|  |
| --- |
| **First Nations people with asthma** |
| Naila Rahman1, Alison Watters1,Katherine Faulks1 |
| *1Chronic Conditions Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare* |
| Introduction/Aim:Asthma is the most common respiratory condition reported by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) people and is a significant cause of poor health and health service use.  This paper will provide insights into asthma in First Nations people in terms of prevalence, related deaths, hospital visits, emergency department presentations, as well as action plan uptake, burden of disease and impact on quality of life.  Methods: Data for the report has been sourced from the:   * 2018–19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey * National Hospital Morbidity Database * National Non-Admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database * National Mortality Database.   Results: Key findings   * 16% of First Nations people reported having asthma (128,000 people) in 2018–19, with a higher rate among females (18%) compared with males (13%) * The prevalence of asthma in First Nations people increased with age, from 12% in children aged 0–14 to 26% in those aged 55 and over * First Nations people living in *Major cities* were more likely to report having asthma (19%) than those living in *Remote* (12%) or *Very remote* areas (7%) * In 2018, asthma was the 4th leading cause of non-fatal burden among First Nations people under 45 years * In 2018–19, of First Nations people with asthma, 56% reported using asthma medications and 32% had a written asthma action plan.   The paper will also include latest data on risk factors, comorbidities, and quality of life measures such as self-assessed health status and psychological distress.  Trend data will also be presented for deaths, hospitalisations and emergency department presentations.  Conclusion:Detailed reporting on First Nations people will improve understanding of the impact of asthma and inform national policies and strategies on treatment and management.  Grant Support:This work was funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care as part of the National Centre for Monitoring Chronic Conditions work plan.  Key words: asthma, First Nations people, impact |