

# ASTHMA & INDOOR AIR POLLUTION IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY

Asthma is a serious respiratory condition that causes wheezing, chest tightening, and difficulty breathing, and it's on the rise among Latinos across the country. Many chemicals found at home and in the workplace – where we spend over 80% of our time – have been linked to the development of asthma and more severe symptoms or attacks.

## OVER 3.6 MILLION LATINOS LIVING IN THE US CURRENTLY HAVE ASTHMA

Latinos are **30%** more likely to visit the hospital for asthma than non-Latino whites



Latino children are **40%** more likely to die from asthma than non-Latino whites

Over **7%** of Latino adults currently suffer from asthma

**14%** of Latino children have been diagnosed with asthma

Puerto Rican Americans have **2x the asthma** rate compared to the overall Latino population

Numerous chemicals found in indoor environments have been classified as known or suspected “asthmagens,” environmental agents that cause or exacerbate asthma. These chemicals can be found in building materials and commonly-used household and personal care products. Exposure can occur during product manufacture, installation, and everyday use.

**FORMALDEHYDE**  
used in glues, insulation, and wood products

**PHthalATES**  
used in PVC plastics, vinyl flooring, glues, and personal care products

**ISOCYANATES**  
used in insulation, carpets, paints, and foam cushions



**DICHLORO BENZENE**  
used in mothballs and bathroom deodorizers

**ETHANOLAMINES**  
found in cleaning products, creams, and lotions

**BISPHENOL-A**  
found in plastic products, food can linings, receipt paper

**GLYCOL ETHERS**  
found in paints and cleaning products

**Support reform to strengthen federal chemicals regulatory policies:**  
[edf.org/LULACtoxics](http://edf.org/LULACtoxics)