## Asthma by the numbers

Chances are，you know someone who suffers from asthma．But how prevalent is it？

## What is asthma？${ }^{1,2}$

Clinically speaking asthma is a chronic lung disease affecting people of all ages．It is caused by inflammation and muscle tightening around the airways，which makes it harder to breathe．Patients with asthma may have increased sensitivity to normally harmless substances，such as pet dander，or air pollution．Someone with asthma that is exposed to these or other allergic or non－allergic triggers may experience an increase in symptoms．
While symptoms come and go，airway inflammation is chronic，meaning it never goes away，and may be associated with persistent narrowing of the airways，even when the
 person＂feels well．＂For most people with asthma，that inflammation is triggered or maintained by exposure to allergens to which they are sensitized．This means asthma and allergies often go hand in hand．

emergency department visits and nearly 400，000 hospitalizations each year are attributed to asthma ${ }^{2}$


## 10.5 million

office visits each year，most of which are unscheduled and take place in primary care offices ${ }^{2}$

## 10\％ <br> 


of people with asthma have severe asthma， resulting in several urgent care and emergency care visits and a high risk of asthma－related hospitalization，in addition to missed school， work，and activity days ${ }^{2}$

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children with asthma and more than half of working adults with asthma have their lives disrupted by the need to seek urgent or emergency care for their asthma each year ${ }^{2}$

## 25 million

Americans in the United States suffer from asthma ${ }^{3}$

of homes have at least three detectable common aeroallergens（e．g．，pollen or mold spores），and 73 percent have one or more at an elevated level ${ }^{2}$

Take charge of your asthma！Specific IgE blood tests，along with your doctor＇s insights，can unlock the secrets behind your asthma triggers．This knowledge can be a powerful tool to help you breathe easier and live a fuller life．

