



Allergy Statistics

Estimates from a skin test survey suggest that allergies affect as many as 40 to 50 million people in the United States.¹

Allergic diseases affect more than 20% of the U.S. population. ²

Allergic diseases are the sixth leading cause of chronic disease in the United States. ²

At least 35.9 million people in the United States have seasonal allergic rhinitis (hay fever).³

Over eight million visits to office-based physicians each year are attributed to allergic rhinitis.⁴

Immunotherapy is ultimately successful in up to 90% of patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis and in 70 to 80% with perennial allergic rhinitis.⁵

In 1993, it was estimated that total cost associated with allergic rhinitis in the United States was \$3.4 billion, of which \$2.3 billion represents medications and \$1.1 billion represents physician billing.

It is estimated that in 1998, increased absenteeism and reduced productivity due to allergies cost U.S. companies more than \$250 million.⁷

Sinusitis develops in approximately 31 million Americans each year.⁸

People suffering from sinusitis miss an average of four days of work each year.⁸

There are more than 18 million office visits to primary care physicians resulting in a diagnosis of sinusitis annually.⁸

In 1996, overall health care expenditures attributable to sinusitis in the United States were estimated to be over \$5.8 billion.⁹

There is an association between sinusitis and asthma. The incidence of sinusitis in asthmatic subjects ranges from 40 to 75%.⁸

Between 2 and 3% of hospitalized patients have allergic drug reactions.¹⁰

Allergic dermatitis (itchy rash) is the most common skin condition in children younger than 11 years of age. The percentage of children diagnosed with it has increased from 3% in the 1960's to 10% in the 1990's.¹¹

Contact dermatitis and other eczema was diagnosed at over 7.1 million office visits to physicians and 430,000 hospital outpatient visits.¹²

Urticaria (hives) and angioedema (swelling of the deeper layers of the skin) together affect approximately 15% of the U.S. population every year.¹¹

Approximately 100 people in the United States die each year from food-related anaphylaxis.¹³

Eight percent of children younger than six years experience food intolerances. Of this group, 2 to 4% appear to have allergic reactions to food. In adults, an estimated 1 to 2% are sensitive to food or food additives.¹⁴

Peanut and/or tree nut (e.g. walnut, almond and cashew) allergy affects about three million Americans, or 1.1% of the population.¹⁵

At least 40 deaths occur annually in the United States from reactions to insect stings. ¹⁶

A severe allergic reaction known as anaphylaxis occurs in 0.5 to 5% of the U.S. population as a result of insect stings.¹⁷

Venom immunotherapy prevents systemic reactions in stinging insect-sensitive patients 97% of the time.¹⁶

Between 1988 and 1992, latex allergy was estimated to affect 1,000 people.¹⁸

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