

How does asthma relate to behavior and mental health?

Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise Counties, Texas

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Asthma has an effect on a child's general physical health; but how does asthma relate to a child's overall behavior and mental health?

CCHAPS asked parents of children with and without asthma to describe the child's mental health and related behavior.



Parents report that children with asthma have more behavior issues:

2.3	times more likely to have eating problems
2.0	“ experience a traumatic event
1.9	“ have sleeping problems
1.8	“ be negatively obsessive
1.7	“ wet the bed after age 5
1.6	“ have self-esteem issues

CONCLUSIONS:

11.1% of all parents reported behavior issues with their child. Parents of children with asthma reported 17.5% of children, or one and a half as many, have behavior issues.

The behavior and mental health issues parents relate with asthma cover a wide variety of potential problems.

We need a better understanding of how behavior and mental health issues may relate to asthma.

Source: CCHAPS 2008 at www.cchaps.org accessed October 2009.
CCHAPS is a random household survey reporting responses from 7,439 families with a child aged 0 – 14

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