

Why Asthma?

Uncontrolled asthma diminishes children's health, increases school absenteeism, causes parents to miss work and increases health care costs.

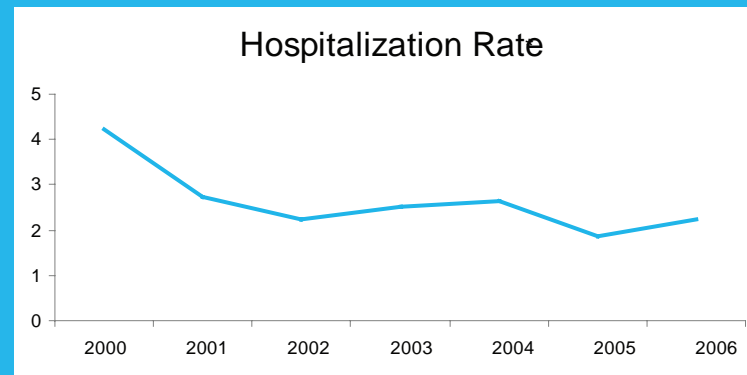
- z Asthma has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, affecting 20 million people and 6 million children. (Source: RAND Report; NCHS, 2006; National Center for Health Statistics, analysis by the American Lung Association)
- z Asthma is the leading serious chronic illness among children in the United States and among the top 10 emergency department diagnoses for children in the Twin Cities. (Source: Minnesota Department of Health, 2004)
- z In Minnesota, more than 79,000 children in 15 ... have asthma. In Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Schools alone, more than 8,000 students have asthma. (Source: Minnesota Department of Health, 2004)
- z Asthma is an expensive disease: In 2003, the State of Minnesota spent \$200 million in direct costs related to asthma and \$155 million in indirect costs. (Source: Minnesota Department of Health, special data request)

Results for Children

By bringing together the community's expertise, Partners for Asthma Action has improved the way pediatric care is managed. The outcomes below show that multiple, coordinated interventions can improve the quality of life of children with asthma.



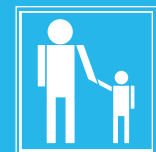
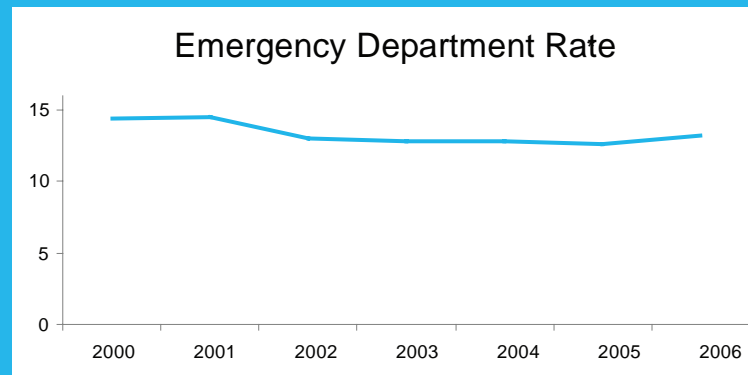
Hospitalizations of children with asthma have been reduced by 48%. (2000-2006)



*Rate of the asthma event (either a hospitalization or an ED visit) per 1,000 persons, 0-18 years of age.



Emergency department and urgent care visits for pediatric asthma-related issues have been reduced by 8%. (2000-2006)



The proportion of parents who reported that asthma symptoms limited their child's activities most or all of the time declined by 27%. (2003-2006)



School attendance averaged two days higher for students with asthma in Saint Paul Public Schools that implemented the program compared to other schools. (2003-2004 school year)

Partners for Asthma Action

Helping Twin Cities youth breathe easier



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Partners for Asthma Action is looking for leading organizations to help us make significant improvements in the lives of children with asthma. For more information on how your organization could contribute to this ongoing effort, please contact:



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St. Paul, MN 55103-2441

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www.alamn.org/americancities

Controlling Asthma Project Six-Year Progress Report 2002-2008

Background

Partners for Asthma Action* is a coalition of more than 50 leading health, education, public policy and community partners focused on improving pediatric asthma care in the Twin Cities. In 2001, Partners for Asthma Action spearheaded the Controlling Asthma Project, which is funded through June 2008 by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Controlling Asthma Project is one of seven CDC-funded projects nationwide providing evidence of best practices in asthma management.

Project Goals

The Controlling Asthma Project's over-arching goal is to improve health outcomes for children with asthma. Progress toward this goal is measured by:

- Decreased emergency department visits for children with asthma
- Decreased hospitalizations of children with asthma
- Increased school attendance of children with asthma
- Decreased asthma symptoms as reported by parents

Multiple, Coordinated Interventions

The Controlling Asthma Project's work occurs in Minneapolis and St. Paul but is aligned with statewide programs and efforts. Comprehensive interventions align in four broad areas:

1. School-based Interventions
2. Health Systems / Professional Education Interventions
3. Community-based Education and Interventions
4. Policy Initiatives

Increasing the knowledge of people and the capacity of systems

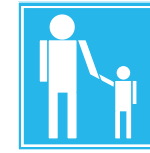
Within these four broad areas, partners have implemented a system of interventions that delivers clear, consistent messages to families in every setting – clinics, pharmacies, schools, homes, childcare settings, emergency departments and hospitals.

Key to this work is a relentless focus to increase the knowledge of people and the capacity of systems to better manage pediatric asthma. As a result, the project has made measurable improvements in the lives of Twin Cities children. Moreover, the lessons learned are transferable to other communities and to the management of other chronic diseases.

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A Snapshot of the Work: Approaching Asthma from Every Angle



Parents: "Managing Your Child's Asthma," developed in partnership with the Hennepin County Medical Center, is a 90-minute presentation for families of children with asthma. The presentation is conducted in four languages and addresses basics about asthma, triggers, medicines, and self-management skills.

Schools: The Healthy Learners Asthma Initiative offers a way for schools and the community to ensure students with chronic health conditions such as asthma are healthy and in school ready to learn.

Clinics: Health care providers express appreciation for the opportunity to be part of a collaborative discussion group about asthma, to share lessons learned, and to problem solve together.

Pharmacists: "Improving the Lives of Our Patients with Asthma: Asthma Interventions for Busy Pharmacists" is a two-hour continuing education program for community pharmacists to impart the knowledge and skills necessary to provide education to their patients with asthma in a busy pharmacy setting.

Childcare Providers: In follow-up surveys, 88% of childcare providers who attended asthma trainings reported feeling more prepared when administering medications to children with asthma.

Emergency Departments: Hennepin County Medical Center and Children's Hospitals and Clinics in Minneapolis and St. Paul include asthma education in all new emergency department employee orientations and, as an indication of the long-term potential for progress, both organizations have institutionalized an ED asthma education protocol that includes documentation of educational activities.

Homes: Assessments of environmental triggers in the home result in improved conditions and provide families with simple fixes such as a HEPA vacuum, air cleaners and mattress covers. Home assessments are conducted by Pediatric Home Service and environmental specialists from the Minneapolis Regulatory Services and Saint Paul Ramsey County Public Health. As of December 2007, 141 families had received a home assessment through this closely coordinated effort.

Health Plans: Health plans and the Minnesota Department of Human Services have been very open to reviewing their coverage policies and making changes that are in the best interest of children with asthma.

*Partners for Asthma Action is formerly known as Controlling Asthma in American Cities Project.