Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities

Division of Lung Diseases
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Indoor Environments Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

National Center for Environmental Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Goal:

- Improve delivery of results to the public to address environmental health risks and safety risks to children
- *Accelerate interagency coordination and action*
- Three priority areas
  - Asthma disparities
  - Chemical exposures
  - Healthy settings
Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities will:

- Focus on coordination and collaboration
- Leverage existing resources and program capabilities
- Ensure there is an evidence base
Federal Action Plan: Four Strategies

1. Remove barriers to delivery of guidelines-based asthma care
2. Build local capacity to deliver integrated community-based care
3. Improve capacity to identify those most in need
4. Accelerate effort to prevent onset of asthma
Highlights: Strategy One
Remove Barriers to Guidelines-Based Care

- Explore reimbursement strategies to cover all asthma care services and reduce out-of-pocket expenses.
- In health care settings, coordinate existing federal programs to improve QOC to disparate populations.
- In homes, reduce environmental exposures (promote CG recommendations, federally assisted housing).
- In school and child care settings, implement asthma care services and reduce environmental triggers.
Encourage cross-sector linkages and partnerships between asthma programs and community health workers, healthy homes, tobacco control, radon and lead reduction, and obesity programs.

Address state and local policies and practices that protect children from health risks associated with air pollution (transportation and goods movement, new home construction, school siting, public awareness).

Highlights: Strategy Two
Build local capacity to deliver integrated, comprehensive care.
Highlights: Strategy Three
Improve capacity to identify children with a disparate burden

• Explore emerging technologies (e.g., health GIS, internet and mobile phone, hotspot analysis) to enhance identification of target populations and tracking risk factors for poor asthma outcomes

• Standardize and promote definitions, measures, outcomes and information/data collection methods, and maximize availability and use of collected data
Highlights: Strategy Four
Accelerate efforts to prevent the onset of asthma

- Reduce exposure to environmental tobacco smoke among pregnant women and infants.
- Establish priorities and collaborations across federal agencies for research to identify and test interventions that prevent the onset of asthma.
- Coordinate asthma research programs across federal agencies that support observational follow-up of birth cohorts.
How Can You Contribute?
Determinants of Health Disparities (And Opportunities to Address Them).

- **INDIVIDUAL**
  - Education
  - Income
  - Wealth
  - Occupation
  - Race/Ethnicity
  - Age
  - Gender/Genetics
  - Language
  - Health behaviors
  - Health resources
  - Health beliefs

- **INTERPERSONAL**
  - Family
  - Peers
  - Neighbors
  - Faith institutions

- **ORGANIZATIONS**
  - Community groups
  - Schools
  - Healthcare providers & institutions
  - Community assets
  - Community relationships
  - Employers
  - Transportation
  - Health-related norms

- **COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT**
  - Built environment
  - Weather & natural events
  - Pollution & toxins
  - Segregation

- **SOCIETY & PUBLIC POLICY**
  - Other policy (e.g., education, economic, urban planning, housing, criminal justice, immigration)
  - Racism and discrimination
  - Economic conditions
  - Health policy
INTERPERSONAL

COMMUNITY

ENVIRONMENT

SOCIETY & PUBLIC POLICY

INDIVIDUAL

Education
Income
Wealth
Occupation
Race/Ethnicity
Age
Gender/Genetics
Language
Health behaviors
Health resources
Health beliefs

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Community groups
Schools
Healthcare providers & institutions
Employers
Faith institutions

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

Built environment
Pollution & toxins
Segregation
Health-related norms
Transportation
Weather & natural events

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC POLICY

Other policy (e.g., education, economic, urban planning, housing, criminal justice, immigration)

Economic conditions
Health policy

STRATEGY 1: Remove Barriers to Quality Asthma Care

Provide technical assistance in reducing asthma triggers

Collaborate with other agencies to facilitate home visits for children with uncontrolled asthma

Adopt policies that reduce environmental exposures in multi-unit housing
Provide information about the effects of outdoor air pollutions to policy makers involved with transportation and goods movement……

......and policy makers involved in new home/school construction, renovations, repairs and maintenance.

Create a seamless system of services
Strategy 3: Improve capacity to identify (and reach) the children most impacted by asthma disparities.

- Participate in the development, testing and use of standard definitions and measures of program activities and interventions.
Strategy 4: Accelerate Efforts to Prevent the Onset of Asthma Among Ethnic and Racial Minorities

Promote tobacco-free living in federally assisted and other multi-unit housing

Other policy (e.g., education, economic, urban planning, housing, criminal justice, immigration)
Summary

- Addressing racial/ethnic health disparities requires interventions at multiple levels
- No single agency or discipline can hope to succeed in isolation
- Each agency, sector, discipline has unique contributions
- Collaboration and coordination across federal, state, NGO and other agencies is necessary
For more information:

www.cdc.gov/asthma

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