

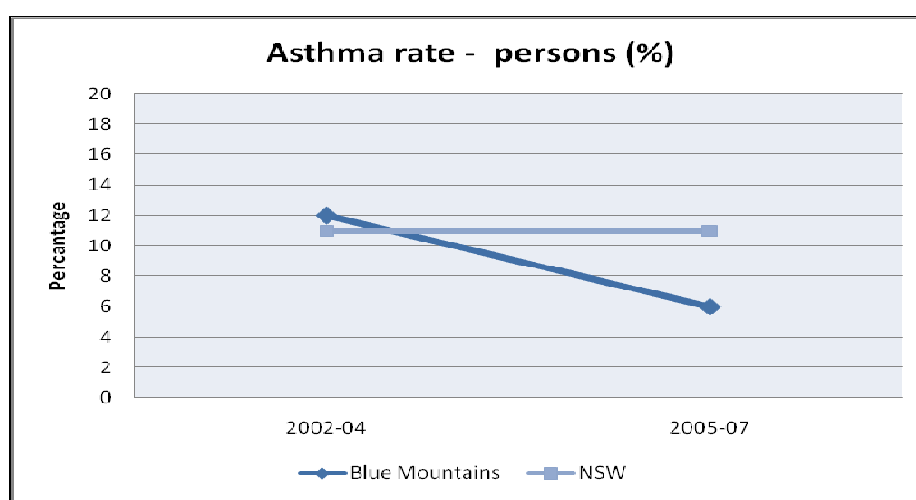
## Population – health status

### What are we monitoring?

*Percentage of residents diagnosed with asthma*

### What is the trend?

Between 2002-2004 and 2005-2007 asthma rates fell in the Blue Mountains and as compared to NSW. However, it should be noted that a small sample size of 384 people was used in 2005-07.



CURRENT ASTHMA RATES						
	BLUE MOUNTAINS			NSW		
Year	Male %	Female %	Persons %	Male %	Female %	Persons %
2002-04	10	14	12	9	12	11
2005-07	5	7	6	9	12	11

Estimates are based on the following numbers of respondents: Blue Mountains: 2002-2004 - 605, and 2005-2007 - 384. NSW: 2002-2004 - 35017, and 2005-2007 - 26806. The indicator includes those who had symptoms of asthma or treatment for asthma in the last 12 months. The questions used to define the indicator were: Have you ever been told by a doctor or hospital you have asthma? Have you had symptoms of asthma or treatment for asthma in the last 12 months?

### Why is monitoring this trend important?

Asthma is a respiratory disease causing distressing symptoms and impaired quality of life. The symptoms can be exacerbated by environmental conditions such as air pollution.

**Source:** NSW Health (2009). New South Wales Population Health Survey. 2005-2007 Report on adult health. Blue Mountains Division of General Practice.