

Taking Action to Address Racial and Ethnic Childhood Asthma Disparities

Working together to Get the Right Care with the Right Supports to the Right Children



In Focus: Taking Action on Health Disparities

- Senior Leadership across government is focused on reducing health disparities:
 - Affordable Care Act
 - Healthy People 2020
 - HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities
 - National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity
 - The National Prevention Strategy
 - EPA Plan EJ 2014
- The President's Taskforce on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children released the Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities in May.
- Asthma Disparities Action Plan contributes a specific blueprint for reducing asthma disparities in children. This could be a model for addressing disparities in chronic diseases.

Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities

May, 2012

www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce

President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children



Coordinated Federal Action Plan
to Reduce Racial and Ethnic
Asthma Disparities

Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities



Asthma Disparities

- What are the factors that underlie asthma disparities?
- What are the strategies that could mitigate these factors?
- What are the near term actions that we can take, individually and together?
 - Federal programs
 - State and Local programs

Preventable Factors

- Medical Care
 - Limited access to quality health care and culturally appropriate asthma self-management education
 - Episodic and fragmented care
 - Costs
- Physical Environment
 - Substandard housing
 - Neighborhood/community air pollution
 - Secondhand smoke exposure
- Psychosocial Environment
 - Competing priorities (food and housing insecurity)
 - Chronic stress, acute exposure to violence

Strategies to address preventable factors

- Improve our ability to identify children and families in need
- Reduce barriers to delivery of comprehensive, guidelines-based care
- Build local capacity to deliver and sustain comprehensive asthma management services



Coordinating Federal Action on Asthma Disparities

Get asthma care and support to the right children

A greater impact on reducing asthma disparities will depend on best use of modern tools to target those children most in need, engage them, and track their progress.

- Harmonize data, metrics, definitions and outcome indicators
- Apply emerging technologies to enhance identification of target populations and track risk factors for poor asthma outcomes (e.g. GIS, spatial epidemiology and hot-spot analysis)

Key Organizations: CDC, EPA, HRSA, NIH

Anticipated Outcome: Community-level data used to target interventions to the children, families and neighborhoods most in need.

Coordinating Federal Action on Asthma Disparities

Get the right asthma care to children, at all points of care

Reduce barriers, including costs, to guidelines-based care:

- Update and disseminate federal guidance to health care purchasers and planners on key clinical activities for guidelines-based care

Key organizations: CDC, CMS, NHLBI, EPA

Anticipated Outcome: Purchasers/payers will cover asthma education and environmental interventions

Coordinating Federal Action on Asthma Disparities

Get community support for asthma care: build capacity

Promote cross-sector partnerships among federally-supported, community based programs targeting children with high asthma burden

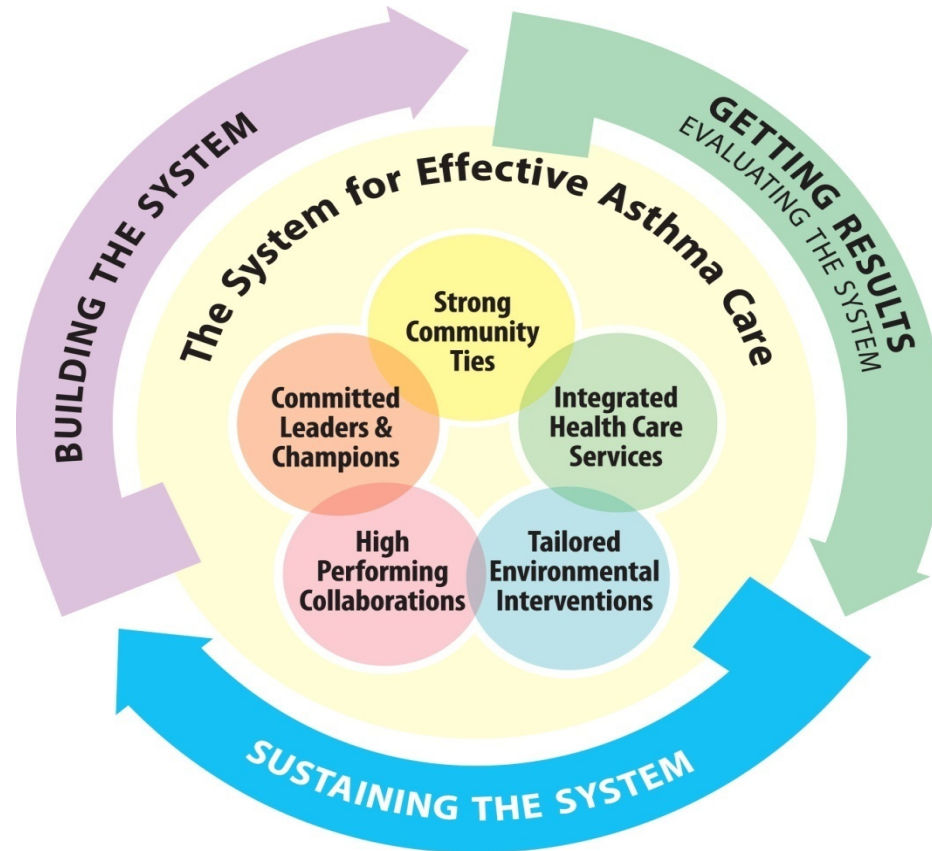
- Promote data-sharing and coordination between health care providers and supporting entities (hospitals, pharmacies, schools, social services) and service sectors (community health workers, healthy homes, tobacco control, weatherization, diabetes, obesity programs)

Key Organizations: AHRQ, CDC, CMS, DOE,ED, EPA, HUD, HRSA, NIH

Anticipated Outcome: Community care systems will be data driven and all service sectors will be connected through a continuum of care.

Taking Action to Address Asthma Disparities: State and Local Programs

The Right Care with the Right Supports to the Right Children



Mobilizing communities to lead the nation in the delivery of quality asthma care.

Supplemental slides

President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children

TF Mission:

- Identify priority issues of environmental health and safety risks to children that could best be addressed through interagency efforts
- Recommend and implement interagency actions
- Communicate to federal, state, and local decision makers information to protect children from risks

President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children

Organization:

- Cabinet level, inter-agency task force co-chaired by the EPA Administrator and DHHS Secretary
- Senior Steering Committee provides support
 - 14 Executive Branch departments/agencies represented
- Priority Areas:
 - **Asthma Disparities**
 - Chemical Exposures
 - Settings where children live, learn, and play
 - near term focus on “healthy homes”

President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children

Asthma Disparities Working Group:

- Co-chaired by EPA, HHS/NHLBI, HUD:
 - 28 member workgroup representing 21 offices
- Gathered input from federal programs, NGOs and foundations, leading researchers, physician champions, thought leaders
- Writing Team uses an iterative, consensus-based process:
 - Paul Garbe, Elizabeth Herman, CDC, National Center for Environmental Health
 - Lara Akinbami, CDC, National Center for Health Statistics
 - Theresa Watkins Bryant, HRSA
 - Sally Darney, EPA, Office of Research and Development
 - Herb Bolton, USDA
 - Derrick Tabor, NICHD
 - Michelle Sternthal, HUD

President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children

Coordinating Federal Action on Asthma Disparities

Target effective public health practice and interventions

- Promote NAEPP Guidelines-based care
- Support public-private partnerships
- Build community capacity for sustainable and comprehensive care systems

Advance policy initiatives

- MCAN/GWU report on Changing Policy
- NAEPP Guidelines Implementation Panel Report

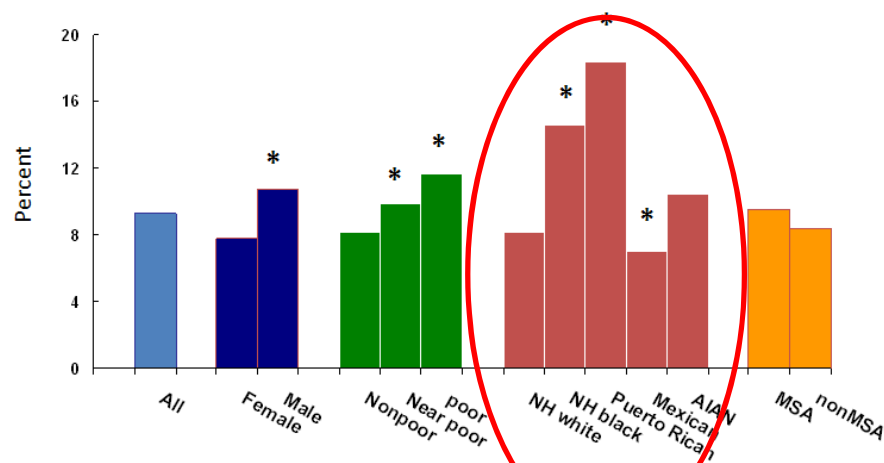
Execute collaborative research agenda

- Foster research on environmental influences in asthma, prevention, systems-approach interventions, and comparative effectiveness research in the context of reducing disparities

Why Asthma Disparities?

Minority children have a greater asthma burden than white children

Current Asthma Prevalence among Children by demographic characteristics: 2006-2008



** two-sided significance test significant at the 0.05 level compared to first category in group
 AIAN=American Indian/Alaska Native
 MSA=metropolitan statistical area
 Data Source: CDC/NCHS: National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Disparities in outcomes among children with asthma, by race/ethnicity, 2003-2004

