.
- In a survey of U.S. homes, approximately one-quarter had levels of dust mite allergens present in a bed at a level high enough to trigger asthma symptoms.
- In 2007, 29% of children who had a food allergy also had asthma.
- The number of people with asthma continues to grow. One in 12 people (about 25 million, or 8% of the population) had asthma in 2009, compared with 1 in 14 (about 20 million, or 7%) in 2001.
- The greatest rise in asthma rates was among black children, almost a 50% increase from 2001 through 2009.
- In 2008 less than half of people with asthma reported being taught how to avoid triggers. Almost half (48%) of adults who were taught how to avoid triggers did not follow most of this advice.¹⁵
- The number of people diagnosed with asthma grew by 4.3 million from 2001 to 2009. From 2001 through 2009 asthma rates rose the most among black children, almost a 50% increase. Asthma was linked to 3,447 deaths (about 9 per day) in 2007. Asthma costs in the US grew from about $53 billion in 2002 to about $56 billion in 2007, about a 6% increase. Greater access to medical care is needed for the growing number of people with asthma.
Allergy (general) Statistics:

- A nationwide survey found that more than half (54.6%) of all U.S. citizens test positive to one or more allergens.  
- In a recent survey, over 50% of homes had at least six detectable allergens present.  
- Allergic diseases affect as many as 40 to 50 million Americans.  

Food Allergy:

- Findings from a 2009-10 study of 38,480 children indicated 8% have a food allergy. This corresponds to an estimated 5.9 million children in the U.S. 38.7% of the children surveyed have a history of severe reactions, and 30.4% of food allergic children have multiple food allergies.  
- Findings from a 2009-10 study of 38,480 children indicated that of those who are food allergic, peanut is the most prevalent allergen, followed by milk and then shellfish.  
- Kids with a food allergy are two to four times more likely to have conditions such as asthma and other allergies.  
- Approximately 6% of children 0-2 years have a food allergy; about 9% of children ages 3-5; nearly 8% of children ages 6-10; approximately 8% of children ages 11-13; and more than 8.5% of children ages 14-18.  
- Six and a half million Americans (or 2.3% of the general population) are allergic to seafood.  
- More than 3 million people in the United States report being allergic to peanuts, tree nuts or both.  
- More than 3% of adults have one or more food allergies.  
- Approximately 80% of milk allergy is outgrown by age 16.  
- Approximately 68% of egg allergy is outgrown by age 16.  
- Approximately 20% of children outgrow it by age 6.  
- Tree nut allergy (almonds, walnuts, etc.) affects 1.2% of the population. Approximately 9% of children outgrow tree nut allergy by age 6.  
- From 2003 to 2006, food allergies resulted in approximately 317,000 visits to hospital emergency departments, outpatient clinics and physicians' offices, according to Branum and colleagues, using data from multiple US national surveys collected by the National Center for Health Statistics.  
- Food allergy related hospital admissions increased from 2,600 per year (1998-2000) to 9,500 per year (2004-2006), according to a study from Branum and colleagues.  
- It is estimated that food allergies cause approximately 150 to 200 fatalities per year, based on data from a five year study of anaphylaxis in Minnesota from the Mayo Clinic.  
- Fatal food anaphylaxis is most often caused by peanuts (50-62%) and tree nuts (15-30%).  

Sinusitis:

- Sinusitis accounts for approximately 20% of office visits to specialists in allergy and immunology.  
- Approximately 12% of Americans under the age of 45 have symptoms of chronic sinusitis.  
- In one study, 55% of patients with sinusitis also had a history of allergic rhinitis.  
- Sinusitis is one of the leading forms of chronic disease, with an estimated 18 million cases and at least 30 million courses of antibiotics per year.  
- About 40,000 people have sinus surgery every year.
To learn more about Allergies, treatment options and services offered within Cone Health visit www.conehealth.com, or call 336-832-8000.