



## Fact Sheet

The cost of food allergies in the US is \$24.8 billion per year. Families and patients shoulder the biggest burden of this cost.

### Factors in the total cost of food allergies are<sup>1</sup>:

- Out-of-pocket medical costs
- Emergency costs
- Medication
- Allergy-friendly food
- Time off from work
- Loss of professional opportunities

### Food allergies affect everyone, but...

Lower-income patients and families have:

- A HIGHER prevalence of food allergies<sup>2</sup>
- LOWER odds of diagnosis by a physician<sup>2</sup>
- MORE THAN DOUBLE the hospitalization costs of higher income children

<sup>1</sup> Gupta R, Holdford D, Bilaver L, Dyer A, Holl JL, Meltzer D. The Economic Impact of Childhood Food Allergy in the United States. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2013;167(11):1026–1031. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.2376

<sup>2</sup> Lucy A. Bilaver, Kristen M. Kester, Bridget M. Smith, Ruchi S. Gupta. *Pediatrics* May 2016, 137 (5) e20153678; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2015-3678

<sup>3</sup> Mahdavinia M<sup>1</sup>, Fox SR<sup>2</sup>, Smith BM<sup>3</sup>, James C<sup>4</sup>, Palmisano EL<sup>2</sup>, Mohammed A<sup>2</sup>, Zahid Z<sup>2</sup>, Assa'ad AH<sup>4</sup>, Tobin MC<sup>2</sup>, Gupta RS<sup>5</sup>. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract.* 2017 Mar - Apr;5(2):352-357.e1. doi: 10.1016/j.jaip.2016.10.006. Epub 2016 Nov 23.

### Food allergies don't discriminate:

- Prevalence of food allergies is at a higher increase in Hispanic and African American populations.
- Asian childhood populations have lower but similar rates of food allergies as White/Non-Hispanic populations.
- Asian and African American patients tend to have higher rates of multiple food allergies as compared to Hispanic and White/Non-Hispanic patients.
- African American and Hispanic patients have more severe adverse outcomes to food allergies.<sup>3</sup>
- Asian, Hispanic and African American patients have a higher rate of emergency room treatment than White/Non-Hispanic patients.<sup>3</sup>

### Food allergies aren't uncommon – no matter where you live.

But the rates of food allergy vary by environment, particularly population density:

- Rural areas – 6.2%
- Suburban areas – 7.6%
- Urban areas – 9.8%

### And, the rate of food allergy also varies by region:

- The northern half of the United States experiences less food allergies than the southern half.

### Specific food allergies are different across ethnicities:

- African Americans have higher rates of allergy to wheat, soy, corn, fish, and shellfish<sup>3</sup>
- Hispanics have higher rates of allergy to corn, fish, and shellfish<sup>3</sup>
- Caucasians have higher rates of tree nut allergies<sup>3</sup>
- Rates of peanut, egg and dairy are similar in all three groups<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gupta R, Holdford D, Bilaver L, Dyer A, Holl JL, Meltzer D. The Economic Impact of Childhood Food Allergy in the United States. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2013;167(11):1026–1031. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.2376

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