

Pursuant to Public Act No. 01-4, *An Act Concerning the Implementation of Expenditures for Various State Health Programs and Services and Making Technical and Other Changes to Certain Public Health and Related Statutes*, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health's (DPH) Asthma Program has established a statewide system for school-based asthma surveillance based on the school Health Assessment Record (HAR).

The Public Act also requires that schools report to the DPH, on an annual basis, information on students having a diagnosis of asthma as defined by the presence of one or a combination of the following: a provider's diagnosis on the HAR, a provider asthma medication order, an Asthma Action Plan on file from a provider, a parental note specifying the child has asthma, or observed symptoms of asthma by the school nurse. Districts are mandated to report only students in grades requiring an HAR (preK/K, grade 6/7 and grade 10/11). Information reported includes age, gender, race, ethnicity, grade, asthma severity and diagnosis source.

This data brief summarizes some key points from the 2004-2005 school year.

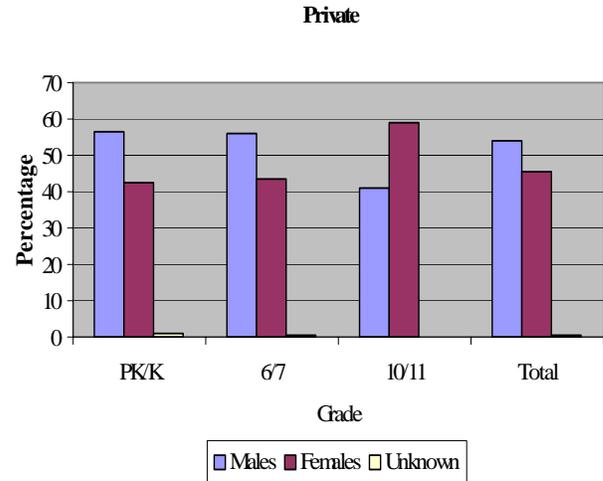
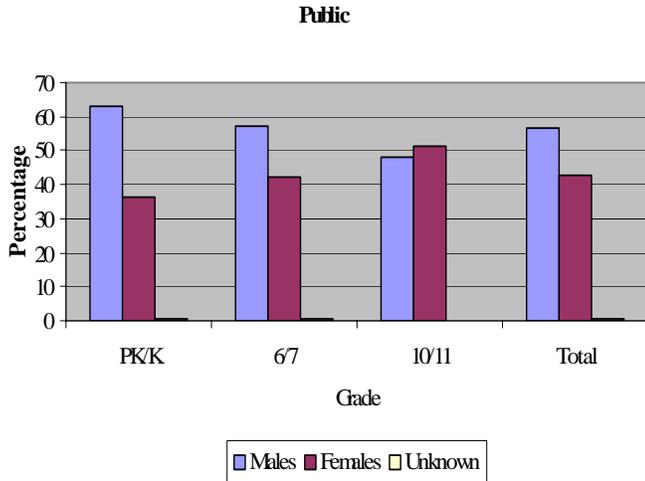
Asthma Rates by Grade: 2004-2005

Public	Grade	# Reported	# Enrolled	Rate per 100
	PK/K	5457	46857	11.65
6/7	5901	54336	10.86	
10/11	3955	43845	9.02	
Total	15313	145038	10.56	
Nonpublic	Grade	# Reported	# Enrolled	Rate per 100
	PK/K	578	6750	8.56
6/7	473	3848	12.29	
10/11	200	2688	7.44	
Total	1251	13286	9.42	

Asthma rates in the public schools decreased as grade increased. This trend did not hold true in private schools where the 6/7 graders showed the highest rate of asthma. Overall, public schools had a higher rate of asthma than private schools. It should also be noted that these rates are considerably higher than was reported for the 2003-2004 school year. This increase is mostly attributed to the change in reporting requirements that took place between these two school years, which broadened the definition of an asthma diagnoses. As a result, the number of asthmatics that was reported in 2004-2005 was roughly double what was reported in 2003-2004.

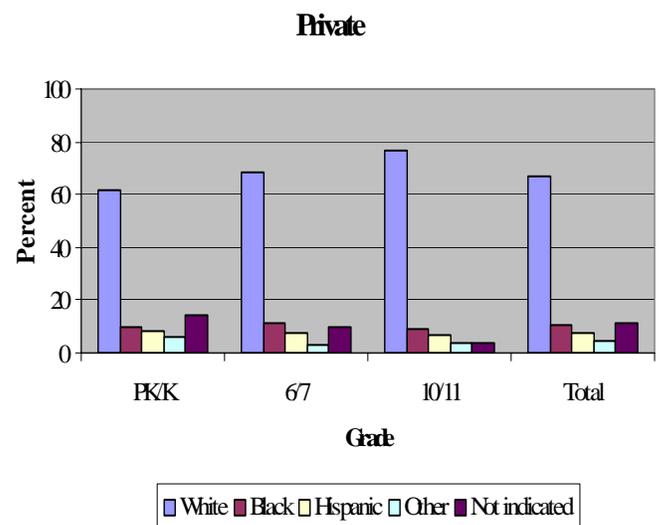
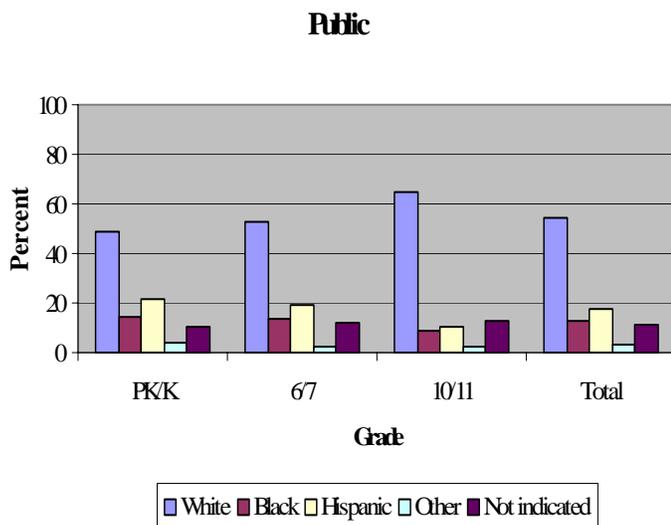
More males than females were reported as having asthma in both public and private schools. This overall trend held true for students in PK/K and 6/7 grades, however more females than males were reported as having asthma in grades 10/11.

Students with Asthma by Grade and Gender



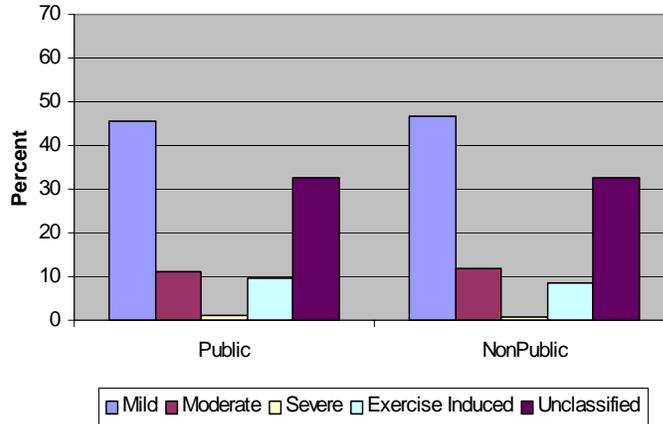
Whites represented the largest percentage of reported asthmatics for both public and private schools. This is likely due to the fact that whites make up the largest percentage of students in the schools. In public schools, Hispanics represented the second highest overall percentage followed by blacks, while in nonpublic schools blacks reported a higher percentage than Hispanics. The percentage of Hispanics reported in public schools decreased as grade increased.

Students with Asthma by Grade and Race/Ethnicity

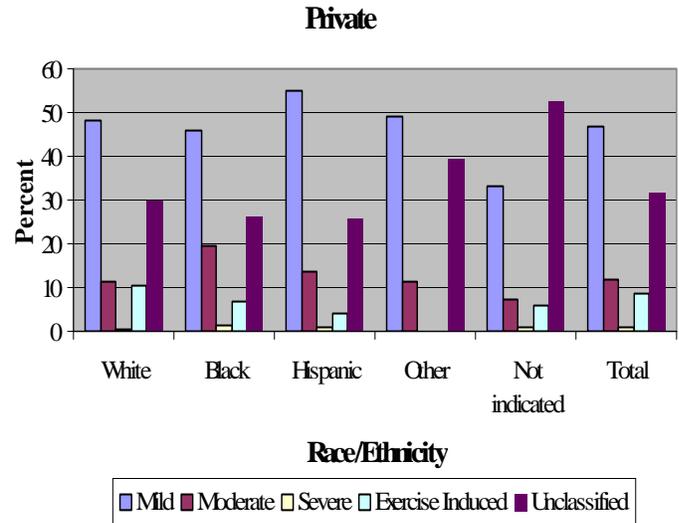
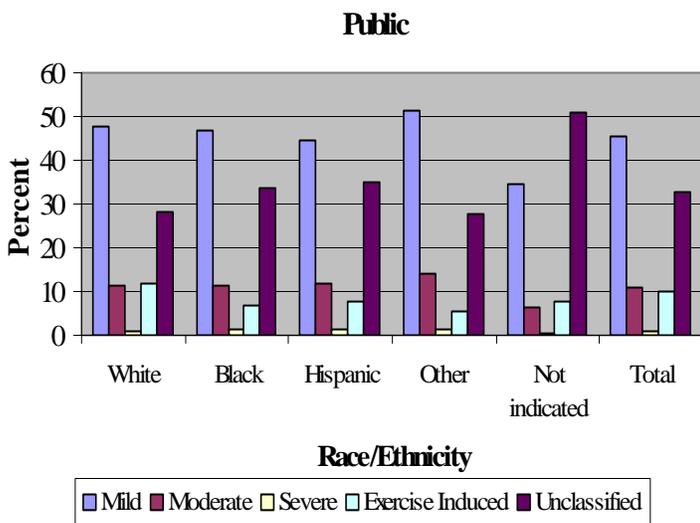


The majority of reported asthmatics were of mild severity across all race/ethnic groups, with moderate being the second highest reported severity in both public and private schools. Blacks reported the highest percentage of moderate asthmatics in nonpublic schools, at around 19%. Cases of severe asthmatics remained low in both public and private schools. Whites reported the highest percentage of exercise-induced asthma in both public and private schools.

Students With Asthma by Severity and School Type

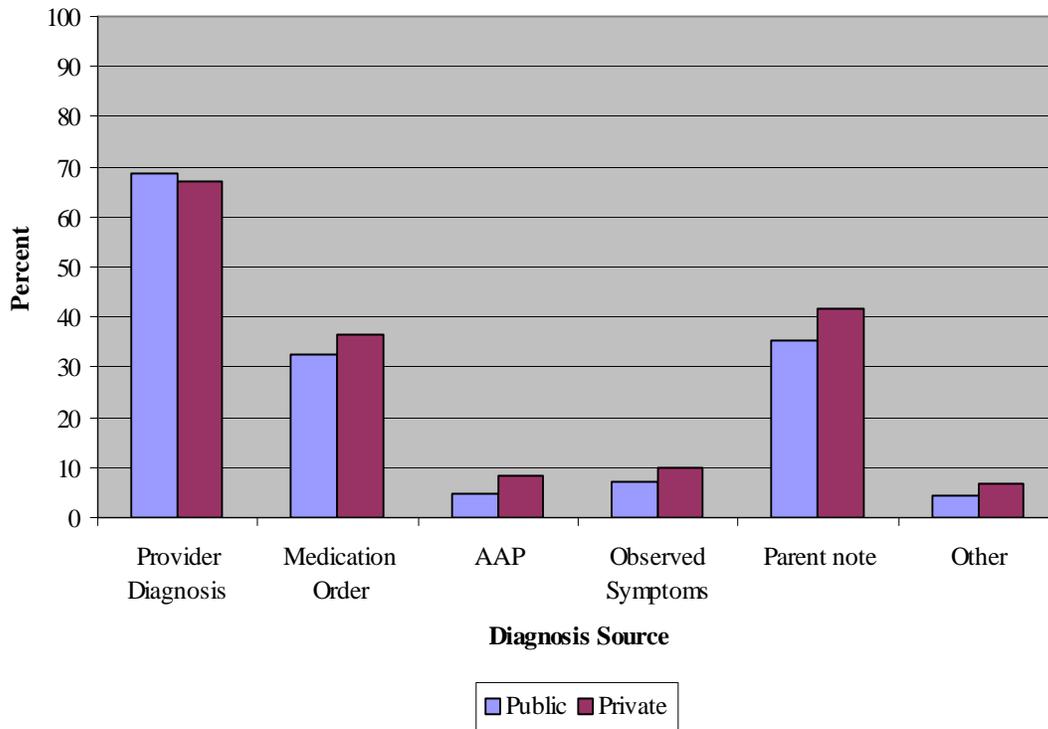


Students with Asthma by Race/Ethnicity and Severity



Nurses were instructed to identify an asthmatic by the presence of one or more of the specified diagnostic sources. About 70% of reported asthmatics had a provider's diagnosis of asthma on the HAR form. Approximately 33% of asthmatics had a medication order on file, and 5% had an Asthma Action Plan on file in the nurse's office.

Diagnosis Source by School Type



School District	PK/K	6/7	10/11	Totals
Andover	7	0	0	7
Ansonia	31	38	26	95
Ashford	13	9	0	22
Avon	14	21	0	35
Barkhamsted	3	0	0	3
Berlin	31	20	38	89
Bethany	6	0	0	6
Bethel Public Schools	25	35	27	87
Bloomfield	44	38	37	119
Bolton	5	12	18	35
Bozrah	5	0	0	5
Branford	22	28	33	83
Bridgeport	324	290	16	630
Bristol	84	69	130	283
Brookfield	37	24	38	99
Brooklyn	19	23	0	42
Canaan	1	4	0	5
Canterbury	13	10	0	23
Canton	18	19	15	52
Capitol Region Educational Council	55	169	46	270
Chaplin	6	8	0	14
Cheshire	20	29	36	85
Chester	4	5	0	9
Clinton	16	33	13	62
Colchester	18	54	29	101
Colebrook Consolidated	1	0	0	1
Columbia	10	8	0	18
Cooperative Educational Services	1	7	6	14
Cornwall	0	1	0	1
Coventry	11	31	18	60
Cromwell	20	29	21	70
Danbury	83	0	19	102
Darien	27	27	18	72
Deep River	5	0	0	5
Derby	0	21	9	30
East Granby	5	25	12	42
East Haddam	8	14	11	33
East Hampton	23	48	5	76
East Hartford	56	64	124	244
East Haven	21	37	25	83
East Lyme	16	24	35	75
East Windsor	26	18	14	58
Eastford	4	5	0	9
Easton	9	5	0	14
Ellington	16	28	23	67
Enfield	62	70	60	192

School District	PK/K	6/7	10/11	Totals
Essex	1	5	0	6
Fairfield	76	73	51	200
Farmington	20	23	36	79
Franklin	4	5	0	9
Glastonbury	34	33	24	91
Granby	11	30	25	66
Greenwich	61	79	73	213
Griswold	20	31	24	75
Groton	81	51	11	143
Guilford	32	25	22	79
Hamden	56	59	7	122
Hampton	7	4	0	11
Hartford	331	356	72	759
Hartland	2	1	0	3
Hebron	8	6	0	14
ISAAC School	0	14	0	14
Kent	5	4	0	9
Killingly	45	23	32	100
Lebanon	10	9	17	36
Ledyard	18	34	24	76
Lisbon	4	2	0	6
Litchfield	5	8	13	26
Madison	48	43	54	145
Manchester	123	171	75	369
Mansfield	16	36	0	52
Marlborough	6	0	0	6
Meriden	104	87	92	283
Middletown	85	69	35	189
Milford	98	51	43	192
Monroe	31	11	0	42
Montville	20	24	21	65
Naugatuck	18	57	57	132
New Britain	203	154	0	357
New Canaan	25	3	5	33
New Fairfield	14	27	30	71
New Hartford	17	0	0	17
New Haven	280	288	172	740
New London	45	40	13	98
New Milford	50	68	40	158
Newington	44	58	59	161
Newtown	45	78	61	184
Norfolk	2	4	0	6
North Branford	20	9	21	50
North Canaan	6	4	0	10
North Haven	26	44	28	98
North Stonington	8	5	4	17

School District	PK/K	6/7	10/11	Totals
Norwalk	68	111	64	243
Norwich	101	75	9	185
Norwich Free Academy	0	0	9	9
Odyssey Community School	0	14	0	14
Old Saybrook	9	18	21	48
Orange	25	24	0	49
Oxford	20	15	0	35
Plainfield	18	29	30	77
Plainville	23	22	27	72
Plymouth	27	34	24	85
Pomfret	1	2	0	3
Portland	25	11	29	65
Preston	9	6	0	15
Putnam	29	15	20	64
Redding	23	25	0	48
Region #1	0	0	11	11
Region #10	3	8	20	31
Region #12	9	4	4	17
Region #13	27	39	35	101
Region #14	2	11	26	39
Region #15	19	43	23	85
Region #16	16	10	7	33
Region #18	10	14	10	34
Region #4	0	18	0	18
Region #6	7	12	11	30
Region #7	0	16	13	29
Region #8	0	1	43	44
Region #9	0	0	18	18
Region 11	0	10	11	21
Region 17	17	13	18	48
Region 19	0	0	52	52
Regional Multicultural Magnet	9	0	0	9
Ridgefield	41	44	30	115
Rocky Hill	26	19	15	60
Salem	1	5	0	6
Salisbury	5	6	0	11
Scotland	3	2	0	5
Seymour	18	29	23	70
Sharon	2	5	0	7
Shelton	39	82	14	135
Sherman	2	1	0	3
Simsbury	34	52	68	154
Somers	7	17	10	34
South Windsor	30	46	65	141
Southington	58	47	64	169
Sprague	3	9	0	12

School District	PK/K	6/7	10/11	Totals
Stafford	42	11	25	78
Stamford	111	140	85	336
Sterling	9	15	0	24
Stonington	28	28	26	82
Stratford	46	109	70	225
Suffield	19	21	20	60
Thomaston	11	17	2	30
Thompson	20	22	14	56
Tolland	19	16	11	46
Torrington	40	53	38	131
Trumbull	36	49	0	85
Union	0	1	0	1
Vernon	42	80	50	172
Voluntown	5	7	0	12
Vo-Tech	0	0	47	47
Wallingford	53	51	57	161
Waterbury	336	189	142	667
Waterford	16	43	39	98
Watertown	17	28	19	64
West Hartford - public	94	92	97	283
West Haven	41	56	15	112
Westbrook	8	5	7	20
Weston	17	12	5	34
Westport	18	30	32	80
Wethersfield	14	30	18	62
Willington	5	9	0	14
Wilton	32	16	9	57
Winchester	16	7	12	35
Windham	103	63	73	239
Windsor	38	56	25	119
Windsor Locks	15	31	20	66
Wolcott	24	27	12	63
Woodbridge	6	0	0	6
Woodstock	20	17	0	37
Woodstock Academy	0	0	18	18