

Health Fact Sheets

Asthma, 2013



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- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^P preliminary
- ^r revised
- X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- ^E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published
- * significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Asthma, 2013

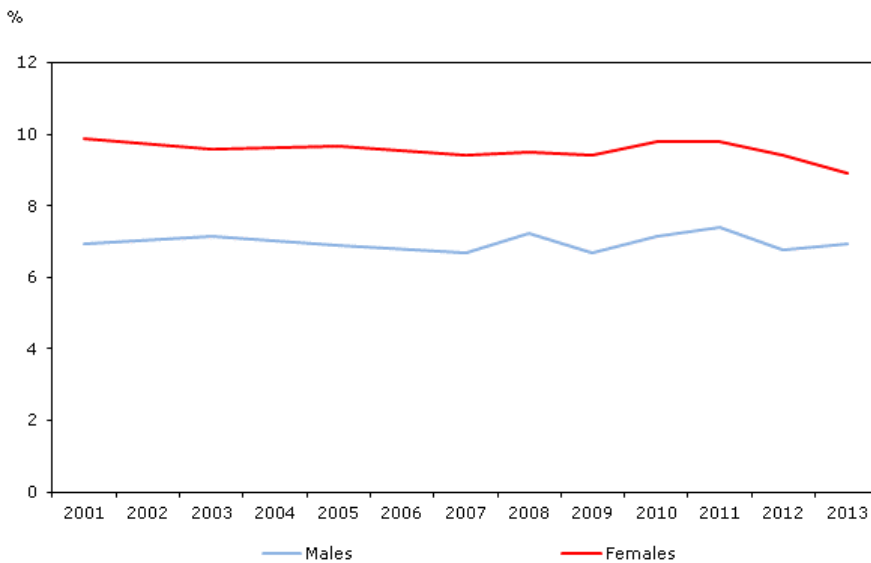
Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disorder of the airways that causes coughing, shortness of breath, chest tightness and wheezing. Quality of life can be affected not only by asthma attacks, but also by absences from work and limitations in other activities.¹



In 2013, 7.9% of Canadians aged 12 and older, roughly 2.4 million people, reported that they had been diagnosed with asthma by a health professional. This rate is a decrease from 2011 (8.6%), though not different from 2012 (8.1%).

Between 2001 and 2013, females were overall more likely than males to report that they had asthma.² In 2013, the rate was 8.9% for females compared with 6.9% for males (Chart 1).

Chart 1
Percentage reporting a diagnosis of asthma, by sex, household population aged 12 and older, Canada, 2001 to 2013

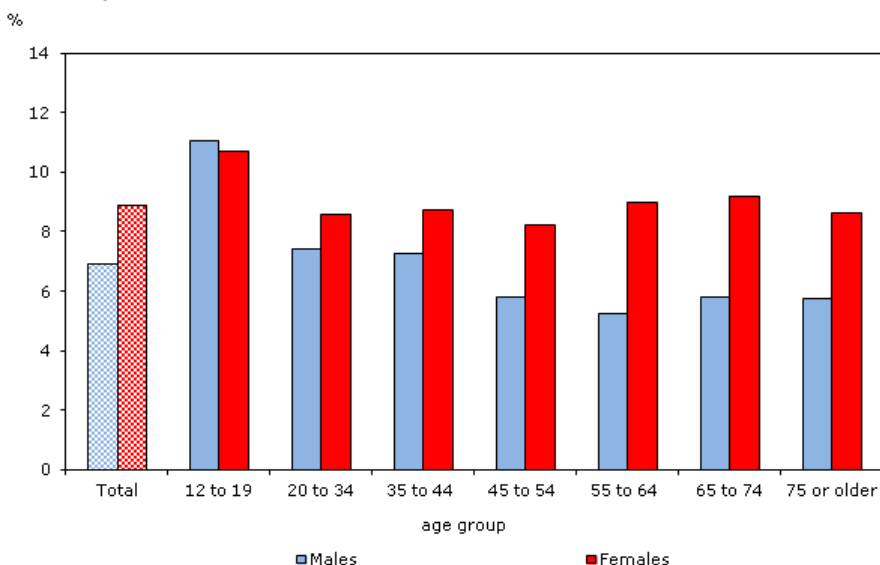


Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 - 2013.

Females were more likely than males to have asthma, starting at age 45. Below this age, there was no significant difference between the sexes (Chart 2).

Asthma rates tend to be higher in children and youths. However, young people with asthma may not suffer from it when they reach adulthood³. In 2013, the rate of asthma was highest for males in the 12 to 19 age group. For females, the rate of asthma was higher in the 12 to 19 age group than all other ages except for those aged 55 to 74.

Chart 2
Percentage reporting a diagnosis of asthma, by age group and sex, household population aged 12 and older, Canada, 2013



Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2013.

The proportion of residents who reported having asthma was **lower** than the national average (7.9%) in:

- Ontario (7.4%)
- Northwest Territories⁴ (5.3%).

The proportion of residents who reported having asthma was **higher** than the national average only in New Brunswick (9.8%).

Residents of the other provinces and territories⁴ reported rates that were about the same as the national average.

End note

- ¹ Chen, Yue, Helen Johansen, Satha Thillaiampalam and Christie Sambell, 2005, “ Asthma.” *Health Reports*. Vol. (volume) 16, no. (number) 2. March. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. (number) 82-003. p. (page) 43. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/studies-etudes/82-003/archive/2005/7790-eng.pdf> (accessed May 10, 2010).
- ² Note that a person has asthma if they reported that they had been diagnosed with asthma by a health professional.
- ³ Wayne J. Millar and Gerry B. Hill, 1998, “ Childhood Asthma”. *Health Reports*. Vol. (volume) 10, no. (number) 3. Winter. Statistics Canada catalogue no. 82-003. p. (page) 13. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/1998003/article/4137-eng.pdf> (accessed April 23, 2014).
- ⁴ Note that the rates for Nunavut and Northwest Territories had coefficients of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%; interpret with caution.

Reference

Chen, Yue, Helen Johansen, Satha Thillaiampalam and Christie Sambell, 2005, “ Asthma.” *Health Reports*. Vol. (volume) 16, no. (number) 2. March. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. (number) 82-003. p. (page) 43–46. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/studies-etudes/82-003/archive/2005/7790-eng.pdf> (accessed May 10, 2010).

Data

Additional data from the Canadian Community Health Survey are available from CANSIM table 105-0501.