

**Focus on...**

## California Workers Get Asthma From Their Jobs

Roughly 40% of California's adults with asthma, or an estimated 974,000 people, have asthma that has been caused or aggravated by their work. Nearly two-thirds of these workers did not have asthma until it was caused by conditions or substances at a job.

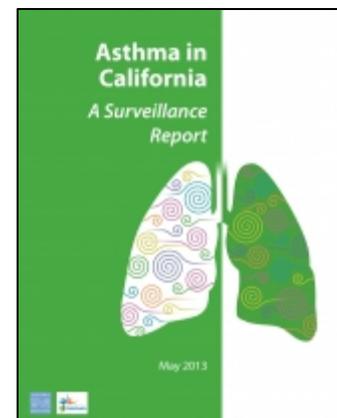
This is a key finding from a new asthma tracking report that includes a [chapter](#) devoted to work-related asthma.

The California Department of Public Health has just released, "[Asthma in California: A Surveillance Report](#)."

The Occupational Health Branch's [Work-Related Asthma Prevention Program \(WRAPP\)](#) analyzed data from a statewide survey conducted between 2006 and 2009 to estimate the extent of work-related asthma among Californians for the report.

The survey also showed that only 28% of people with work-related asthma reported having discussed work exposures with their doctor, illustrating that work-related asthma is often not recognized or diagnosed.

The impacts of work-related asthma are serious. Symptom frequency, asthma attacks, and limitation of activities were significantly more common among adults with work-related asthma compared to adults with asthma that is not work-related.



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### Resources

[Work-Related Asthma Surveillance Report Chapter](#)  
[Asthma in California: A Surveillance Report](#)  
[Tracking Work-Related Asthma](#)

**OHB** improves California worker health and safety through prevention activities. We gather information on job hazards, test new approaches to prevent worker injury and illness, and help make changes at the workplace.

Email [OHW@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:OHW@cdph.ca.gov) with feedback about this update or change of address.

