Asthma is a condition that causes inflammation in the airways. It is the most common long-term condition in children. Asthma can start at any time of life, but is likely to begin in childhood.

Areas for action

- In schools, precautions should be taken to reduce exposure for allergic asthmatic children
- Emphasis should be put upon mastering exercise-induced asthma in physical education classes in school
- More data are needed on environment and genetic causes of asthma

An increase in asthma prevalence is expected in Eastern Europe

13% of carers of asthmatic children in Britain reported giving up work to care for their child

Asthma typically begins much earlier in life than other chronic diseases, imposing a high lifetime burden on individuals, their carers and the community

Approximately one third of the population will develop asthma at some time between the ages of 5 and 80 years, most before the age of 20 years

The development of more effective drugs would reduce the need for hospital admissions due to asthma

65% of all asthma attacks in school children are due to rhinovirus infection