

ASTHMA | SC TRACKING

SC BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM META DATA

BACKGROUND

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is the world's largest random telephone survey of the noninstitutionalized population aged 18 or older that is used to track health risks, behaviors, and preventative health practices in the United States. South Carolina has been administering the BRFSS survey annually since 1984. SC Tracking obtains BRFSS data from the SC BRFSS program.

DATA LIMITATIONS

BRFSS data is a self-reported and anonymous telephone-based survey. With self-reported data, several biases could influence the data, including self-report bias, recall bias, and non-coverage bias. Response rates for the BRFSS survey have been declining over time. Due to relatively small sample sizes, county and ZIP Code level data is not recommended for analysis at times due to suppression rules. Additionally, county-level estimates often need to aggregate several years' worth of data to show stable rates.

ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

Data is displayed as percentages. Blanks or missing data within maps, tables, or charts may be due to data not being available or BRFSS suppression rules. Data is unavailable when no observations were made for that specific group, and therefore estimates were not available. Suppression is applied in accordance with BRFSS guidelines to protect confidentiality. Data is suppressed when confidence intervals exceed 20%, the denominator is less than 50, county-level data has less than 200 observations for aggregated years, or county-level data has less than 500 observations for single years.

USE CONSTRAINTS

Any user of this data must have reviewed and understood the metadata content before attempting to understand, interpret or use BRFSS data. No attempt should be made to identify survey participants through use of this data set. This is a public dataset and is not for commercial purposes. Any use of this data should contain proper data source acknowledgement to: SC BRFSS.



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MEASURE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Asthma prevalence is displayed at the county and state-levels as aggregated by years 2019-2023 on the [Asthma Dashboard](#).

Asthma prevalence is obtained by asking participants if they have ever been told they have asthma and do they still currently have asthma. Demographic data displayed includes sex, race and ethnicity, disability, and income.

Data is updated annually and was last updated July 30, 2025.

SUGGESTED CITATION

SC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. [Graphic name]. Available online: www.dph.sc.gov/tracking. Accessed on [date accessed].

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Learn more about the National BRFSS program here:
www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html

Review SC BRFSS historical questions here:
<https://apps.dhec.sc.gov/Health/BFSSQuestionSearch/default.aspx>



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SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH VITAL STATISTICS META DATA

BACKGROUND

Vital Records is the state's official records keeper for vital information pertaining to births, deaths, marriages, and divorces occurring in South Carolina. South Carolina law requires the filing of birth and death certificates. This has been in effect since January 1, 1915. Death/mortality data pertains to all deaths that occur to South Carolina residents within and beyond state lines. Death certificates are used to denote the underlying or contributing cause of death.

DATA LIMITATIONS

Data does not include clinical data such as lab tests, or information on a deceased person's health status leading up to death. Additionally, data on vital events, such as deaths, can take a significant amount of time to be finalized and readily available by researchers.

ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

In accordance with standards established by the South Carolina Department of Public Health's (DPH) Bureau of Vital Statistics, numbers less than five are suppressed along with their associated rates to protect patient confidentiality.

USE CONSTRAINTS

Any user of this data must have reviewed and understood the metadata content before attempting to understand, interpret or use SC DPH Vital Statistics data. No attempt should be made to identify decedents through use of this data set. This is a public dataset and is not for commercial purposes. Any use of this data should contain proper data source acknowledge: DPH Vital Statistics. Additional data requests should be sent to DPH Vital Statistics.



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SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH VITAL STATISTICS META DATA

MEASURE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

The following data is displayed on the [Asthma Dashboard](#):

The number and age-adjusted rate of asthma mortality from 2019-2023 (aggregated) at the county-level. Data are also available for previous five-year intervals.

ICD-10 codes used to compile asthma mortality statistics include J45-J46.

Data is updated annually and was last updated July 30, 2025.

SUGGESTED CITATION

SC Department of Public Health Vital Statistics. [Graphic name]. Available online: www.dph.sc.gov/tracking. Accessed on [date accessed].

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Learn more about DPH Vital Records here:

www.dph.sc.gov/public/vital-records/about-vital-records

The South Carolina Community Assessment Network (SCAN) is an interactive data retrieval system for community assessment, planning, and health practices that can be used to create tables, charts, and maps using select vital record data. This interactive tool can be accessed here:

apps.dhec.sc.gov/Health/scan/scan/index.aspx



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SC REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE META DATA

BACKGROUND

The South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) provides diverse fiscal and statistical analyses, reports, and other services to various state and local government entities, the private sector, and South Carolinians. RFA collects healthcare data from all civilian hospitals in the the state, including emergency department reports, outpatient surgery report and inpatient reports.

RFA data is stored on the Private Sector Health Care Utilization Database, which contains information from the UB-04 billing system. The database includes all inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department visits from short-term acute care hospitals. The database includes information such as patient demographics, ICD-10 diagnoses and procedures, charges, length of stay, patient disposition, etc. The South Carolina Data Oversight Council, a seventeen member public/private body formed by the state statute with the SC RFA as staff, oversees the collection and release of information from this database.

DATA LIMITATIONS

RFA data is not population-based and does not include information on people at hospitals managed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Data is based on the county where residents live, not where they are diagnosed.

ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

In accordance with RFA guidelines, numbers less than five are suppressed to protect patient confidentiality. Associated crude rates, inpatient charges, and charges for emergency department visits are suppressed as well. Suppression is not required for age-adjusted rates as personal identity is protected as they are calculated, but may be suppressed when published on SC Tracking dashboards.



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SC REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE META DATA

USE CONSTRAINTS

Any user of this data must have reviewed and understood the metadata content before attempting to understand, interpret or use RFA data. No attempt should be made to identify patients through use of this data set. This is a public dataset and is not for commercial purposes. Any use of this data should contain proper data source acknowledgement: SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Health and Demographics Section. Additional data requests should be sent directly to SC RFA.

MEASURE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Asthma hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visit data shown are based on the primary diagnosis at discharge. All diagnosis codes equal to or beginning with J45 were included for analysis. The following data is displayed on the [Asthma Dashboard](#):

The number and age-adjusted rate of asthma hospitalizations and ED visits in 2019-2023 at the county-level.

The number of asthma ED visits in 2019-2023 and associated average and total charges by insurance type at the county and state-level.

The average number of asthma ED visits at the state-level by month for 2019-2023.

All rates are per 10,000 population. Data is updated annually and was last updated July 30, 2025.

SUGGESTED CITATION

SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Health Demographics Section. [Graphic name]. Available online: www.dph.sc.gov/tracking. Accessed on [date accessed].

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Learn more about SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office here:
<https://rfa.sc.gov/>



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