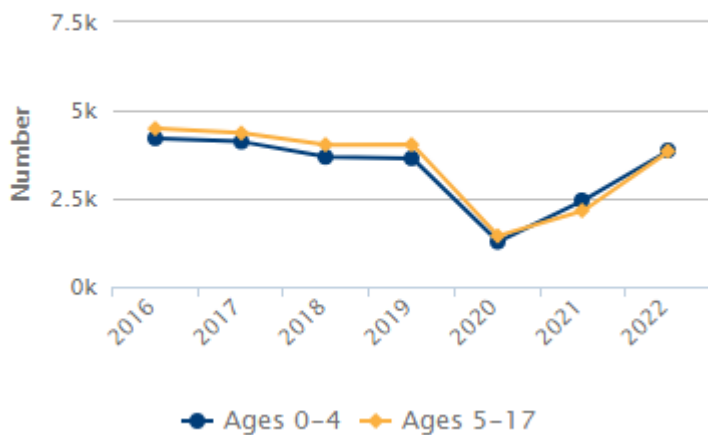


## Childhood Asthma in California

Number of Asthma Hospitalizations, by Age Group  
California



**Definition:** Number of hospital discharges for a primary diagnosis of asthma among children ages 0-17, by age group (e.g., in 2022, there were 3,864 asthma hospitalizations among California children ages 0-4).

**Data Source:** [California Breathing](#), tabulation of data from the California Dept. of Health Care Access and Information (Aug. 2024).

Rate of Asthma Hospitalization Among Children Ages 0-17: 2022

Locations	Rate per 10,000
California	8.9
Alameda County	7.1
Contra Costa County	6.8
Fresno County	13.3
Kern County	6.1
Los Angeles County	10.3
Orange County	7.0
Riverside County	8.8
Sacramento County	11.2
San Bernardino County	9.6
San Diego County	11.7
Santa Clara County	7.0

**Definition:** Number of hospital discharges for a primary diagnosis of asthma per 10,000 children ages 0-17, by age group (e.g., in 2022, the asthma hospitalization rate among California children ages 0-4 was 17.3 per 10,000).

**Data Source:** [California Breathing](#), tabulation of data from the California Dept. of Health Care Access and Information (Aug. 2024).

Percentage of Children Ages 1-17 Ever Diagnosed with Asthma:  
2019-2020

### What It Is

On [kidsdata.org](#), estimates of [lifetime asthma prevalence](#) are derived from reports of children ages 1-17 being told by a doctor that they have asthma. [Rates](#) and [numbers](#) of asthma hospitalizations—which reflect the most severe asthmatic episodes—also are provided for children ages 0-17, by age group.

### Why This Topic Is Important

Asthma is one of the most common chronic diseases among children in the U.S. and a leading cause of pediatric hospitalization. It also is the top reason for missed school days, accounting for more than 5.2 million absences annually. Asthma affects around 6 million children nationwide, at an average annual health care cost of more than \$1,700 per child.

Asthma rates vary by region, demographics, environment, physician diagnostic practices, and access to care. Although identifying the impact of independent risk factors for asthma is difficult, children of color and those from low-income families are at disproportionately high risk for severe symptoms, missed school days, and hospital visits due to asthma. In particular, African American/black and Puerto Rican children experience a greater asthma burden compared with white children in the U.S.

Asthma can be life-threatening when it is not managed properly. The CDC estimates that approximately 40% of children with asthma do not have their disease under control. Symptoms can be managed with regular medical monitoring and personalized action plans that help children use medicine as prescribed and to avoid asthma triggers. However, children who face difficulty accessing quality health care are less likely to have well-controlled asthma.

### How Children Are Faring

In 2019-2020, an estimated 12% of California children ages 1-17 had been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lives, down from 16% in 2005. At the county level, the share of children ever diagnosed with asthma ranged from fewer than 1 in 20 (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara) to more than 1 in 4 (Butte, Kings, Napa) in 2019-2020.

While asthma does not result in hospitalization for most children, there were 7,705 hospitalizations for asthma among children ages 0-17 statewide in 2022—a rate of 8.9 hospitalizations per 10,000. The number of pediatric asthma hospitalizations in 2022 was nearly three times higher than in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic (2,719

Locations	Percent
California	12.4%
Alameda County	16.5%
Contra Costa County	10.5%
Fresno County	13.0%
Kern County	7.6%
Los Angeles County	13.3%
Orange County	14.1%
Riverside County	11.9%
Sacramento County	8.5%
San Bernardino County	8.9%
San Diego County	10.6%
Santa Clara County	9.3%

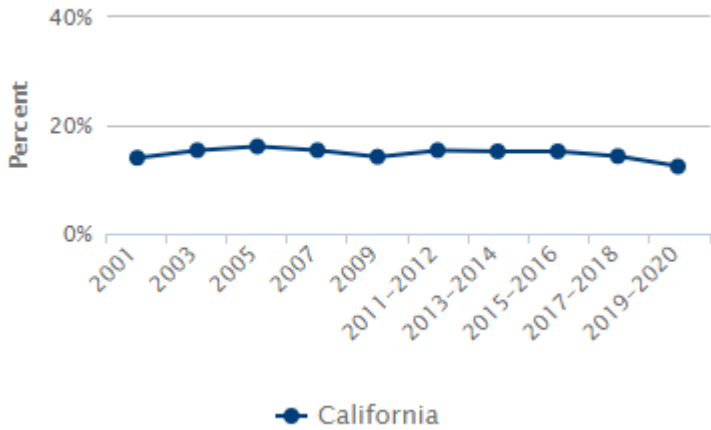
hospitalizations in 2020), but similar to 2019 figures (7,670 hospitalizations). California children ages 0-4 generally experience higher rates of asthma hospitalization (17.3 hospitalizations per 10,000 in 2022) than older children ages 5-17 (5.9 per 10,000 in 2022).

*View references for this text and additional research on this topic:*  
<https://santabarbara.kidsdata.org/topic/45/asthma/summary>

**Definition:** Estimated percentage of children ages 1-17 who have ever been told by a doctor that they have asthma (e.g., in 2019-2020, 12.4% of California children had been diagnosed with asthma in their lifetimes).

**Data Source:** UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, [California Health Interview Survey](#) (Feb. 2022).

**Percentage of Children Ages 1-17 Ever Diagnosed with Asthma**



**Definition:** Estimated percentage of children ages 1-17 who have ever been told by a doctor that they have asthma (e.g., in 2019-2020, 12.4% of California children had been diagnosed with asthma in their lifetimes).

**Data Source:** UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, [California Health Interview Survey](#) (Feb. 2022).



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