

Additional File 2 - Summary of the included studies

Table 1: Summary of the included studies (n=117) by definition of asthma

	Lifetime asthma [1-34]	Diagnosed asthma [2, 4, 17, 21-26, 30, 31, 33, 35- 76]	Current asthma [2-4, 7, 9, 17, 21, 22, 29, 40, 41, 47, 54, 56, 63, 67, 70, 71, 75-117]
Papers, n	34	54	61
Operational definitions, n	8	12	29
Prevalence of asthma, %	1.4-28.2	1.0-38.6	1.5-29.4
Questionnaires used	ATS ECRHS FinEsS ISAAC MRC NHIS OLIN	ATS ATS-DLD BOLD BPAS CRQ ECRHS FinEsS GEIRD ISAAC MRC National asthma prevalence study (Bangladesh) PNAD National Maternal and Infant Health Survey NHANES OLIN WHS	ATS ATS-DLD BOLD ECRHS ISAAC IUATLD MRC National asthma prevalence study (Bangladesh) NCHS NFHS NHANES NHIS NYC-NAAS PNAD
Country/Region	Austria Australia Brazil Canada China Cyprus Denmark Greece Italy Japan Norway Portugal Scandinavia and Eastern Europe South Korea Spain Sweden United Arab Emirates United Kingdom United States Vietnam	Australia Bangladesh Brazil Canada China Colombia Croatia Finland Germany Greece Iran Japan New Zealand Portugal Saudi Arabia Serbia and Montenegro Singapore South Korea Sweden Thailand United Kingdom United States Ukraine Vietnam	Australia Bangladesh Brazil Canada Croatia Ecuador European Community Greece India Ireland Japan Peru Portugal Rwanda South Korea Spain Sweden Turkey United Arab Emirates United Kingdom United States
Data collection / questionnaire administration method	Telephone Post School Door-to-door	Telephone Post School Primary care unit Door-to-door Mobile unit	Telephone Post School Primary care unit Door-to-door Mobile unit Public place

The asthma definitions were grouped into 3 general subgroups: lifetime asthma (if the respondent reported ever having had asthma), diagnosed asthma (if the respondent reported asthma diagnosed by a health professional) and current asthma (if the respondent reported having had asthma features in the 12 months prior to the interview). ATS, American Thoracic Society; ATS-DLD, American Thoracic Society-Division of Lung Disease; BOLD, Burden of Lung Disease; BPAS, Brief Pediatric Asthma Screen; CSGA, Collaborative Studies on the Genetics of Asthma; CRQ, Children's Respiratory Questionnaire; ECRHS, European Community Respiratory Health Survey; FinEsS, Finnish, Estonian and Swedish respiratory Survey; ISAAC, International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood; IUATLD, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease; MRC, Medical Research Council respiratory questionnaire; NCHS, Five data sources from the National Center for Health Statistics; NFHS, National Family Health Survey; NHANES, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey; NHIS, National Health Interview Survey; NYC-NAAS, New York City – Neighborhood Asthma and Allergy Study; PNAD, National Household Sample Survey-Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios; OLIN, Obstructive Lung Disease In Northern Sweden; WHS, World Health Survey.

Table 2: The 117 included papers by Average citation per year by the end of 2013.

First Author	Year	Journal	Times cited	Average citations per year
Pearce, N.	2007	Thorax	291	41.57
Asher, M. I.	1998	European Respiratory Journal	644	40.25
Akinbami, L. J.	2002	Pediatrics	408	34
Burney, P.	1996	European Respiratory Journal	514	28.56
Burr, M. L.	1989	Archives Of Disease In Childhood	644	25.76
Burney, P. G. J.	1990	British Medical Journal	482	20.08
Moorman, J. E.	2011	Morbidity And Mortality Weekly Report. Surveillance Summaries	59	19.67
Vonmutius, E.	1992	British Medical Journal	331	15.05
Gergen, P. J.	1988	Pediatrics	383	14.73
Robertson, C. F.	1991	British Medical Journal	313	13.61
Weitzman, M.	1992	JAMA-Journal Of The American Medical Association	280	12.73
Upton, M. N.	2000	British Medical Journal	178	12.71
Crain, E. F.	1994	Pediatrics	247	12.35
Mortz, C. G.	2001	British Journal Of Dermatology	154	11.85
Kaur, B.	1998	British Medical Journal	177	11.06
To, T.	2012	BMC Public Health	22	11
Galassi, C.	2006	Pediatrics	85	10.63
Litonjua, A. A.	1999	Pediatric Pulmonology	148	9.87
Downs, S. H.	2001	Archives Of Disease In Childhood	126	9.69
Anderson, H. R.	1994	British Medical Journal	187	9.35
Haby, M. M.	2001	Thorax	121	9.31
Woolcock, A. J.	1987	Thorax	243	9
Zollner, I. K.	2005	Thorax	81	9
Arif, A. A.	2003	European Respiratory Journal	93	8.45
Akinbami, L. J.	2011	National Health Statistics Reports	25	8.33
Rodriguez, M. A.	2002	Archives Of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine	99	8.25
Pearce, N.	2000	European Respiratory Journal	112	8
Strachan, D. P.	1994	Archives Of Disease In Childhood	155	7.75
Bjorksten, B.	1998	European Respiratory Journal	120	7.5
Miller, J. E.	2000	American Journal Of Public Health	105	7.5
Leung, R.	1997	European Respiratory Journal	118	6.94
Guo, Y. L. L.	1999	Environmental Health Perspectives	103	6.87
Goh, D. Y. T.	1996	Archives Of Disease In Childhood	118	6.56
Peat, J. K.	1992	British Medical Journal	141	6.41
Joseph, C. L. M.	1996	Journal Of Pediatrics	105	5.83
Oraka, E.	2010	Chest	23	5.75
Kwon, J.-W.	2011	Allergy Asthma & Immunology Research	17	5.67
Bjerg, A.	2010	Allergy	22	5.5
Krstic, G.	2011	Plos One	16	5.33
Akinbami, L. J.	2010	Environmental Research	21	5.25
Clifford, R. D.	1989	Archives Of Disease In Childhood	125	5
Waite, D. A.	1980	Clinical Allergy	165	4.85
Studnicka, M.	1997	European Respiratory Journal	81	4.76
Ma, J.	2010	Allergy	19	4.75
James, A. L.	2010	European Respiratory Journal	19	4.75
Mak, H.	1982	Journal Of Allergy And Clinical Immunology	146	4.56
Wennergren, G.	2010	Pediatric Allergy And Immunology	16	4
Sanchez-Lerma, B.	2012	Journal Of Investigational Allergology And Clinical Immunology	8	4
Arnedo-Pena, A.	2011	International Journal Of Biometeorology	11	3.67
Duggan, E. M.	2012	Pediatric Allergy And Immunology	7	3.5
Barry, A. C.	2010	Journal Of Asthma	11	2.75
Fukutomi, Y.	2010	International Archives Of Allergy And Immunology	10	2.5
Rodriguez, A.	2011	Thorax	7	2.33
Ekerljung, L.	2010	International Journal Of Tuberculosis And Lung Disease	9	2.25
Bai, J.	2010	Biomedical And Environmental Sciences	9	2.25
Hansen, T. E.	2013	Acta Paediatrica	2	2
Dell, S. D.	2010	Canadian Respiratory Journal	8	2
Lukrafka, J. L.	2010	Journal Of Asthma	8	2
Musafiri, S.	2011	Respiratory Medicine	6	2

First Author	Year	Journal	Times cited	Average citations per year
Chittleborough, C. R.	2010	Respirology	6	1.5
Sa-Sousa, A.	2012	Clinical And Translational Allergy	3	1.5
Fukutomi, Y.	2011	Allergology International	4	1.33
Julia-Serda, G.	2011	International Journal Of Tuberculosis And Lung Disease	4	1.33
Sousa, S. I. V.	2011	Environment International	4	1.33
Andrea Rodriguez, L.	2010	Biomedica	5	1.25
Wehrmeister, F. C.	2010	Cadernos De Saude Publica	5	1.25
Frazier, J. C.	2012	Preventing Chronic Disease	2	1
de Marco, R.	2013	Plos One	1	1
Agrawal, S.	2012	Journal Of Asthma	2	1
Koshy, G.	2010	Journal Of Public Health	4	1
Lam, H. T.	2011	Respiratory Medicine	3	1
Pegas, P. N.	2011	Revista Portuguesa De Pneumologia	3	1
Yeh, K.-W.	2011	Asian Pacific Journal Of Allergy And Immunology	3	1
Alves, G. d. C.	2012	Cadernos De Saude Publica	2	1
Ekici, A.	2012	Journal Of Asthma	2	1
Fedortsiv, O.	2012	Advances In Medical Sciences	2	1
Robinson, C. L.	2012	Bmj Open	2	1
Kim, S. Y.	2013	Lung	1	1
Alsowaidi, S.	2010	Respiration	4	1
Ekerljung, L.	2010	Clinical Respiratory Journal	4	1
Delmas, M. C.	2012	Revue Des Maladies Respiratoires	2	1
Akinbami, L. J.	2012	NCHS Data Brief	2	1
Kainu, A.	2013	Primary Care Respiratory Journal	1	1
Jain, A.	2010	Indian Journal Of Pediatrics	3	0.75
Anthracopoulos, M. B.	2011	Allergy And Asthma Proceedings	2	0.67
Anthracopoulos, M. B.	2011	Acta Paediatrica	2	0.67
Bryant-Stephens, T.	2012	Journal Of Asthma	1	0.5
Oraka, E.	2012	Journal Of Asthma	1	0.5
Al Ghobain, M. O.	2012	Bmc Public Health	1	0.5
Gudelj, I.	2012	Medical Science Monitor	1	0.5
de Farias, M. R. d. C.	2010	Brazilian Journal Of Epidemiology	2	0.5
Parasuramalu, B. G.	2010	Indian Journal Of Public Health	2	0.5
Coker, T. R.	2012	Health Services Research	1	0.5
Fiori, N. S.	2012	Cadernos De Saude Publica	1	0.5
Matos Povoas Juca, S. C. B.	2012	Cadernos De Saude Publica	1	0.5
Kolokotroni, O.	2011	BMC Public Health	1	0.33
de Luna, M. d. F. G.	2011	Cadernos De Saude Publica	1	0.33
de Sousa, J. C.	2011	BMC Public Health	1	0.33
Toledo, M. F.	2011	Allergologia Et Immunopathologia	1	0.33
Zivkovic, Z.	2010	World Journal Of Pediatrics	1	0.25
Shakurnia, A. H.	2010	Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal	1	0.25
Agrawal, S.	2013	International Journal Of Tuberculosis And Lung Disease	0	0
Broms, K.	2013	BMC Public Health	0	0
Bennoor, K. S.	2011	Respirology	0	0
Cornell, A. G.	2011	American Journal Of Respiratory And Critical Care Medicine	0	0
de Luna, M. d. F. G.	2013	Jornal Brasileiro De Pneumologia	0	0
de Sousa, C. A.	2012	Revista De Saude Publica	0	0
Hong, S.	2012	Environmental Health And Toxicology	0	0
Hwang, G.-S.	2012	Asia-Pacific Journal Of Public Health	0	0
Jie, Y.	2013	Polish Journal Of Environmental Studies	0	0
Lopez-Silvarrey-Varela, A.	2011	Archivos De Bronconeumologia	0	0
Mahboub, B. H.	2012	Bmc Pulmonary Medicine	0	0
Moreira, S. M.	2010	European Journal Of Medical Research	0	0
Nriagu, J.	2012	Science Of The Total Environment	0	0
Rerksuppaphol, S.	2012	Pediatric Reports	0	0
Zahran, H. S.	2011	JAMA-Journal Of The American Medical Association	0	0
Zobeiri, M.	2011	Acta Medica Iranica	0	0

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