Asthma Disproportionately Affects Homeless Students

Homeless students are significantly more likely to have asthma than their housed peers. Unstable housing situations along with triggers such as stress, dirty living conditions, and other environmental factors can lead to or exacerbate asthma attacks.

38% of homeless high schoolers report having been diagnosed with asthma, compared to 22% of housed students.

Homeless students were also 2X more likely than their housed peers to be uncertain of ever having been diagnosed.

Undiagnosed and/or untreated asthma leads to asthma attacks and school absenteeism, already prevalent among homeless students.

In New York City

40% of homeless students with asthma reported suffering a recent attack—1.5X the rate of housed students.

In Maine

39% of asthmatic homeless students missed school due to their asthma during the past year—3X the rate of housed students.

The disparity in asthma rates between black homeless and housed students was the smallest among all groups.