



## Allergic Skin Conditions Facts and Figures

### What Are Allergic Skin Conditions?

- [Allergic skin conditions](#) are a set of conditions that happen when an allergen triggers an immune response in the body that appears on the skin.
- There are a few different types of allergic skin conditions, including:<sup>1</sup>
  - **Allergic contact dermatitis**, also called contact allergy or skin allergy.
  - **Atopic dermatitis**, it is the most common type of eczema, a group of chronic skin conditions.
  - **Urticaria (hives)**, which include acute (lasting a short time) or chronic (long-lasting) hives.

### What Are Symptoms of Allergic Skin Conditions?

- Common symptoms of allergic skin conditions include:<sup>1</sup>
  - Itchy skin
  - Redness or discoloration
  - Swelling
  - Rash
    - Rash from contact allergies and eczema is often dry, flaky, or scaly.<sup>1,2</sup>
    - Hives often present as itchy, raised, red or skin-colored welts called wheals, which can range in size and appear anywhere on the body.<sup>3</sup>
- While not common in hives, contact allergies and eczema may also cause small blisters that can ooze and crust.<sup>2,4</sup>

### What Triggers Allergic Skin Conditions?

- The most common triggers of **allergic contact dermatitis or contact allergies** are:<sup>2</sup>
  - Metals such as nickel or cobalt
  - Preservatives found in cosmetics, industrial products, and cleaning products
  - Fragrances used in perfumes, soaps, lotions, and some personal care products
  - Rubber and plastic products, such as those containing latex
- Common triggers of **eczema** are:<sup>5</sup>
  - Allergens like pollen, mold, dust mites, and pet (animal) dander
  - Environmental factors like cold, dry air and air pollution



- Certain chemicals, including fragrances and dyes
- Certain fabrics, like wool, which can be rough and irritating
- Physical and emotional stress
- **Urticaria (hives)** can be spontaneous (with no known cause) or inducible (with a known cause). Urticaria is also defined by how long it lasts. For example, acute urticaria involves skin symptoms for 6 weeks or less and chronic urticaria has skin symptoms for more than 6 weeks.<sup>3</sup>
  - Chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU) accounts for as many as 90% of people with chronic hives.<sup>6</sup>
  - The most common triggers for chronic inducible urticaria (CINDU) are pressure, friction or scratching, cold, heat, or sun exposure.<sup>7</sup>

## How Common Are Allergic Skin Conditions?

- **Contact allergies** affect about 1 in 5 people.<sup>8</sup>
  - Females are more likely to have contact allergies than males.<sup>8</sup>
  - The most common contact allergen is nickel.
  - People in jobs like hairdressing, health care, food handling, and construction are more likely to have contact allergies because of their frequent contact with allergens.<sup>2</sup>
- **Eczema** affects around 18.9 million adults and 8 million children in the United States. This equals about 1 in 14 adults and 1 in 9 children.<sup>9,10</sup>
  - Children ages 6 to 11 are most likely to have eczema.<sup>10</sup>
  - Non-Hispanic Black children and adults in the U.S. are more likely to have eczema than people of other races and ethnicities.<sup>9,10</sup>
  - While male and female children have about the same rates of eczema, female adults are more likely to have eczema than male adults.<sup>9,10</sup>
- **Chronic hives** affect between 1 to 2% of the global population.<sup>7</sup>
  - Chronic hives can affect up to 5% of children, but most people with chronic hives are over the age of 20.<sup>7</sup>
  - Females are more likely to have chronic hives than males.<sup>7</sup>

## How Much Do Allergic Skin Conditions Cost?

- **Contact allergies** cost the United States around \$1.5 billion per year in direct medical costs.<sup>11</sup>
- **Eczema** costs the United States around \$5 billion per year.<sup>12</sup>
  - This estimate includes direct and indirect costs. Direct costs include office visits, prescription medications, hospital visits, and emergency department visits. Indirect costs include lost workdays or reduced productivity.



- Compared to adults without eczema, adults with eczema pay \$4,979 more per year for health care costs.<sup>13</sup>
  - \$2,381 of the annual health care costs for adults with eczema can be linked directly to eczema-related expenses.<sup>13</sup>
- **Chronic hives** cost the United States an estimated \$244 million each year.<sup>7</sup>
  - Most (62.5%) of the costs come from medication expenses.<sup>7</sup>
  - 15.7% of the costs of chronic hives come from missing work.<sup>7</sup>

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