A National Asthma Public Policy Agenda

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Disclosure Statement

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Development of a National Asthma Public Policy Agenda

Objectives:

- Compile an evidence-based Agenda of public policy approaches that will reduce asthma morbidity and mortality
- Engage a broad range of stakeholders nationwide to advocate for policy change

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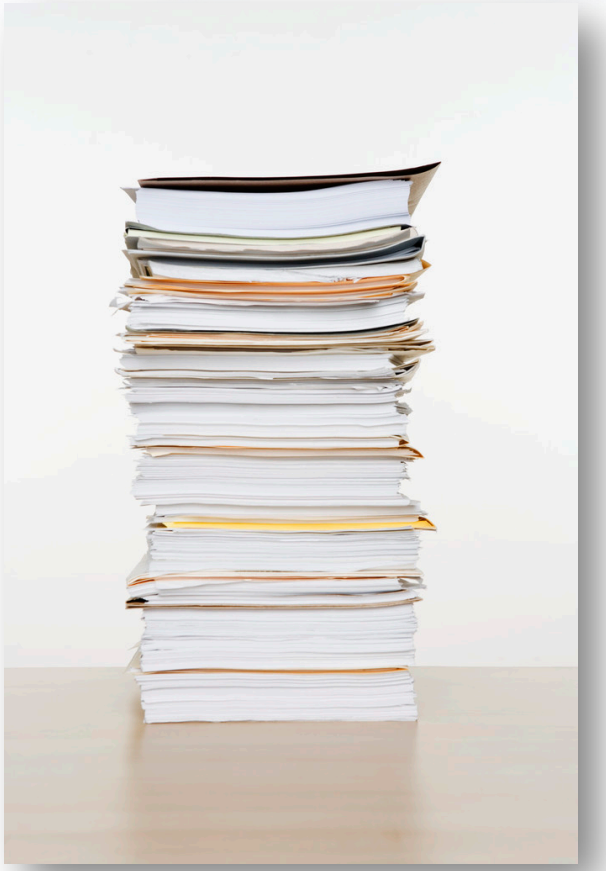
The Consensus Process



- Began with broad literature search
- Held stakeholder consensus conference
- Agreed on policy approaches with greatest impact and feasibility

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Results

19 policy recommendations in 6 arenas:

- Public Health Infrastructure and Surveillance
- Outdoor Air
- Health Care Systems and Financing
- Homes
- Schools
- Workplaces

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Public Health Infrastructure and Surveillance
A stronger public health infrastructure is essential.

Public Health Infrastructure & Surveillance

recommendations include:

- **Expanding state asthma plans and programs**
  - Every state should have an adopted state plan and adequately funded state program.
- **Improving surveillance**
  - A comprehensive, nationwide surveillance system is needed.

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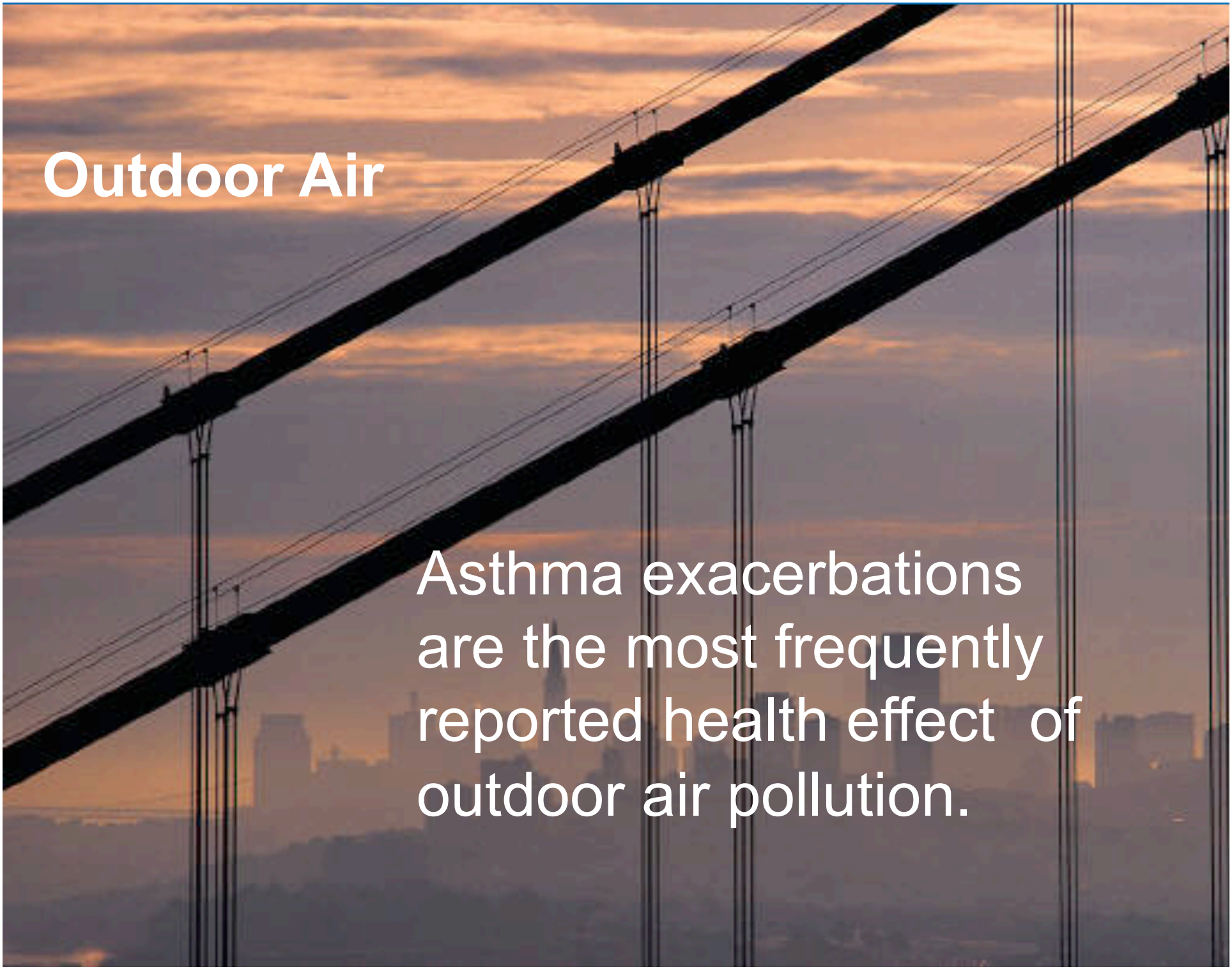
Outdoor Air
Asthma exacerbations are the most frequently reported health effect of outdoor air pollution.

Outdoor Air

recommendations include:

- **Reducing outdoor asthma triggers**
  - Expand federal, state and local measures to clean up sources of pollution
- **Monitoring air pollutants**
  - Expand nationwide ambient air quality monitoring system to all counties
  - Monitor traffic and hot-spot sources, especially in high-risk communities

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Health-Care Systems and Financing
Components of optimal care are in place. We need universal adoption.

Health-Care Systems and Financing

recommendations include:

- **Providing access to guidelines-based care**
  - Cover self-management education, development of asthma plans & case management
- **Improving quality**
  - Expand standardized performance measures

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Homes
Available tools can help reduce or prevent known triggers for asthma in homes.

Homes

recommendations include:

- **Use housing and building codes to protect indoor air**
- **Strengthen housing code enforcement**
  - Ensure capacity of health departments and housing inspection agencies
- **Public housing and multi-unit housing should be smokefree**

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Schools
School health services, staff development and school environments all affect children with asthma.

Schools

recommendations include:

- **Implementing comprehensive asthma-management plans**
  - School personnel, nurses, parents and providers, among others, can work together
- **Adopting environmental management plans**
  - Children should be protected from both indoor and outdoor pollution

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Workplaces
Many workplaces contain substances that cause or worsen asthma.

Workplaces

recommendations include:

- **Managing work-related asthma**
  - Includes both primary and secondary prevention
- **Improving surveillance**
  - Identifying clusters of asthma cases can reduce exposure for all workers

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A Call to Action

This Agenda recommends actions for:

- national, state and local governments
- insurers, health-care systems, school districts and employers

For more information

- National Asthma Public Policy Agenda
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