

## Adult Asthma Prevalence Estimates Using the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The BRFSS is a telephone survey administered by the Survey Unit within the Office of Epidemiology of the NMDOH and supported in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The system is designed to provide information on behaviors and risk factors for chronic and infectious diseases and other health conditions among non-institutionalized adults 18 years of age and older. Two adult asthma prevalence questions were included in the BRFSS survey starting in 2000: 1) Have you ever been told by a doctor, nurse or other health professional that you had asthma? and (for those answering “yes” to the first question) 2) Do you still have asthma? There were 3,618 interviews completed in 2001.

Data from the 2001 BRFSS indicated that about 10.8% of adults in NM or about 141,500 adults reported having been diagnosed with asthma at some point during their lifetime. About 6.9 of adults in NM in 2001 currently have asthma, or about 91,700 adults. The lifetime and current asthma prevalence rates in NM were similar to the U.S. rates (11.1% and 7.2% respectively) in 2001.

