

ALLERGY, GENETICS

# MORE MUTATIONS, MORE ASTHMA?

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While [some researchers](#) still believe that genetics cannot be responsible for the asthma epidemic as the prevalence increased with only two generations I have no doubt that (within the gene by environment framework) any environmental change is a necessary but not sufficient cause.

I would count also epigenetic changes as “genetic” while there seems now [even direct evidence of an increased mutational load in humans](#)

While the overall deleterious homozygosity has consistently decreased, risk alleles have steadily increased in frequency over that period of time. Those that increased most are associated with diseases such as asthma, Crohn disease, diabetes and obesity, which are highly prevalent in present-day populations.