CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES — OVERVIEW

Chronic respiratory diseases include chronic diseases of the airways and other structures of the lung. Some of the most common are asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), respiratory allergies, occupational lung diseases and pulmonary hypertension. Asthma and COPD are among the 10 leading chronic conditions causing restricted activity. After chronic sinusitis, asthma is the most common cause of chronic illness in children. COPD, which involves emphysema and chronic bronchitis, is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. and is projected to be the third leading cause of death by 2020. Between 80% and 90% of COPD cases are due to cigarette smoking (WHO 2007).

The most important risk factors for preventable chronic respiratory diseases are:

- Tobacco smoking
- Indoor air pollution
- Outdoor air pollution
- Allergens
- Occupational risks and vulnerability

Between 2000 and 2004, the North Inland region mortality rate related to COPD has decreased by 10%, from 42.0 to 37.8 deaths per 100,000 population.

Between 2000 and 2005, North Inland region COPD hospitalizations have decreased 26.3%, from 117.7 to 86.8 hospitalizations per 100,000 population.

During 2005, the estimated prevalence of asthma in the North Inland region was 12% or 63,000 persons.

Between 2000 and 2005, North Inland region asthma-related hospitalizations have decrease 16.6%, from 75.2 to 62.7 hospitalizations per 100,000 population.
CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES (continued)

Who is most impacted

Those with the highest asthma-related hospitalization rates include:

- Females
- African Americans
- Persons under age 15 and ages 65 and over

Those with the highest COPD-related hospitalization rates include:

- Females
- Whites
- Persons ages 65 and over

* Rates not calculated for fewer than 5 cases.