

# Asthma flares down among Black, Hispanic patients during pandemic

3 June 2021



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

There was a substantial decrease in asthma exacerbations among Black and Hispanic patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a study recently published in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice*.

Justin D. Saliccioli, M.B.B.S., from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and colleagues used data from the PREPARE study of reliever-triggered inhaled corticosteroid strategy in African American/Black and Hispanic/Latinx adults (aged 18 to 75 years) with moderate-to-severe asthma. Changes in asthma control during the COVID-19 pandemic were assessed (first and second quarters of 2019 versus 2020) for 1,178 participants.

The researchers observed a [significant decrease](#) from Q1 to Q2 of 2020 versus the same [time period](#) in 2019, with a difference-in-differences of 0.47 exacerbations per year (representing a relative reduction of 41 percent). Asthma exacerbation decreased 50 percent in Hispanic/Latinx and 27 percent in African American/Black patients. Decreases were larger

among participants who worked outside of the home at study entry (65 percent) versus those who worked at home (23 percent). For individuals without a type-2 helper T-cell phenotype, decreases in exacerbations were greater, with exacerbations falling by 51 percent for individuals with a blood eosinophil count below the median (192 cells/L) versus 34 percent for those above the median.

"This is the first study to assess asthma exacerbation before and after the COVID-19 pandemic using data that are unlikely to be affected by patients avoiding the health care system," Saliccioli said in a statement. "Because this was part of a prospective trial that started before the pandemic and was planned to be remote, it gave us a unique window into how changes during the pandemic may have led to a dramatic decrease in asthma exacerbation."

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

Copyright © 2021 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

APA citation: Asthma flares down among Black, Hispanic patients during pandemic (2021, June 3) retrieved 9 June 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-06-asthma-flares-black-hispanic-patients.html>

*This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.*