

How does asthma relate to physical health?

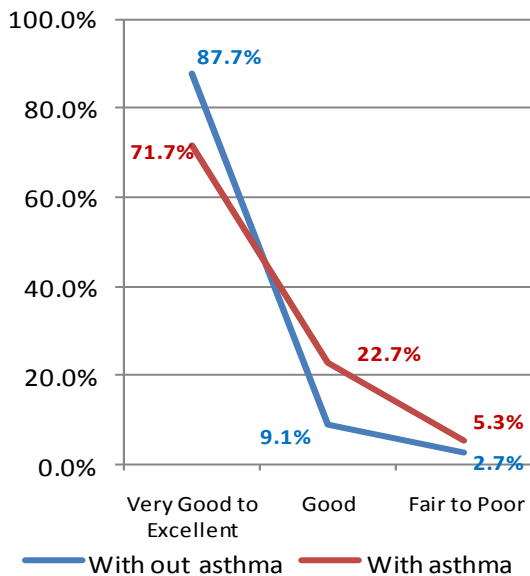
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While it is not clear what causes asthma, we know that there are things that “trigger” asthma and that asthma can be “controlled.” But, how does asthma relate to a child’s overall physical health?

CCHAPS asked parents of children with and without asthma to describe the child’s physical health. Parents also answered questions about other health issues.



Parents report that children with asthma have other health problems:

- 4.1 times more likely to limit on activity
- 2.6 “ have a tonsillectomy
- 2.4 “ have diabetes
- 2.3 “ have hay fever
- 2.1 “ have a food allergy
- 2.1 “ have migraine headaches
- 2.0 “ experience vision problems
- 1.9 “ have bone / muscle problems
- 1.8 “ need and get ear tubes

CONCLUSIONS:

Parents report that their child with asthma is generally less healthy than other children without asthma.

The health problems parents relate with asthma cover a wide variety of issues.

Better understanding is needed of how these other 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