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## **Asthma in Children**

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**Janice H. Howell, MD, FRCPC, FAAP**, is a physician-educator and former physician-administrator, with a strong interest in asthma and medical education. She is a member of the General Academic Pediatric Division of the Nemours Children's Clinic, Orlando, Fla, where she is actively involved in residency training and in caring for "difficult" asthmatics. Dr Howell completed a fellowship in developmental pharmacology at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, and was on the faculty there. She subsequently held faculty positions at the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine in Denver, Colo; the University of Colorado; and the University of Maryland before joining Nemours Children's Clinic in Florida.

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After studying this section of the audio program and booklet, the listener should be able to:

1. Explain common misconceptions about asthma.
  2. Diagnose asthma in children using history, physical examination, and spirometry.
  3. Manage asthma in the office as a chronic relapsing disease, rather than an episodic one.
  4. Prescribe inhaled corticosteroids as first-line therapy for the control of persistent asthma.
  5. Use inhaled long-acting  $\beta$ -agonists and leukotriene modifiers as "add-on" medications.
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### ***Asthma in the United States.***

1. Physicians could do more to recognize and treat asthma.
2. Mortality and morbidity are significantly higher in the United States than in Europe, and prevalence and incidence have risen over the past 2 decades.
3. In the general population, the estimate of asthma prevalence is 6% to 7% (17 million Americans). Approximately, one third of asthmatics are children.