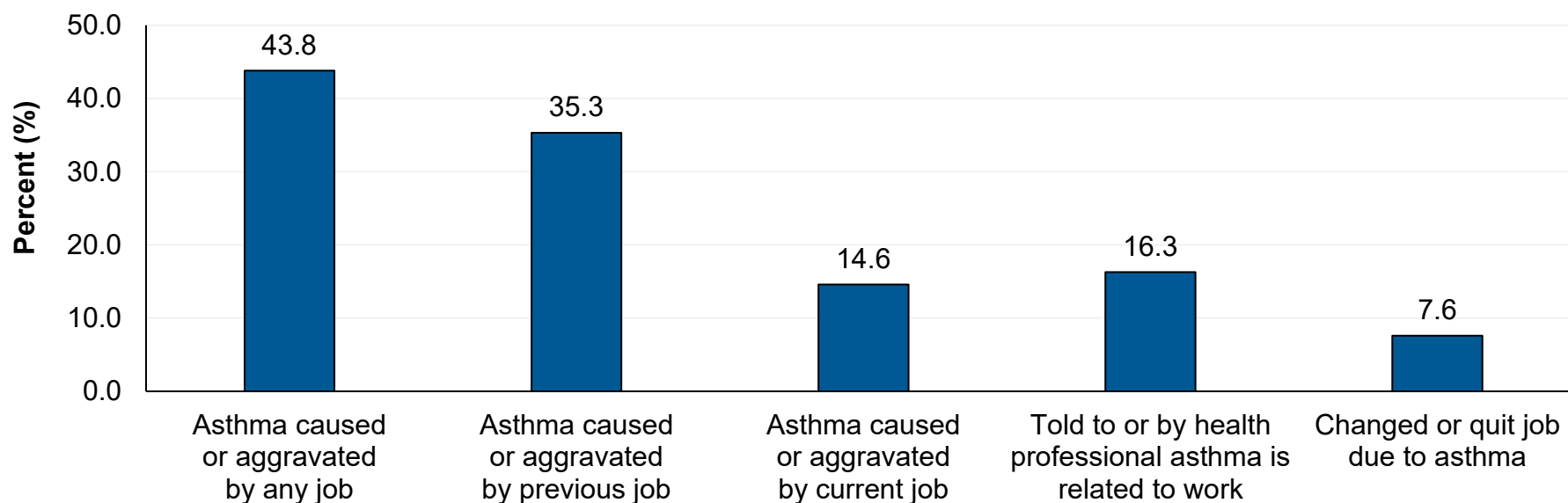


Work-Related Asthma in the Asthma Call-Back Survey, 2013-2023

Data Figures and Tables

Figure 1. Work-Related Asthma among Ever-Employed Adults with Current Asthma, Massachusetts, 2013-2023



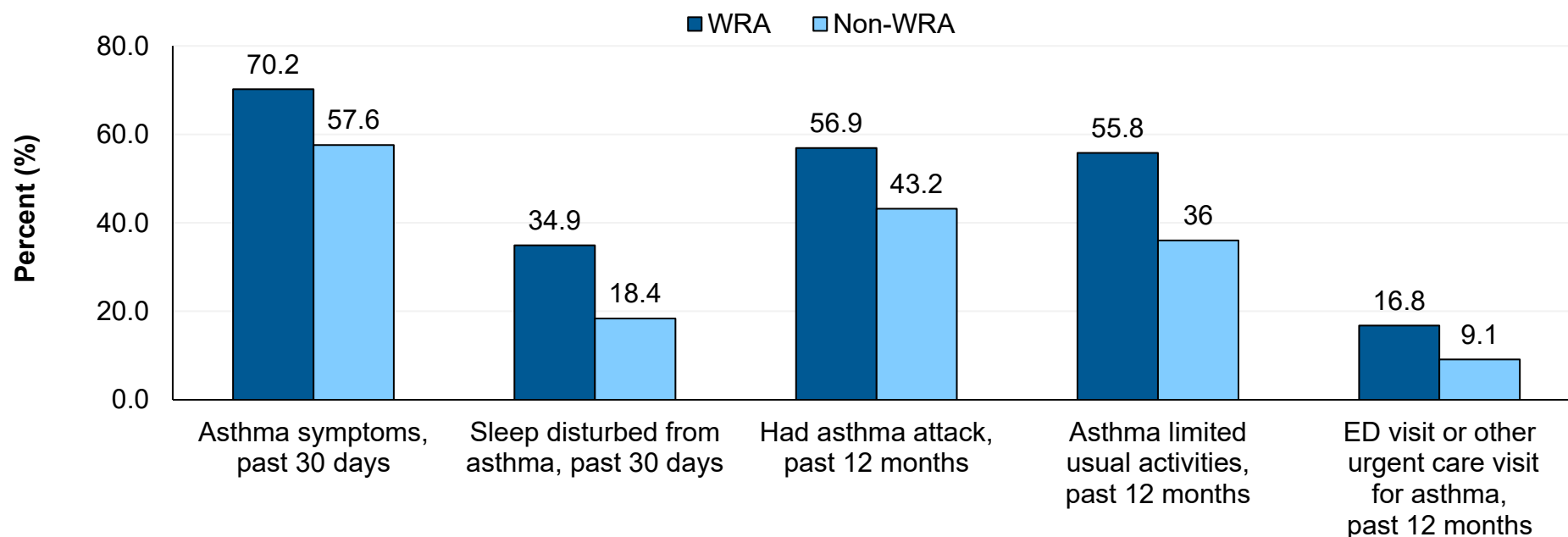
| Work-Related Asthma Indicator | Sample Size (n) ¹ | Percent (%) ² | 95% Confidence Interval (%) |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Asthma caused or aggravated by any job | 3,064 | 43.8 | 40.3 – 47.3 |
| Asthma caused or aggravated by previous job | 3,071 | 35.3 | 32.0 – 38.5 |
| Asthma caused or aggravated by current job | 3,169 | 14.6 | 12.2 – 16.9 |
| Told to or by health professional asthma related | 3,177 | 16.3 | 13.9 – 18.7 |
| Changed or quit job due to asthma | 3,208 | 7.6 | 6.0 – 9.3 |
| Told by health professional asthma related to | 3,184 | 9.6 | 7.9 – 11.3 |

1. Sample size is the number of respondents who answered the corresponding questions(s).

2. Percent is weighted to population characteristics.

Data Source: 2013-2023 BRFSS Adult Asthma Call-back Survey, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Figure 2. Asthma Impact/Impairment among Ever-Employed Adults with Current Asthma by Work-Related Asthma (WRA) Status, Massachusetts, 2013-2023



| Asthma Impact/Impairment Measure | WRA | | | Non-WRA | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Sample Size (n) ¹ | Percent (%) ² | 95% Confidence Interval (%) | Sample Size (n) ¹ | Percent (%) ² | 95% Confidence Interval (%) |
| Asthma symptoms, past 30 days | 1,101 | 70.2 | 65.6-74.8 | 1,176 | 57.6 | 52.2 – 62.9 |
| Sleep disturbed from asthma, past 30 days | 1,081 | 34.9 | 29.8-40.0 | 1,187 | 18.4 | 14.7-22.1 |
| Had asthma attack, past 12 months | 1,119 | 56.9 | 52.0-61.8 | 1,196 | 43.2 | 37.9-48.5 |
| Asthma limited usual activities, past 12 months | 1,126 | 55.8 | 51.0-60.7 | 1,209 | 36.0 | 31.3-40.7 |
| ED visit or other urgent care visit for asthma, past 12 months | 1,130 | 16.8 | 12.8-20.7 | 1,210 | 9.1 | 6.5-11.6 |

1. Sample size is the number of respondents who answered the corresponding questions(s).

2. Percent is weighted to population characteristics.

Data Source: 2013-2023 BRFSS Adult Asthma Call-back Survey, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Information on Data Source and Methods

The Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) provides self-reported population-based data on a variety of health indicators for adults ages 18 and older. BRFSS respondents who report having been diagnosed with asthma are asked to participate in the Asthma Call-Back Survey (ACBS). Since 2006, an extensive list of questions on work-related asthma has been included in the BRFSS Adult ACBS.

The seven questions below pertaining to asthma and the work environment were asked of ACBS respondents who had ever been employed (i.e., currently employed or had ever worked outside the home, despite being currently unemployed).

1. Were you ever told by a doctor or other health professional that your asthma was related to any job you ever had?
2. Did you ever tell a doctor or other health professional that your asthma was related to any job you ever had?
3. Was your asthma caused by chemicals, smoke, fumes or dust in your current job?
4. Is your asthma made worse by chemicals, smoke, fumes or dust in your current job?
5. Was your asthma caused by chemicals, smoke, fumes or dust in any previous job you ever had?
6. Was your asthma made worse by chemicals, smoke, fumes or dust in any previous job you ever had?
7. Did you ever change or quit a job because chemicals, smoke, fumes or dust caused your asthma or made your asthma worse?

Note: For more information on the ACBS, [visit CDC's BRFSS Asthma Call-back Survey webpage \(cdc.gov/brfss/acbs\)](http://cdc.gov/brfss/acbs). A detailed description of the methodology used to assess work-related asthma in the ACBS has been published elsewhere. For more information on the methodology, [review the October 2008 issue of the Occupational Lung Disease Bulletin. \(mass.gov/doc/october-2008-work-related-asthma-in-massachusetts-population-based-data-from-the-2006-2007/download\)](http://mass.gov/doc/october-2008-work-related-asthma-in-massachusetts-population-based-data-from-the-2006-2007/download).

Definitions:

Work-related asthma: Respondent answered “yes” to any question of 1 through 7.

Told to or by a doctor or health professional that asthma was related to work: Respondent answered “yes” to either question 1 or 2.

A person's self-assessment that asthma is related to his/her work: Respondent answered “yes” to any question from 3 through 6.

Work-related asthma symptoms severe enough to change or quit a job: Respondent answered “yes” to question 7.