

Current Asthma and Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults in 2006



Rhode Island Department of Health, December 2007 Center for Health Data and Analysis Asthma Control Program

Highlights

This report presents information on asthma prevalence, asthma triggers, and quality of life for RI adults with current asthma. Data come from the 2006 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

About the BRFSS: The BRFSS is a telephone survey administered in all 50 states and 4 U.S. territories with funding and specifications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The BRFSS monitors the prevalence of behavioral health risks that contribute to the leading causes of disease and death among adults 18 and older in the United States. It also monitors access to health care and certain health conditions. Rhode Island has participated in the BRFSS since 1984.

Rhode Island's BRFSS: From January through December 2006, 376 random-digit dialed telephone interviews were completed each month with non-institutionalized RI adults, for a total of 4,515 during the year.

Current asthma: Current asthma is defined as having been diagnosed with asthma and still having asthma at the time of the survey.

Reading statistics: This report presents bar graphs showing percentages and 95% confidence intervals (CI). Since percentages from survey data are estimates, the 95% CI indicates the range of values within which the "true" value lies 95% of the time. When two groups have 95% CI that overlap, it indicates that the "true" values are likely to be similar in both groups. If the 95% CI do not overlap, it indicates that the two groups are statistically significantly different from one another.

- ❖ About 1 in 10 Rhode Island adults have asthma. Figure 1 displays the prevalence of current asthma within demographic subgroups. Asthma is more common among (1) women than men, (2) persons with household incomes of \$25,000/yr or less than those with incomes of \$50,000/yr or more, and (3) adults with a disability than adults without a disability.
- ❖ Figure 2 displays asthma triggers and quality of life for persons with and without current asthma. Compared with adults who do not have asthma, adults with asthma are significantly more likely (1) to be obese, (2) to report being in fair or poor health, and (3) to have activity limitations.
- ❖ Figure 3 displays indicators of poorly controlled asthma among persons with asthma:
 - ✓ 74% report at least one asthma symptom in the past 30 days
 - ✓ 62% are on asthma medication
 - ✓ 47% had an asthma attack in the past year
 - ✓ 44% reported sleep problems due to asthma
 - ✓ 37% reported activity limitations due to asthma
 - ✓ 24% visited a doctor in the past year because their asthma was getting worse

Discussion: Rhode Island is making great strides in improving the quality of life for people with asthma. The Asthma Control Program Coalition and its subcommittees are committed to securing a high measure of quality of life for all Rhode Islanders who have asthma and their families. The *Asthma Control State Plan 2003-2008* and community interventions focus on asthma management through chronic care and disease management and healthy housing.

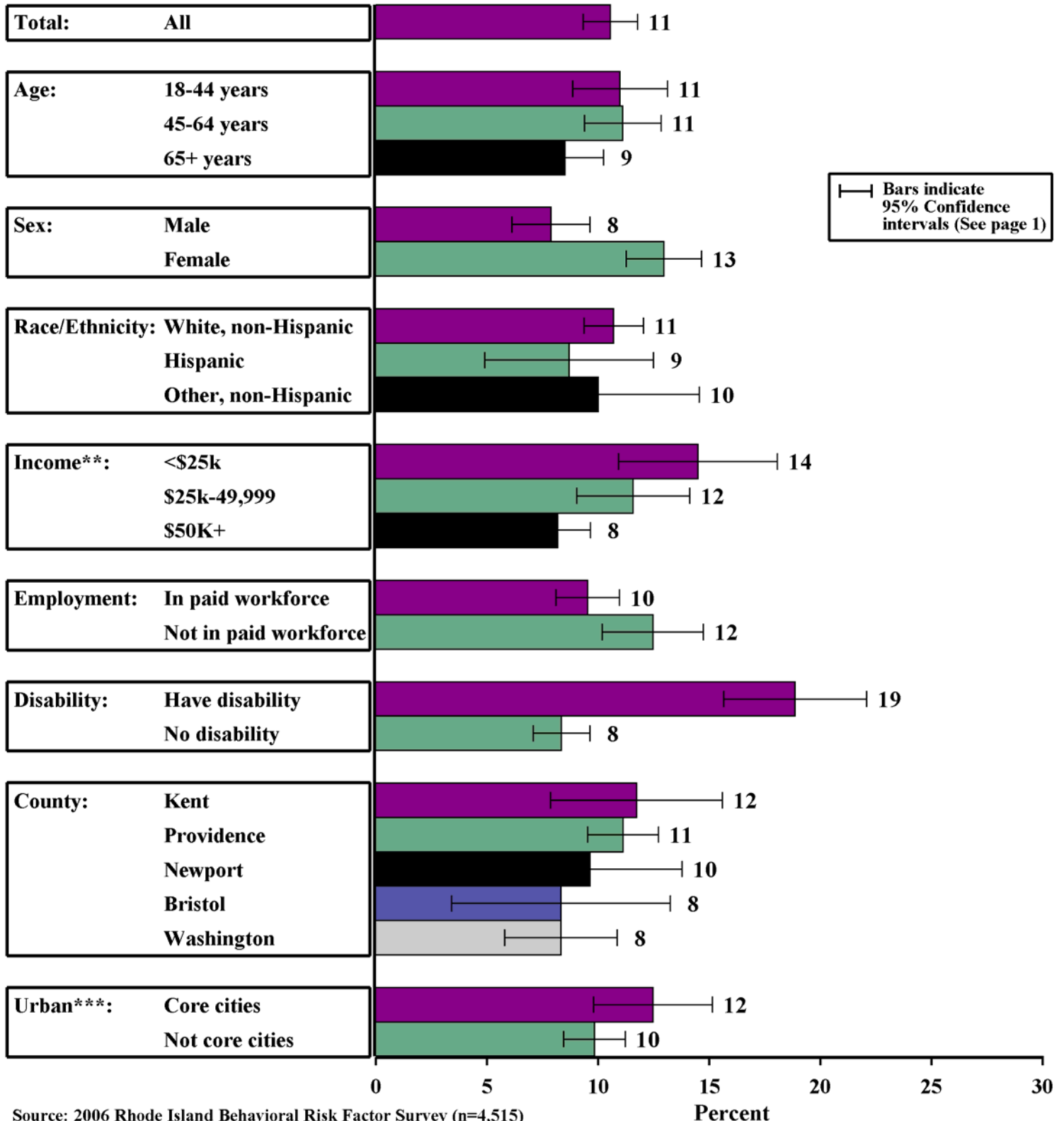
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For further information: For the Asthma Control Program go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/disease/asthma/index.php>; for the BRFSS go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/chic/statistics/brfss.php>, <http://www.health.ri.gov/webquery/index.html>, <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>, or contact the Center for Health Data and Analysis, RI Department of Health (401-222-2550).

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Figure 1

Current Asthma* Among Rhode Island Adults (Ages 18 and older) within demographic subgroups -- 2006



Source: 2006 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,515)

* Current Asthma: Adults who have ever been told by a health professional they have asthma and currently have asthma.

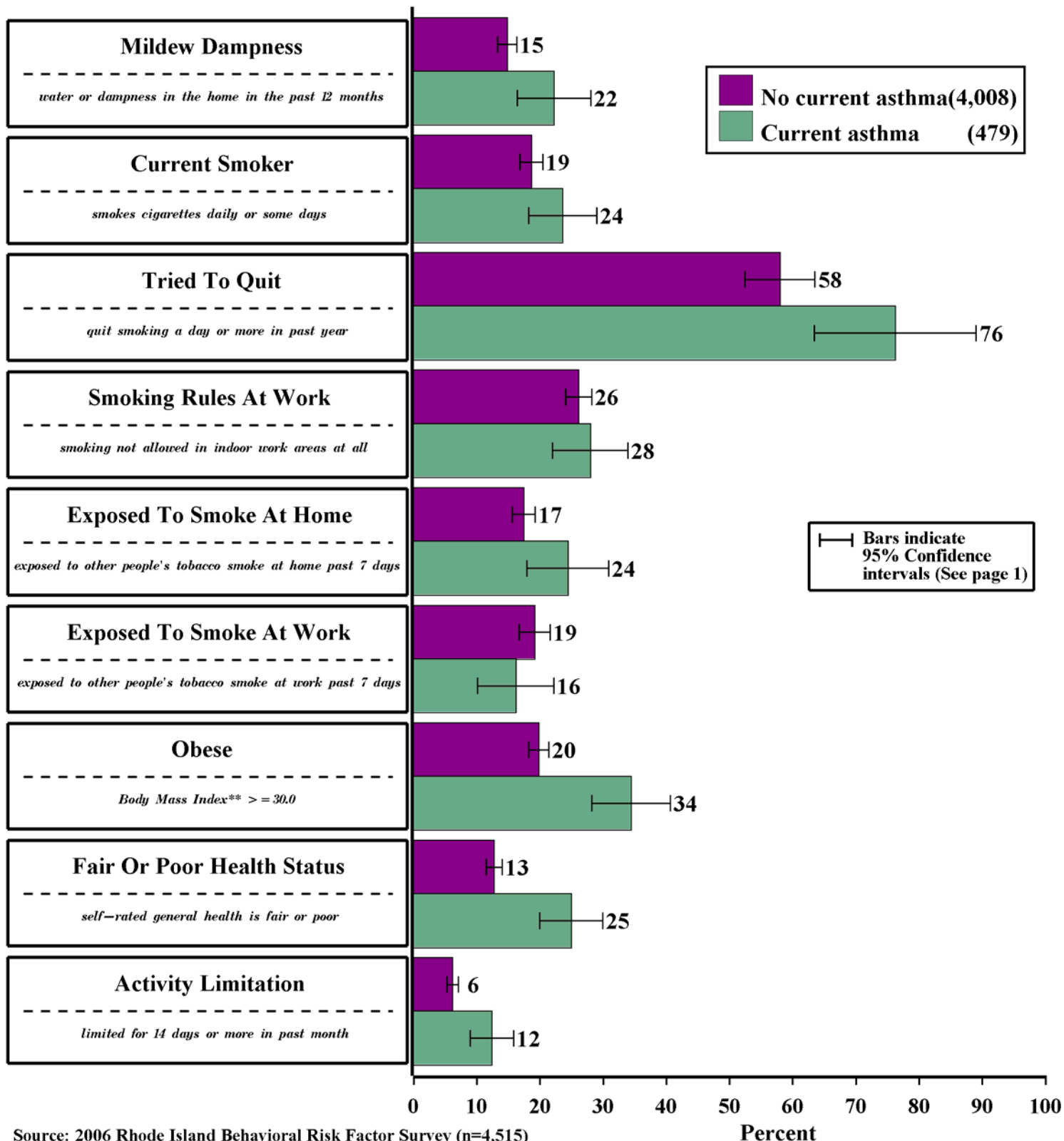
** Annual household income

*** Core cities: The child poverty rate exceeds 15% (Central Falls/Newport/Pawtucket/Providence/West Warwick/Woonsocket)

Figure 2

Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults

(Ages 18 and older) by current asthma status* -- 2006

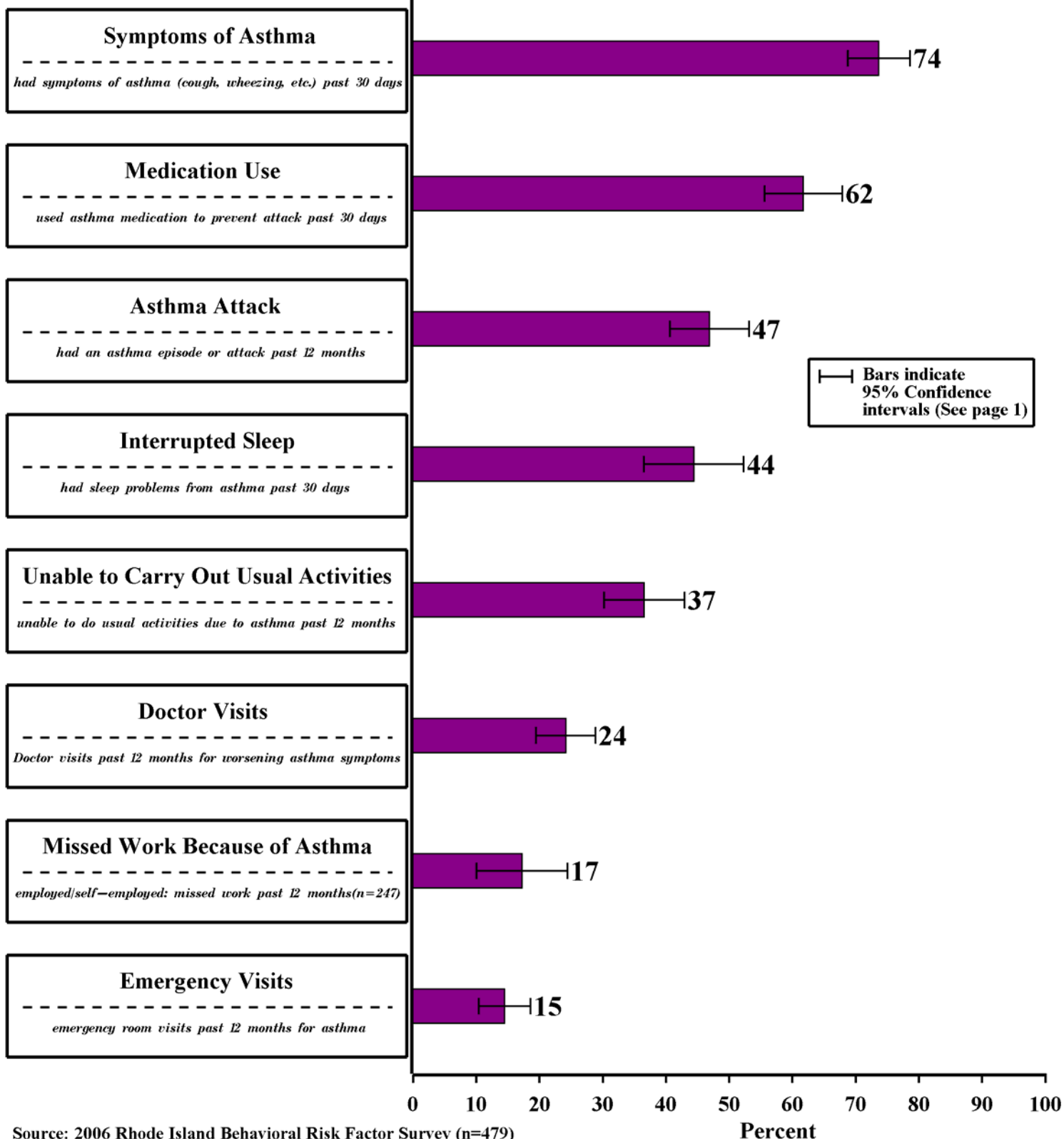


Source: 2006 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,515)

* Current Asthma: Adults who have ever been told by a health professional they have asthma and currently have asthma.

** Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms / (height in meters)²

Figure 3
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
(Ages 18 and older) with current asthma* -- 2006



Source: 2006 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=479)

* Current Asthma: Adults who have ever been told by a health professional they have asthma and currently have asthma.