

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

Purpose

The purpose of the Asthma Subcommittee is to ensure that all children in the U.S., particularly those with asthma, can reach their full potential without limitation from their disease.

The goals of this subcommittee include:

- Broadening interagency and stakeholder collaboration on initiatives for reimbursement of care for asthma.
- Expanding research coordination using resources across federal agencies to address differences in asthma outcomes among children.
- Exploring opportunities to partner and leverage efforts to provide comprehensive asthma care in tribal communities.



Activities

Recognizing the challenges that some families of children with asthma who bear a disproportionate burden of disease may face, the subcommittee works to share resources created through interagency collaborations.

Example:

Reducing the Impact of Asthma on Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) Beneficiary Families

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) established the Improving Asthma Control Affinity Group to provide states with technical assistance. Participating states developed resources and practice models that partners continue to promote and support through ongoing technical assistance.



Accomplishments

Home Characteristics and Asthma Triggers - Checklist for Home Visitors

- CDC, EPA, and HUD co-developed a [checklist](#) in 2018 and an [associated training](#) in 2020 to help home visitors identify and address environmental asthma triggers. A trained home visitor can help find common asthma triggers in homes and discuss ways to reduce and remove them. Removing asthma triggers in the home, along with proper medical care, can improve children's health. The checklist is organized into a Core Assessment plus two appendices (Dust Mite Module and Mold and Moisture Module). The Core Assessment can be used for all types of housing and climates. The additional modules can be used if dust mites or mold/moisture issues are suspected. The suggested action items in this checklist are generally simple and low cost.

Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities

- In May 2012, the subcommittee combined the efforts of federal agencies to launch the [Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities](#). The plan presented a framework to maximize the use of federal resources to address the major public health challenge of differences in asthma outcomes among children.

Asthma Empowerment Collaborations: Reducing Childhood Asthma Disparities

- The 2015 *Create Asthma Empowerment Collaborations to Reduce Childhood Asthma* and the 2017 *Asthma Empowerment Collaborations to Reduce Childhood Asthma Disparities* funding opportunities supported investigators in planning and conducting clinical trials to evaluate Asthma Care Implementation Programs (ACIP) for children at high risk of poor asthma outcomes. Findings from these initiatives continue to be published as they become available.

Measures to Identify and Track Disparities in Asthma Outcomes Among Children

- CDC led the response to the Asthma Subcommittee's recommendations to standardize definitions, measures, outcomes, and data collection across federal programs and in state, local, and community settings. This standardization is improving the availability, comparability, and use of asthma data across federal programs.

