

# Determining the prevalence of severe asthma in children in UK primary care

**First published:** 01/02/2023

**Last updated:** 28/01/2026

Study

Finalised

## Administrative details

### EU PAS number

EUPAS50650

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### Study ID

50651

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### DARWIN EU® study

No

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### Study countries

 United Kingdom

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### Study description

It is a retrospective epidemiological database study that aims to determine the annual prevalence of severe asthma in children in the UK community using primary care data, and applying different criteria for defining severe asthma.

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## Study status

Finalised

# Research institutions and networks

## Networks

### Respiratory Effectiveness Group (REG)

-  Belgium
-  Denmark
-  France
-  Germany
-  Greece
-  Hungary
-  Italy
-  Netherlands
-  Spain
-  Sweden
-  United Kingdom

**First published:** 07/07/2021

**Last updated:** 04/06/2024

**Network**

**ENCePP partner**

## Contact details

### Study institution contact

Michael Walker enquiries@REGresearchnetwork.org

Study contact

[enquiries@REGresearchnetwork.org](mailto:enquiries@REGresearchnetwork.org)

### Primary lead investigator

Steve Turner

Primary lead investigator

## Study timelines

### Date when funding contract was signed

Planned: 18/01/2023

Actual: 18/01/2023

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### Study start date

Planned: 12/06/2023

Actual: 28/06/2023

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### Data analysis start date

Planned: 06/01/2025

Actual: 03/03/2025

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### Date of interim report, if expected

Planned: 04/08/2025

Actual: 30/09/2025

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### Date of final study report

Planned: 30/10/2024

Actual: 16/12/2025

## Sources of funding

- Pharmaceutical company and other private sector

## More details on funding

Sanofi

## Regulatory

### **Was the study required by a regulatory body?**

No

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### **Is the study required by a Risk Management Plan (RMP)?**

Not applicable

## Methodological aspects

### Study type

### Study type list

#### **Study topic:**

Disease /health condition

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#### **Study type:**

Non-interventional study

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#### **Scope of the study:**

Disease epidemiology

Drug utilisation

**Main study objective:**

A descriptive characterisation of children with potentially severe asthma including a comparison between those who have been referred to a secondary care specialist with those who have not been referred.

## Study Design

**Non-interventional study design**

Other

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**Non-interventional study design, other**

Retrospective epidemiological database study

## Study drug and medical condition

**Medical condition to be studied**

Asthma

## Population studied

**Age groups**

- Children (2 to < 12 years)
  - Adolescents (12 to < 18 years)
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**Estimated number of subjects**

0

## Study design details

## **Outcomes**

1) To determine the annual incidence of children in UK with severe asthma using primary care data.

2) Applying different criteria for defining severe asthma (ref: Ahmed H, Turner S. Severe asthma in children-a review of definitions, epidemiology, and treatment options in 2019. *Pediatr Pulmonol.* 2019 Jun;54(6):778-787. doi: 10.1002/ppul.24317. Epub 2019 Mar 18. PMID: 30884194).

The annual incidence of:

1. new-onset severe asthma in children with asthma,
  2. prevalence of high SABA use,
  3. referral to a secondary care specialist,
  4. children meeting the NICE eligibility criteria for biologic treatment,
  5. children with severe asthma referred to a secondary care specialist with those who are not referred to a secondary care specialist and remain treated solely in UK primary.
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## **Data analysis plan**

The data for the 2-5 yr age group and the 6-16 yr old age group will each be analysed separately.

We will calculate the percentage of patients with severe asthma that are identified in the patient's primary care records by GPs as having severe asthma, and also the percentage of patient's who are identified in the UK primary care records by GPs as having severe asthma despite not meeting our criteria for severe asthma.

The 2 cohorts, those referred to a secondary care specialist and those not referred to a secondary care specialist, will be compared. Continuous variables will be given a mean and standard deviation, and differences in characteristics between the groups assessed with Kruskal-Wallis tests.

Categorical variables will be given as count and percentage by category, and differences in characteristics between the groups will be assessed with chi-

squared tests/Fisher's exact tests.

The incidence of severe asthma remission of children who met the criteria will also be calculated.

## Data management

### ENCePP Seal

The use of the ENCePP Seal has been discontinued since February 2025. The ENCePP Seal fields are retained in the display mode for transparency but are no longer maintained.

## Data sources

### Data source(s)

Optimum Patient Care Research Database

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### Data sources (types)

[Electronic healthcare records \(EHR\)](#)

[Other](#)

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### Data sources (types), other

Historical electronic medical records (EMRs)

## Use of a Common Data Model (CDM)

### CDM mapping

No

## Data quality specifications

### **Check conformance**

Unknown

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### **Check completeness**

Unknown

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### **Check stability**

Unknown

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### **Check logical consistency**

Unknown

## Data characterisation

### **Data characterisation conducted**

No