

Asthma - Gasping for Fresh Air

According to the Better Health & Medical Network:

- Asthma is a chronic lung disease with inflammation and/or obstruction of the airways from nose and mouth to the lungs.
- 400,000 children under the age of 18 suffer with asthma.
- Asthma has increased 46% from 1982-1983 with 80% growth in children under 18.
- In the 5-17 age group, asthma causes an annual loss of more than 1 million school days.
- Asthma accounts for more childhood hospitalizations than any other childhood disease.
- Children with asthma spend approximately 730,000 million days per year restricted to bed rest.

- In 1990, there were 710,000 million physician visits for asthma.
- Health care costs for asthma were estimated to be \$620,000 million, which is almost 1% of the total health care costs.
- More than 520 Canadians died from asthma in 1991.

