

Indicators with accepted definitions and existing data sources

National Asthma Core Indicators

Indicator name	Purpose	Description (data source)
Prevalence of ever having doctor diagnosed asthma	<p>To evaluate population health interventions to prevent the onset of asthma.</p> <p>To monitor exposure to and the impact of environmental and other risk factors for asthma.</p> <p>To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the community.</p>	<p>The number of people who report having ever been diagnosed with asthma by a doctor or nurse</p> <p>(Source: ABS NHS and CATI surveys)</p>
Death rate for asthma, ages 5 to 34 years	<p>To evaluate health care/ clinical interventions to prevent the onset and exacerbations of asthma.</p> <p>To monitor adverse events related to asthma.</p> <p>To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the individual.</p>	<p>Total number of deaths in Australia for people aged 5 to 34 years assigned to ICD-10 code J45 or J46 as underlying cause of death for a particular calendar year.</p> <p>(Source: AIHW National Mortality Data Collection)</p>
Death rate for asthma, all ages	As above	<p>Total number of deaths in Australia assigned to ICD-10 code J45 or J46 as underlying cause of death for a particular calendar year.</p> <p>(Source: AIHW National Mortality Data Collection)</p>
Rate of hospital separations for asthma	<p>To evaluate health care/ clinical interventions for the management of asthma and exacerbations.</p> <p>To monitor regular symptoms and the frequency and severity of asthma exacerbations.</p> <p>To monitor adverse events related to asthma.</p> <p>To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the individual and community.</p>	<p>Total number of hospital separations from Australian private and public hospitals assigned to a principal diagnosis of ICD-10_AM code J45 or J46 for a particular calendar year divided by Australian population.</p> <p>(Source: AIHW Hospital Morbidity data collection)</p>
Hospital patient days for asthma	<p>To monitor regular symptoms and the frequency and severity of asthma exacerbations.</p> <p>To develop structures to support effective and accessible asthma care.</p> <p>To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the individual and community.</p>	<p>Total number of hospital patient days from Australian private and public hospitals assigned to a principal diagnosis of ICD-10_AM code J45 or J46 for a particular calendar year divided by Australian population.</p> <p>(Source: AIHW Hospital Morbidity data collection)</p>
Rate of asthma-related general practice encounters	To evaluate health care/ clinical interventions in primary care for the management of asthma during the stable phase and during mild to moderate exacerbations.	<p>Estimated proportion of GP encounters where asthma was managed (for designated year) multiplied by the number of claims for Medicare reimbursement for Professional Attendances Group A1 and A2 (for that year)</p> <p>(Source: BEACH data and HIC MBS statistics)</p>

Program-focused indicators

Indicator name	Purpose	Description (data source)
Proportion of schools using the Asthma Friendly Schools program	<p>To monitor the provision of a safe environment for people with asthma.</p> <p>To evaluate health care interventions for the management of asthma and exacerbations.</p> <p>To develop structures to support effective and accessible asthma care.</p>	<p>Proportion of schools recognised as using the Asthma Friendly Schools Program.</p> <p>Proportion of students in schools recognised as using the Asthma Friendly Schools Program.</p> <p>(Source: State departments of education, Australian Department of Health and Ageing, Asthma Australia)</p>

Indicator name	Purpose	Description (data source)
Rate of Asthma 3+ Visit Plan program incentive payments	As for rate of asthma-related general practice encounters.	Number of claims for completed Asthma 3+ Visit Plan PIPs per 100,000 population. (Source: HIC health statistics data from November 2001)

Indicators with accepted definitions, however national data not yet available

Indicator name	Purpose	Description (data source)
Prevalence of current asthma	To evaluate population health interventions to prevent the onset of asthma. To monitor exposure to and the impact of environmental and other risk factors for asthma. To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the community.	The proportion of people who report having been diagnosed with asthma and who have experienced symptoms (wheeze, shortness of breath or chest tightness) of asthma or taken treatment for asthma in the last 12 months.
Prevalence of recent wheeze	To evaluate population health interventions to prevent the onset of asthma. To monitor exposure to and the impact of environmental and other risk factors for asthma. To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the community.	Prevalence of wheeze in the preceding 12 months. To be monitored separately in children and adults.
Prevalence of smoking in the household where children with asthma reside	To monitor exposure to and impact of environmental and other risk factors for asthma. To evaluate population health interventions to prevent the onset and exacerbations of asthma. To monitor the provision of a safe environment for people with asthma.	The number of people aged less than 15 years with (a) current asthma or (b) wheeze in the previous 12 months and who live in a household where one or more regular smokers resides.
Prevalence of smoking in people with asthma	To monitor exposure to and impact of environmental and other risk factors for asthma. To evaluate population health interventions to prevent the onset and exacerbations of asthma.	The proportion of people aged 18 years or over who have asthma and who smoke any tobacco product weekly or more frequently.
Number of individuals with separations for asthma per 1,000 resident population per year	To evaluate health care/ clinical interventions for the management of asthma and exacerbations. To monitor regular symptoms and the frequency and severity of asthma exacerbations. To monitor adverse events related to asthma. To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the individual and community.	Total number of individuals who had hospital separations from Australian private and public hospitals assigned to principal diagnosis of ICD-10 code J45 or J46 for a particular calendar year.
Hospital re-admissions for asthma	To evaluate health care/ clinical interventions for the management of asthma and exacerbations. To monitor return to normal function after an exacerbation of asthma. To monitor adverse events related to asthma. To develop structures to support effective and accessible asthma care. To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the community.	Number of people discharged with a principal diagnosis of asthma (ICD-10-AM J45/J46) who are re-admitted within 28 days with a diagnosis of asthma.
Rate of ED attendance for asthma	To monitor regular symptoms and the frequency and severity of asthma exacerbations. To monitor adverse events related to asthma. To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the community (in terms of use of Emergency Department services) and the individual.	Total number of ED attendances assigned to a principal diagnosis of ICD-10-AM code J45 or J46 for a particular calendar year divided by Australian population.
Rate of health care visits for acute asthma	To monitor regular symptoms and the frequency and severity of asthma exacerbations.	Composite indicator will incorporate acute asthma-related GP visits and ED attendances

exacerbations	To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the individual and community. To monitor adverse events related to asthma.	
Proportion of people with asthma with an asthma action plan	To evaluate health care/ clinical interventions for the management of asthma and exacerbations. To develop structures to support effective and accessible asthma care.	Proportion of people with current asthma who have an individualised, written asthma action plan, developed in consultation with a health professional.
Proportion of people with asthma who use preventers regularly	To evaluate health care/ clinical interventions for the management of asthma and exacerbations.	Number of people with current asthma for whom preventers are indicated and who report using preventer medication daily.
Proportion of people with asthma who have had recent spirometry	To evaluate health care/ clinical interventions for the management of asthma and exacerbations.	Number of individual claims for spirometry in a given year for people with asthma divided by number of people with current asthma.

Other indicators that require further development

Indicator name	Purpose	Description (data source)
Prevalence of airway hyperresponsiveness	To evaluate population health interventions to prevent the onset of asthma. To monitor exposure to and the impact of environmental and other risk factors for asthma. To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the community.	Further work is required to select the appropriate measure of airway hyperresponsiveness for surveillance purposes and to identify appropriate data sources.
Impact of asthma on quality of life	To monitor regular symptoms and the frequency and severity of asthma exacerbations. To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the community.	Further work is required to select appropriate measures of the impact of asthma on quality life for population surveillance purposes and to identify appropriate data sources.
Index of asthma control	To evaluate health care/ clinical interventions for the management of asthma and exacerbations. To monitor regular symptoms and the frequency and severity of asthma exacerbations. To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the individual.	A composite measure comprising use of an asthma action plan, the use of preventer medication, and measures of asthma symptoms.
Prevalence of occupational asthma	To monitor exposure to and the impact of environmental and other risk factors for asthma.	The total number of asthma cases attributed to exposure at work at a given time within the survey population.
Costs of asthma	To monitor the impact and costs of asthma for the individual and community.	Some existing and proposed indicators would be incorporated into this index. Needs substantial development.