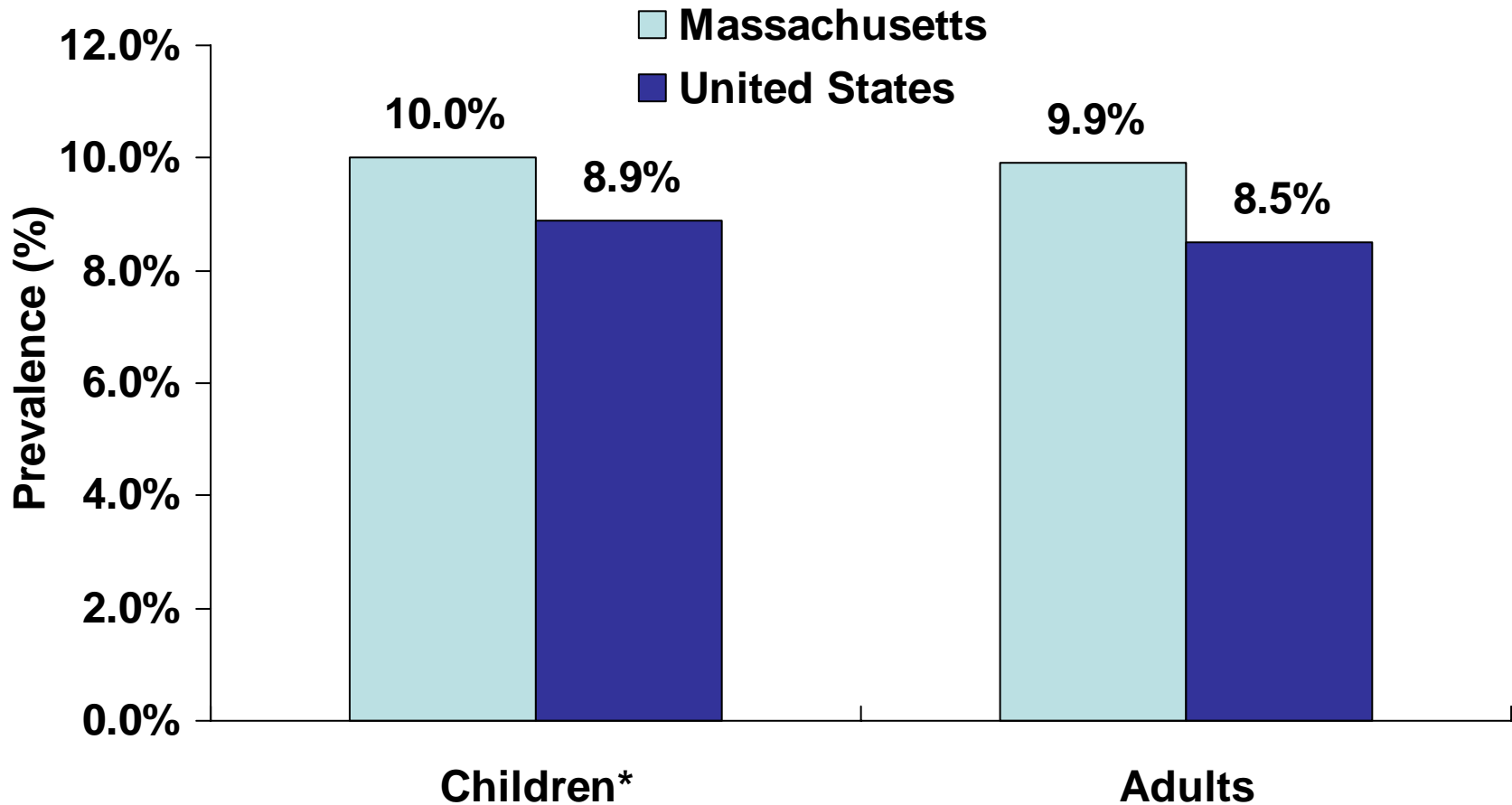


# **Asthma in Massachusetts – How are we doing?**

Lauren Smith, MD, MPH  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
June 2008

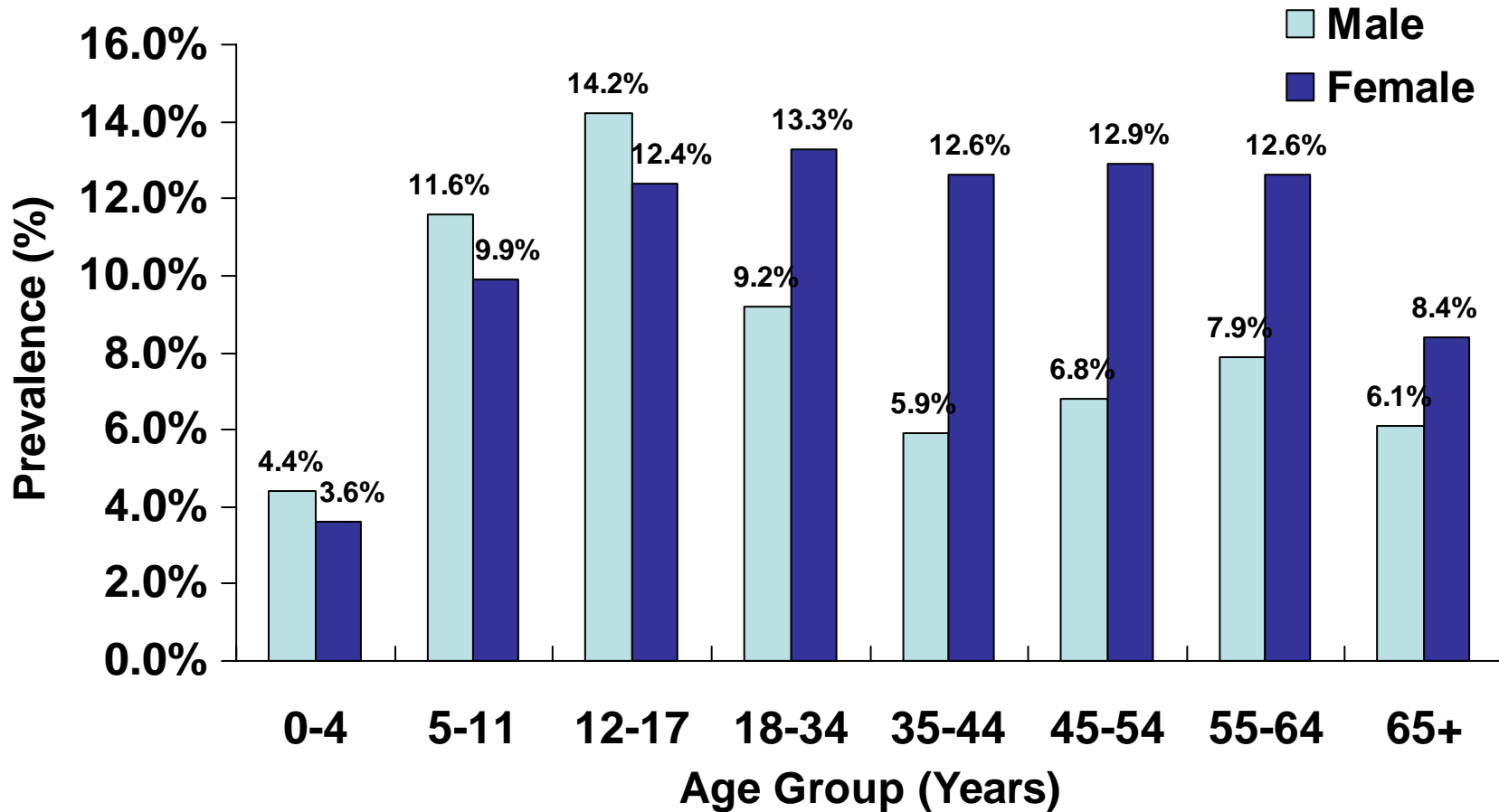
# Current Asthma Prevalence among Children and Adults, Massachusetts and US, 2006



\*2005 national asthma prevalence data are reported for children (most recent data available)

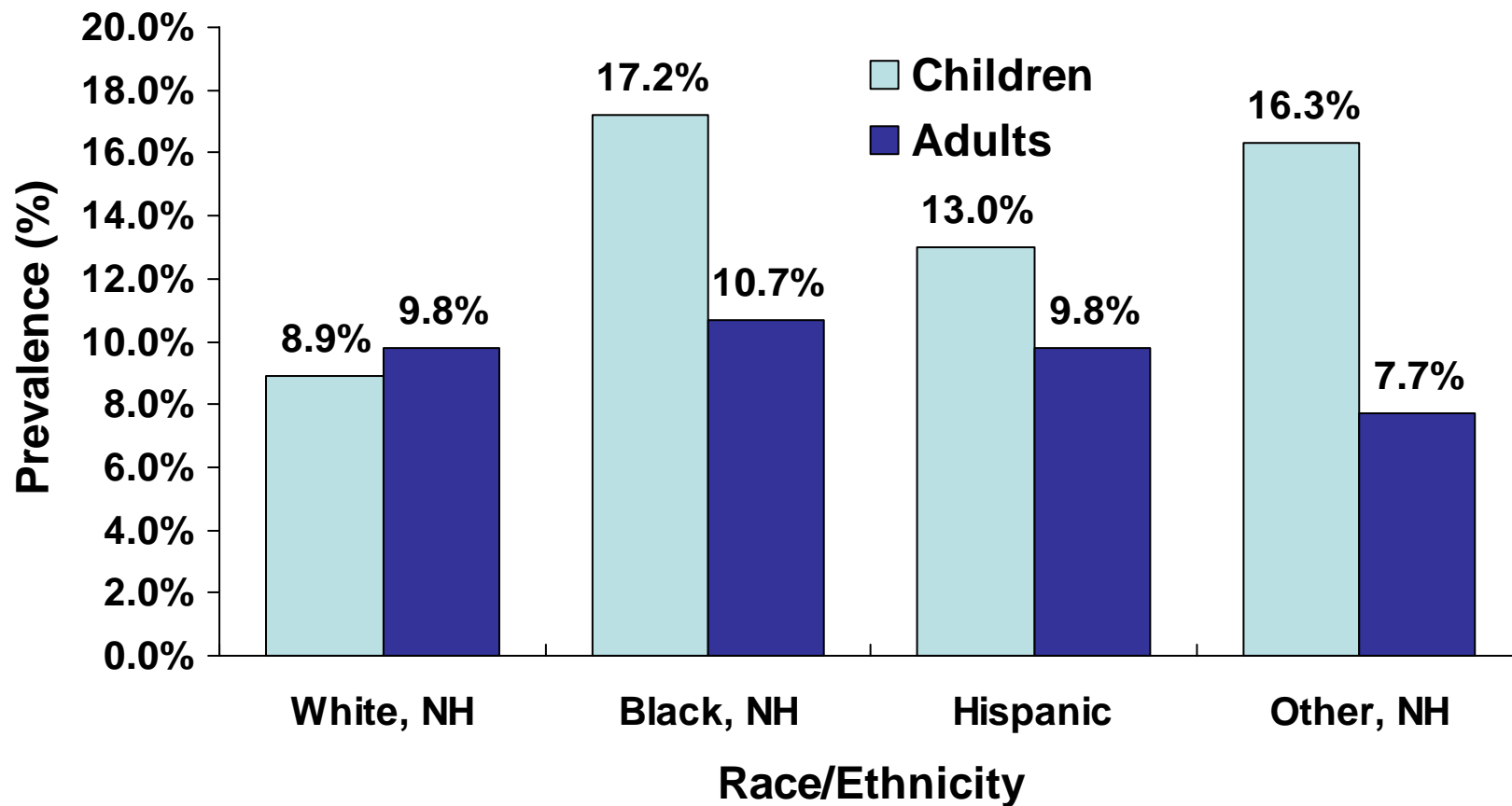
Data Source: 2006 MA Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; \*2005 National Health Interview Survey; 2006 CDC US Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

# Current Asthma Prevalence in MAs by Age Group and Gender, 2005-2006



Data Source: 2005-2006 Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

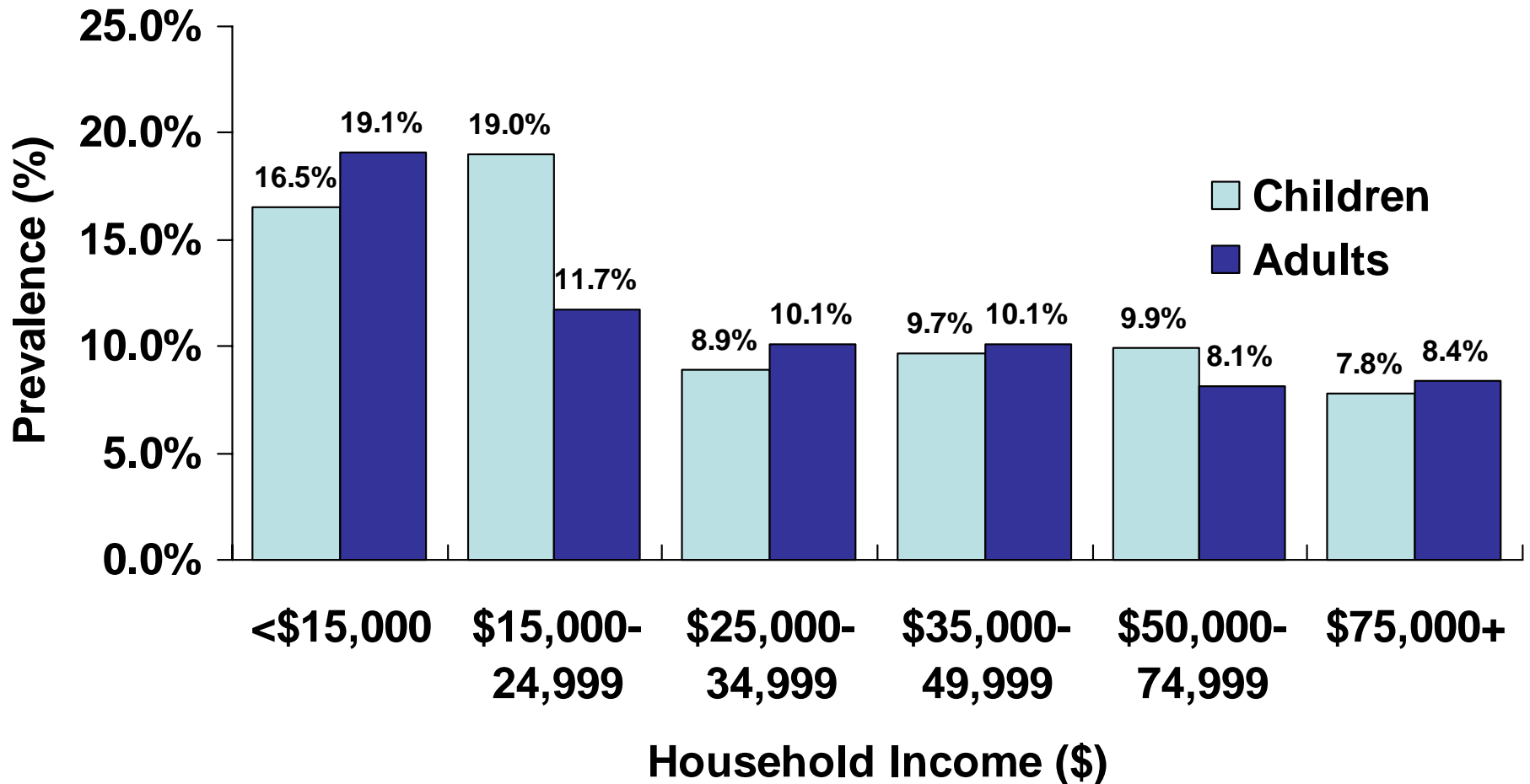
# Current Asthma Prevalence in MA Children & Adults by Race/Ethnicity, 2005-2006



Other includes Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, American Indian, Alaska Native, and other.

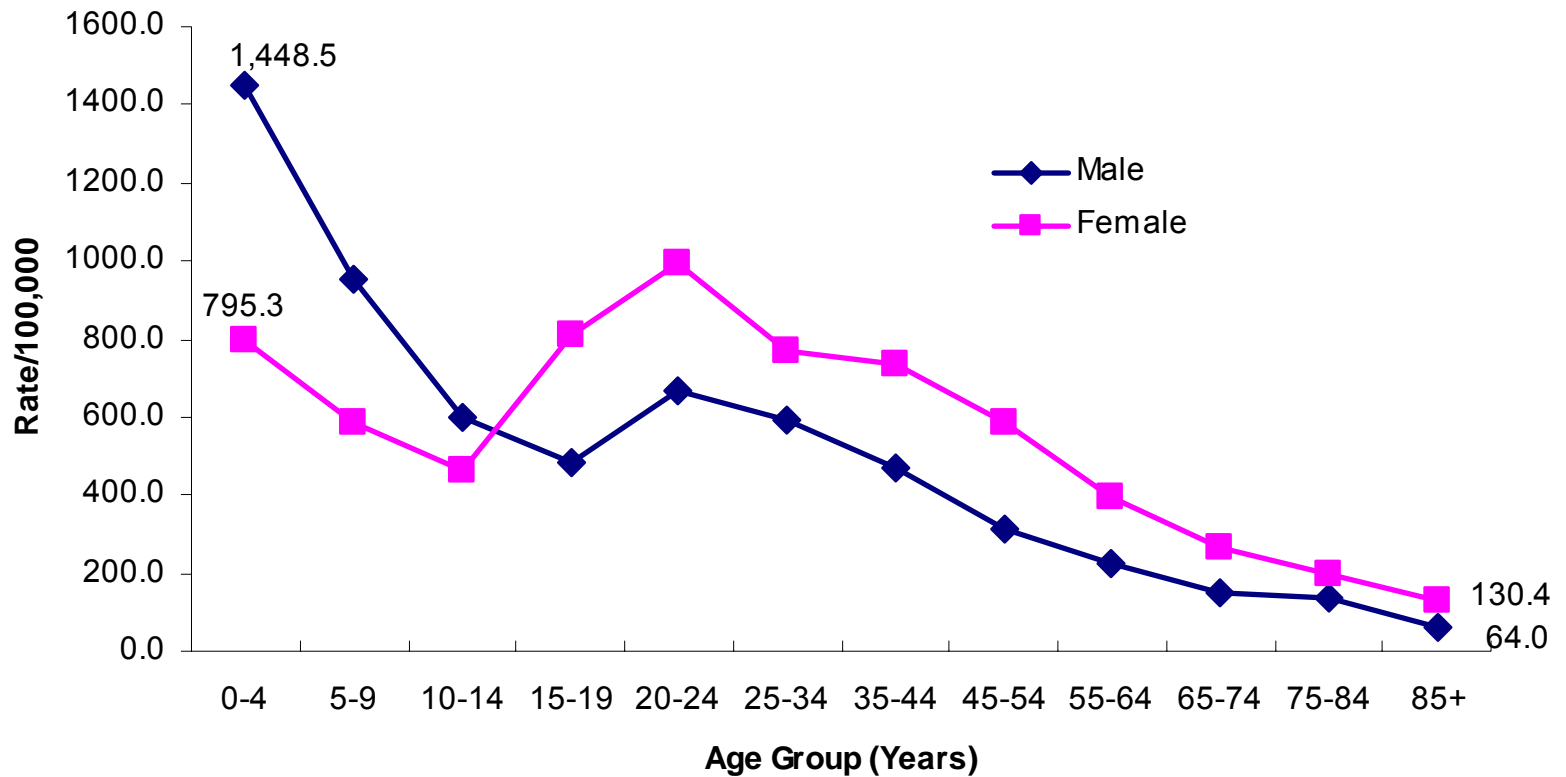
Data Source: 2005-2006 Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

# Current Asthma Prevalence in MA among Children & Adults by Household Income, 2005-2006



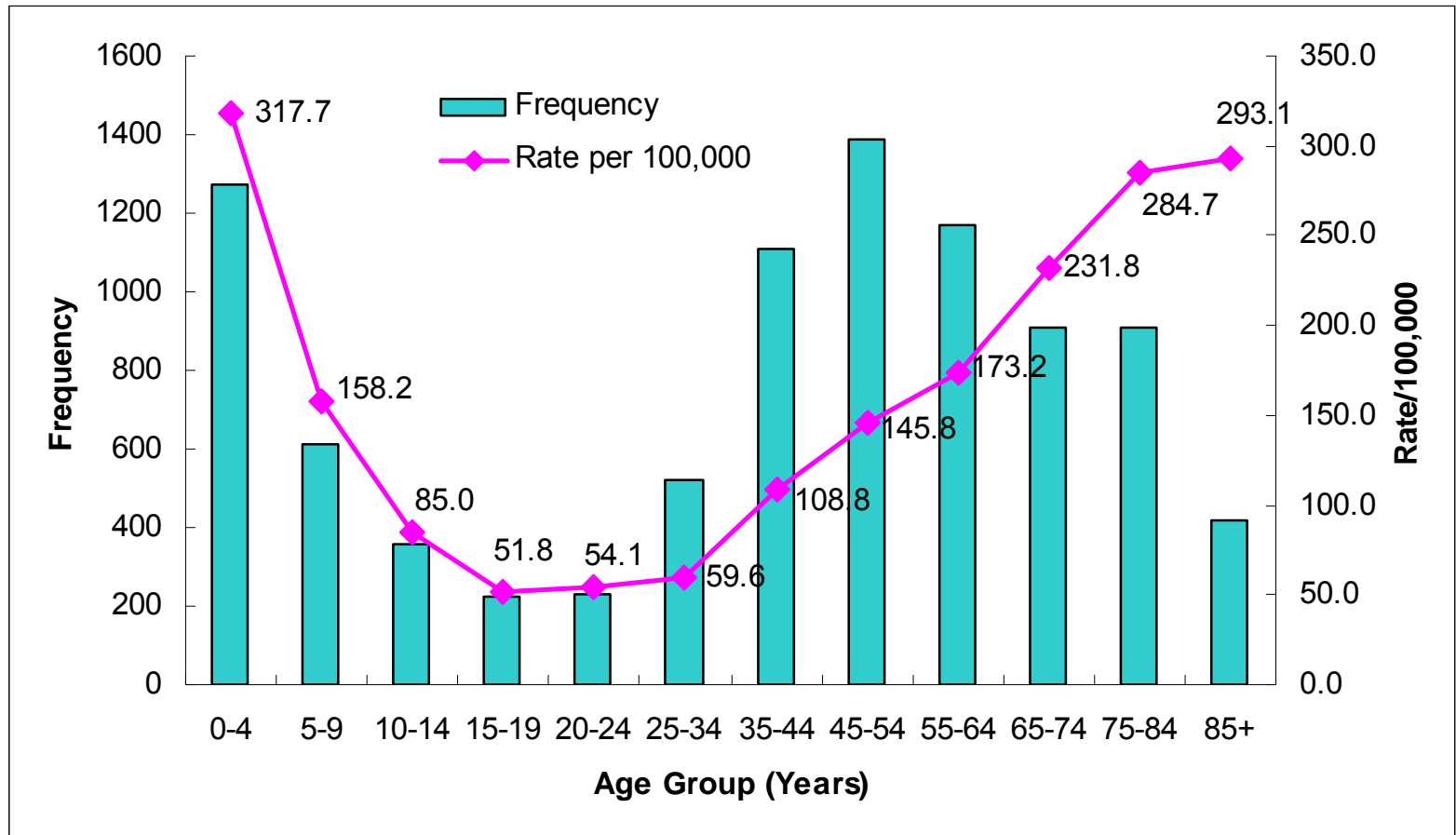
Data Source: 2005-2006 Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

# Age Specific Rates of ED Visits for Asthma by Gender, 2005



Data Source: CY2005 Massachusetts Emergency Department Database, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy

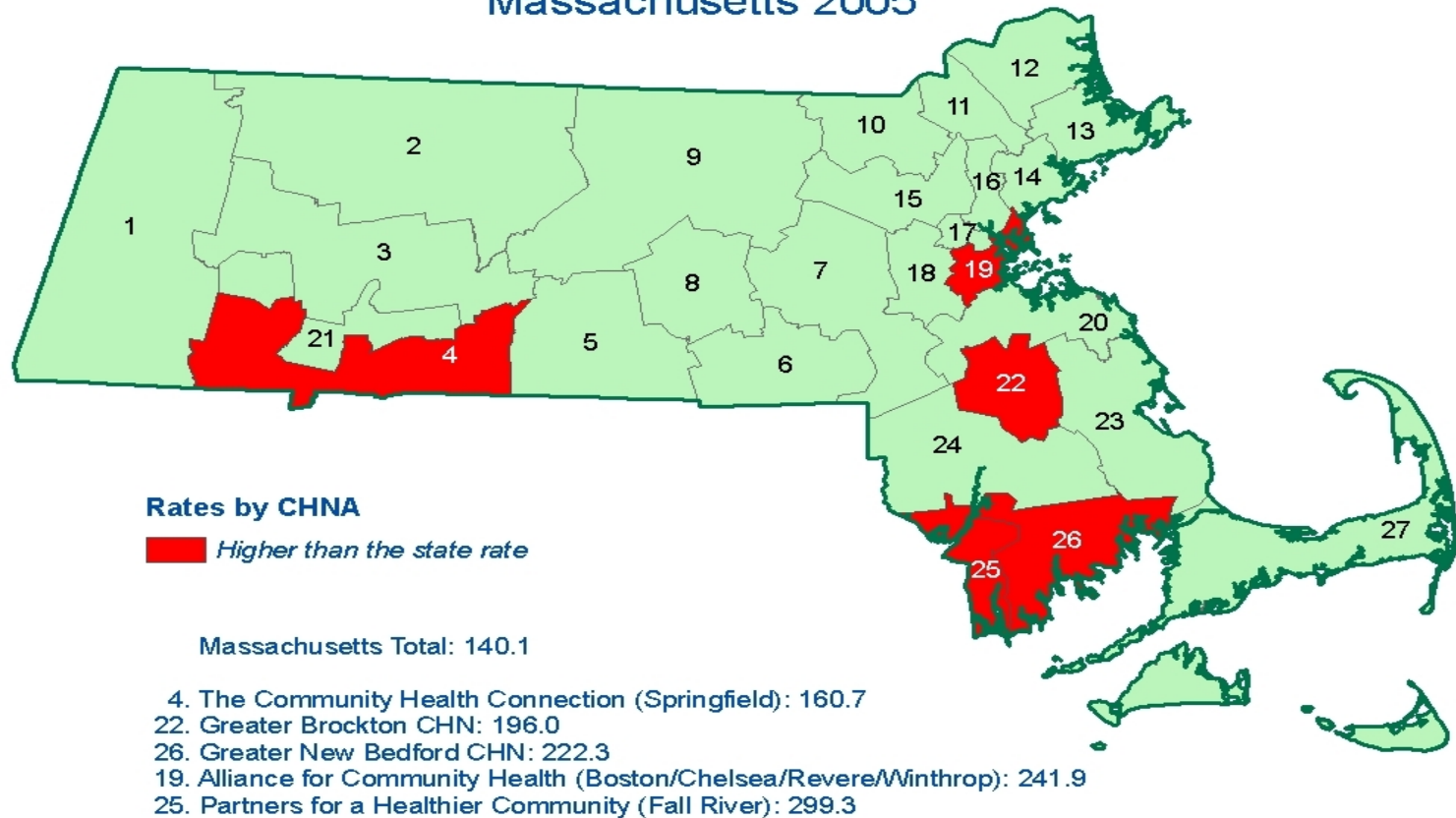
# Frequency & Age-Specific Rates of Inpatient Hospitalizations for Asthma in MA, 2005



Data Source: CY2005 Massachusetts Inpatient Hospital Discharge Database, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy

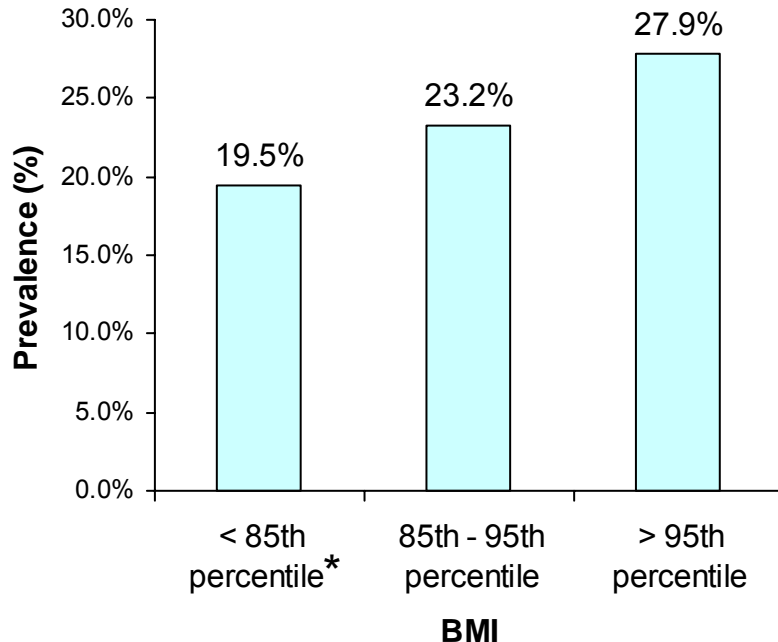
# Rates of Inpatient Hospitalization for Asthma by Geography in MA, 2005

Asthma Hospitalization Rates by  
Community Health Network Areas (CHNA)  
Massachusetts 2005



# Asthma Prevalence & Obesity

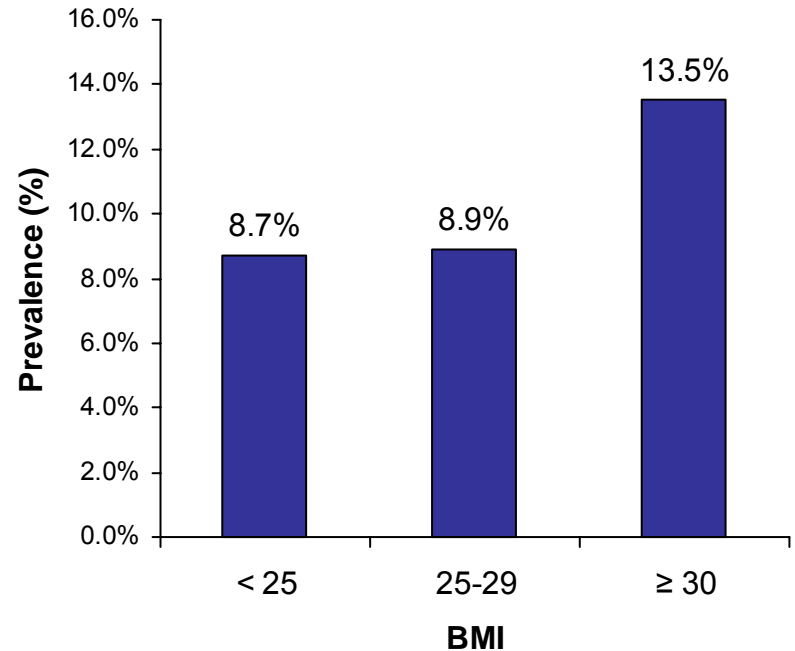
**Lifetime Asthma Prevalence among Middle and High School Students by BMI, MA 2004**



\* Does not include underweight

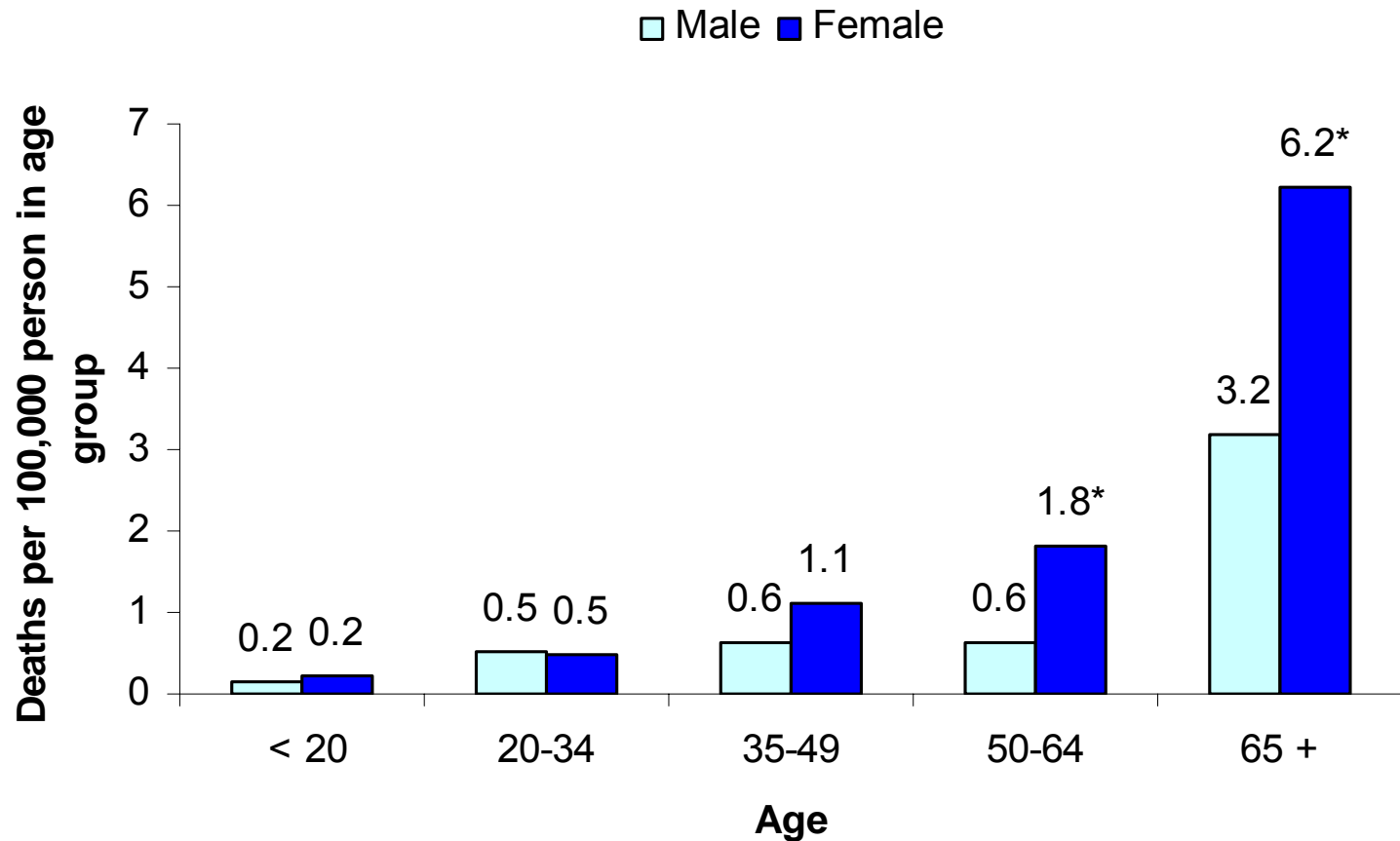
Source: MDPH, YHS, 2004

**Current Asthma Prevalence among Adults by BMI, MA 2003-2005 aggregated**



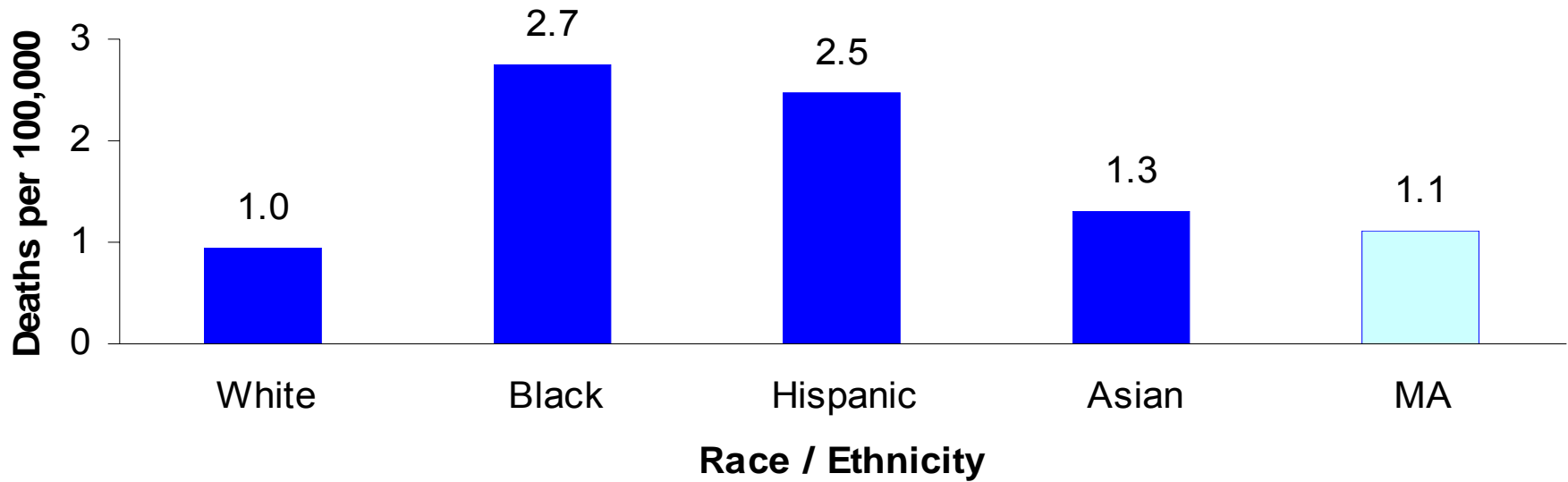
Source: MDPH, MA BRFSS, 2003-2005

# Asthma Mortality Rates per 100,000 by Age and Gender, MA 2003-2005



Source: MDPH, MA Registry of Vital Records & Statistics, 2003-2005

# Asthma Mortality Rates per 100,000 by Race/Ethnicity, MA 2003-2005 aggregated



Source: MDPH, MA Registry of Vital Records & Statistics, 2003-2005

Note: Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population

# Asthma Prevention and Control Office



# Mission of Asthma Prevention and Control Office (APCP)

- Surveillance
- Chronic disease management and environmental health
- Prevention of asthma
- Partner with communities
- Work with other MDPH program or State Agencies
- Evaluate

# Target Population \*

- Children aged 0 – 4 years
- Adults aged 65 years and older
- Blacks
- Hispanics/Latinos
- Geographic areas with hospitalization rates above state average
  - Boston, Brockton, Fall River, New Bedford, and Springfield

# Current Activities

- **Partnering with MAAP**
  - Revise Asthma Burden Document and State Asthma Plan by March 2009
- **Build Capacity of Local Areas**
  - Fund six health centers to do evidenced-based interventions (summer 2008)
  - Fund six asthma coalitions to develop asthma plans for locality (summer 2008)
- **Implement Parts of State Asthma Plan**
  - Community Health Workers
  - Day care regulations

# Current Surveillance Activities

- Conduct detailed analyses of the BRFSS Adult and Child Call-Back Survey
- Explore different geographic units
  - Community Health Network Area
  - Regional Planning Area
  - City/Town
  - Zip Code
- Revise the Massachusetts Asthma Burden document
- Update MassCHIP
- Custom Data Requests

# New Targeted Campaigns



makesmokinghistory.org

**BEFORE YOU  
LIGHT UP,  
LOOK DOWN.**

Children exposed to secondhand smoke are more likely to suffer from ear infections and asthma. **Secondhand smoke hurts.**

 Massachusetts Department of Public Health



makesmokinghistory.org

**MIRA ANTES  
DE FUMAR.**

Los niños expuestos al humo del cigarrillo pueden tener más infecciones de oído y asma. **El humo del cigarrillo hace daño.**

 Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts

# Contacts and Resources

- Jean Zotter, Director
  - [Jean.Zotter@state.ma.us](mailto:Jean.Zotter@state.ma.us), 617-994-9807
- Carrie Huisingh, Evaluator
  - [Carrie.huisingh@state.ma.us](mailto:Carrie.huisingh@state.ma.us), 617-624-5489
- Massachusetts Community Health Information Profile
  - Free, online access to health statistics
  - <http://masschip.state.ma.us/>
- Other Asthma Topics
  - <http://www.mass.gov/dph/topics/asthma.htm>

