

Easy Breathing



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Program Overview

- **Location:** Hartford, Connecticut
- **Type of Program:** Hospital and Public Health Department collaboration to provide Community Asthma Management Program for Primary Care Clinicians. The Program is designed to translate the national asthma guidelines into a user-friendly format to assist clinicians in diagnosing and treating asthma efficiently and effectively.
- **Service Area:** Statewide; now in 9 other states
- **Population Served:** Urban, suburban and rural communities throughout the state
- **Results:** 35% ↓ hospitalizations; 29% ↓ ED visits; 19% ↓ urgent care OPVs; 93-96% use of appropriate medications; 95% of participants receive a written treatment plan.



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Building the System

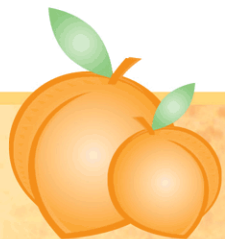
Conduct Needs-Based Planning

1998

- 41% of children diagnosed with asthma
- 38% receiving care consistent with NAEPP guidelines
- <5% receiving a written asthma treatment plan

Homes

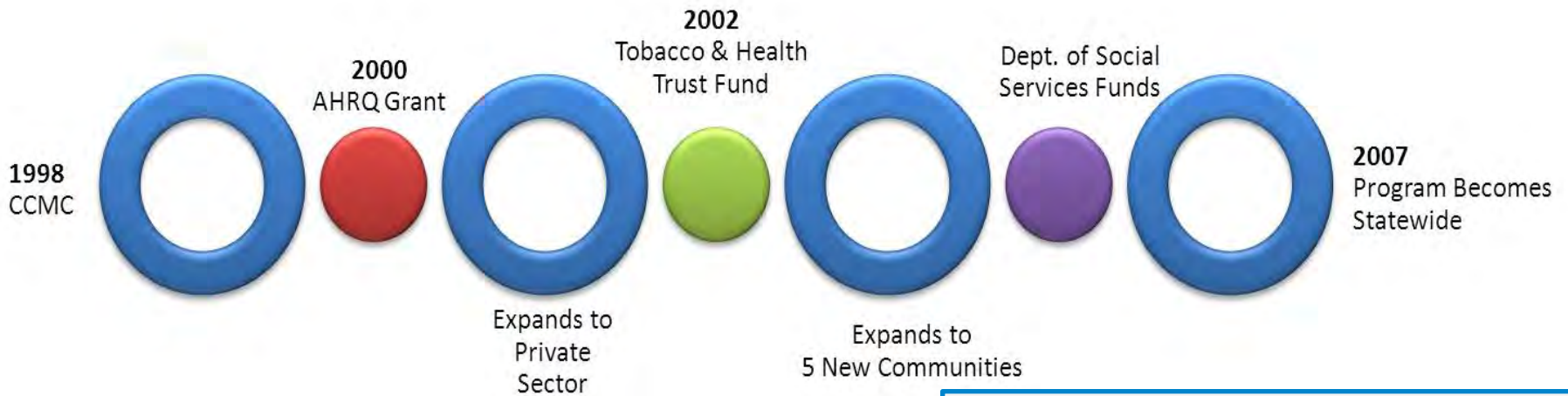
- >90% are pre-1950' s
- Median income has decreased over the past 10 years
- Overcrowding and pest infestation
- 80% of children with one or more positive allergy skin tests



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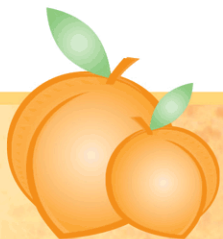
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Building the System



Today:

- 110,000 children enrolled in CT (30,000 with asthma)
- 375 clinicians
- 106 practices statewide



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Evaluating the System



Evaluate Interventions

- Created a database for informative feedback

Evaluate Program Impact – 3 Cohort Studies

1 – Reduction of Medical Service Utilization for Program Participants

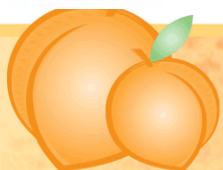
- 35% ↓ in hospitalizations.
- 27% ↓ in ED visits for children with asthma.

2 – Effectiveness of Program in Private Practices

- 47% ↑ in corticosteroid prescription and use.
- 56% ↓ in outpatient visits.
- 91% ↓ in ED visits for patients who completed program.

3 – Effectiveness of Program in Communities Where Led by Local Champions

- Similar ↓'s in ED visits and hospitalizations.



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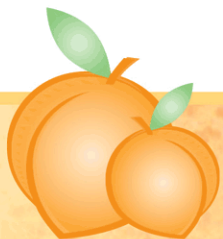
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Sustaining the System



Promote Institutional Change for Sustainability

- Provide the basics; with time, they will ask for more
- Build your database with expansion in mind
- Integrate program
- Be ready to become “unpopular” with your institution
- Keep up with current technology
 - Work with EMR companies to integrate program into EMRs



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On behalf of all the Easy Breathers in CT, thank you for this recognition

- Michelle M. Cloutier, MD
- Charles B. Hall, PhD
- Dorothy Wakefield, MS
- Lisa Jordan, AE-C, RPFT
- Pamela Higgins, MPH
- Sara Martel, BS
- Annamarie Beaulieu, MPH
- Jennifer Atkins
- Autherene Grant
- Deborah Steciak



**Plus all the Regional and
District Coordinators, Local
Physician Champions and
Data Entry Personnel
AND**



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The Easy Breathing Clinicians

Easy Breathing I and II

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Tug Cologne, PA
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Richard Johnson, MD
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Holly Frost, MD
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Easy Breathing Statewide Initiative (continued)

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