

Table 1 Prevalence of asthma symptoms and atopic sensitisation in schoolchildren from Hong Kong and mainland China

Characteristic	Hong Kong (n=3110)		Beijing (n=4227)		Guangzhou (n=3565)	
	No of children	Prevalence (95% CI)	No of children	Prevalence (95% CI)	No of children	Prevalence (95% CI)
Mean age \pm SD (years)		10.3 \pm 0.7		10.4 \pm 0.6		10.1 \pm 0.4
No (%) boys		1648 (52.9)		2156 (51.0)		1783 (50.0)
Symptoms in past year:						
Wheeze:	179	5.8 (4.9 to 6.6)	159	3.8 (3.2 to 4.3)	121	3.4 (2.8 to 4.0)
\geq 4 attacks	40	1.3 (0.9 to 1.7)	33	0.8 (0.5 to 1.1)	18	0.5 (0.3 to 0.7)
Speech limiting	54	1.7 (1.3 to 2.2)	20	0.5 (0.3 to 0.7)	16	0.4 (0.2 to 0.7)
Exercise induced	239	7.7 (6.7 to 8.6)	193	4.6 (3.9 to 5.2)	109	3.1 (2.5 to 3.6)
Current asthma	104	3.3 (2.7 to 4.0)	98	2.3 (1.9 to 2.8)	75	2.1 (1.6 to 2.6)
Skin prick test*:		n=1341		n=1044		n=1098
Atopic [†]	552	41.2 (38.5 to 43.8)	249	23.9 (21.3 to 26.4)	337	30.8 (28.1 to 33.5)
<i>Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus</i>	457	34.1 (31.5 to 36.6)	78	7.5 (5.9 to 9.1)	219	20.0 (17.6 to 22.4)
<i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i>	347	25.9 (23.5 to 28.2)	59	5.7 (4.3 to 7.1)	196	17.9 (15.6 to 20.2)
Cat	50	3.7 (2.7 to 4.7)	58	5.6 (4.2 to 6.9)	47	4.3 (3.1 to 5.5)
Cockroach	154	11.5 (9.8 to 13.2)	139	13.3 (11.3 to 15.4)	186	17.0 (14.8 to 19.2)

*Sensitivities <3% not shown. [

†One or more positive test results.