Asthma Mortality: A Review

O. Kay Taylor PhD, Jenny Quff BA
Department of Research
Hurley Medical Center
Flint, MI

Background

It is estimated that 17 million deaths occur in the United States from asthma. The prevalence of asthma in children young 4-19 is 9-10 per 1,000 persons, but higher in their adults 18-29 years (10 per 1,000 persons) and those with lesions less than 18-29 years (15 per 1,000 persons).

Asthma is a complex, heterogeneous disease, which responds to treatment varies widely. Numerous factors including race, ethnicity, environmental, and genetic are among the factors that can exacerbate the short- and long-term management of asthma.

Review

In the United States, asthma is the second leading cause of death in children 1-19 years. The prevalence of asthma has increased over the past 20 years. A recent study in 2003 found that the prevalence of asthma has increased from 10 per 1,000 persons to 15 per 1,000 persons.

Conclusion

In conclusion:

- Asthma mortality has increased worldwide and in the US.
- Although some factors, such as smoking, obesity, and exposure to environmental pollutants, have been associated with increased asthma mortality, other factors may also play a role.
- Further research is needed to understand the mechanisms underlying asthma mortality.
- Preventive measures and effective treatment strategies are crucial in reducing asthma mortality.

April 2, 1961 – August 20, 2000

In memory of Steven Wayne Bauschel Who died on August 20, 2000 following an acute asthma attack.