Asthma remains a worldwide health problem

Asthma is a common chronic disease, affecting about 262 million people.

More than 1000 people die from asthma each day, many deaths preventable.

1 in 10 children have asthma symptoms.

Half have inadequately controlled symptoms.

Many have no access to essential asthma medicines, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
The new evidence in this report is intended to influence those in authority to act promptly and wisely to reduce the global burden of asthma.

New asthma research by GAN is summarised, including:

- prevalence and severity of asthma
- changes over time
- how it is managed

Equitable access to affordable quality-assured essential medicines for the treatment of asthma is vital.
Contents of the Global Asthma Report 2022

102 pages (18 chapters) written by 97 authors from 31 countries around the world

Foreword by Bente Mikkelsen, Director, Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) Department, World Health Organisation (WHO)

3 main parts:
I. The Burden of Asthma
II. Asthma in the WHO regions
III. Improving asthma management
33 key recommendations in the Global Asthma Report 2022

9 for WHO

10 for Governments

8 for Health authorities

5 for Health professionals, professional societies and patient organisations

1 for the Global Asthma Network
Part 1
The burden of asthma

Asthma should be well controlled
GAN has:

• established a unique network of collaborators enabling a range of studies to advance knowledge about asthma

• provided new standardised worldwide data on asthma including the prevalence and severity of asthma symptoms in children, adolescents and adults
Chapter 2
Asthma and factors affecting it

In LMICs:
• the proportion of people with non-allergic asthma is greater than in high-income countries
• environmental factors may act differently
Between a third and one half of children, adolescents and adults with asthma symptoms have severe symptoms that regularly interfere with everyday life.
Age-adjusted rates of asthma mortality have generally halved over a recent decade.

Many deaths are avoidable eg over-reliance on reliever medicines rather than preventer medicines.

Deaths remain much higher in LMICs where effective asthma management is non-existent or inaccessible.
Health authorities have the responsibility to ensure that all children, adolescents, and adults with asthma have equitable access to affordable care that gives them the best possible opportunity to achieve control of their asthma.
Children with asthma who are using inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) for asthma control should continue the use of ICS in the era of COVID-19.

ICS not associated with adverse COVID-19 or asthma outcomes.
Part 2
Asthma in WHO regions

Everyone should have access to good asthma management
Chapter 7
Asthma in the African region

Cameroon
Pollution and disease stigma are still significant barriers to achieving asthma control

Nigeria
Out of pocket expenses are still a barrier to asthma therapy

South Africa
Despite availability of asthma medications lack of asthma diagnosis is a barrier to care

Spirometry in Africa
Is building capacity for monitoring and evaluation
Mexico
Asthma remains a public health problem

Argentina
Training of health personnel is an important strategy

Brazil
Improvements in basic public health have lessened severe asthma

Costa Rica
Asthma management has improved
Chapter 9
Asthma in the Eastern Mediterranean region

Iran
Is improving management and asthma education programmes

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
A safe, quality health system, based on patient-centric care guided by standards, enabled by eHealth

Pakistan
Seasonal asthma is important

Sudan
Asthma is a neglected health problem

Syria
War homeless children are happy to receive an asthma research team. 40% had asthma symptoms, but only 8% diagnosed with asthma.
Chapter 10
Asthma in the European region

**Greece**
Satisfactory asthma care although some problems exist with refugee and immigrant children

**Kosovo**
No national asthma management programme, specific immunotherapy reimbursement, or biological treatments

**Russia**
Prevalence of asthma is growing not only due to the negative impact of environmental factors, but also due to better detection

**Spain**
Asthma kills as many people as traffic accidents
Chapter 11
Asthma in the South-East Asian region

Asthma prevalence:
• stable in Thailand
• decreasing trend in India and Sri Lanka

Challenges:
• air pollution
• biomass fuel
• inadequate treatment

To improve:
• public education
• regular supply of affordable inhalers
• proper implementation of asthma treatment guidelines
Chapter 12
Asthma in the Western Pacific region

Almost 1.9 billion people in 37 countries and areas

**China**
Economic development raises asthma concerns

**New Zealand**
Prevalence of asthma is decreasing

**Pacific Islands**
Lower prevalence but management needs to improve

**Taiwan**
Asthma prevalence increases as the economy develops
Part 3

Improving asthma management

Monitoring asthma in populations will lead to better outcomes for people with asthma
Combination inhaler with ICS and β2-agonist. Children, adolescents and adults with asthma should receive ICS-containing medicine, either symptom-driven in mild asthma, or daily.
The needs of patients with asthma in LMICs have much in common with those of patients with other CRDs and would benefit from joined-up approaches.
Chapter 15
Improving access to essential asthma medicines

Ensure WHO recommended essential asthma medicines are in:
• national asthma management guidelines
• Essential Medicines Lists
• reimbursement lists
• asthma training materials

All countries should implement robust pharmaceutical pricing policies
To fundamentally transform asthma management in LMICs,
• the first step is to achieve a high level of political commitment
• and a greater investment in asthma services.
Health professionals and policy makers should encourage patient advocacy to improve asthma outcomes.
Consider people with asthma in climate change strategies.

Impacts of climate change disproportionately fall on people who have fewer resources.
Global Asthma Report 2022
website

Visit our interactive website:

www.globalasthmareport.org


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The Global Asthma Report 2022 is launched!