

Highlights of Federal Guidance and Strategies Supporting Residential Asthma Interventions

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To Review

- National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, 2007)
- Guide to Community Preventive Services/CDC (2008)
- Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities (2012)
- Advancing Healthy Housing: A Strategy for Action (2013)

National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma

The NHLBI-produced Guidelines (updated in 2007) are comprehensive and evidence-based. The Guidelines establish that effective asthma care must be comprehensive and include four key components:

- Pharmacologic treatment
- Education to improve self-management skills of the patient and their family
- Reduction of environmental exposures that worsen asthma
- Monitoring the level of asthma control with a patient's management plan adjusted accordingly

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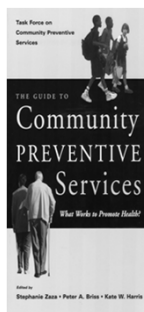
NAEPP Guidelines: Recommendations on in-Home Control of Asthma Triggers

- Evaluate the potential role of allergens and irritants
 - Identify allergen and pollutants/irritant exposures
 - Persistent asthma: use skin or *in vitro* testing to assess sensitivity to perennial indoor allergens
- Advise patients to reduce exposure to allergens and pollutants/irritants
 - Multifaceted allergen control educational programs provided in the home setting can help patients reduce exposure to cockroach, dust-mite, and rodent allergens and, consequently, improve asthma control.

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The Guide to Community Preventive Services

- Established by HHS in 1996 and administered by the CDC
- Directed by the Task Force on Community Preventive Services (non-federal organization)
- Conducts rigorous systematic reviews of evidence for community interventions
- Conducted a review of home-based, multi-trigger, multi-component interventions with an environmental focus to improve asthma control in children and adolescents (completed: 2008)
- <http://www.thecommunityguide.org>



Community Guide Conclusions (1)

- For children and adolescents:
 - Multi-component, multi-trigger home-based environmental interventions are effective in improving overall quality of life and productivity in children with asthma.
 - The benefits of these interventions can match or exceed their program costs
- For adults:
 - The effectiveness of these interventions are inconclusive due to the small # of studies and inconsistent results.

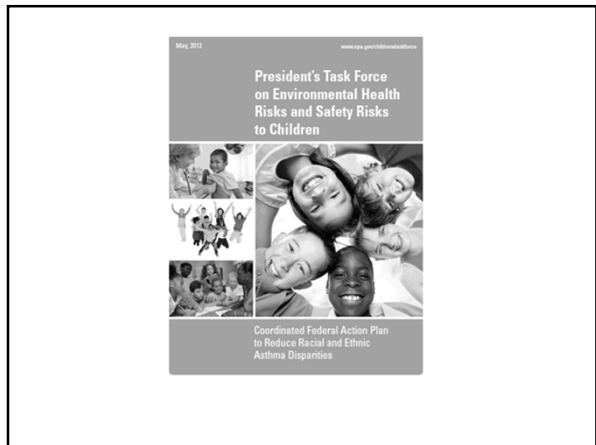
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Community Guide Conclusions (2)

- **Home-based:** at least one home visit conducted by someone with training or experience
- **Multi-component:** at least two components (asthma-related education, self-management, env. remediation, social services, coordinated care), including at least one environmental component:
 - Environmental Assessment
 - Environmental Remediation
 - Environmental Education
- **Multi-trigger:** targets two or more potential asthma triggers

Environmental Remediation Intensity

Minor	Moderate	Major
Environmental assessment	Dehumidifiers	New form of HVAC
Pillow and mattress covers	HEPA filters	Insulation
	Vacuums	Re-roofing
	Integrated pest management	Removal of water damaged materials
	Minor repairs	



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

TF Mission:

- Identify priority issues of environmental health and safety risks to children that can 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

Priority Areas:

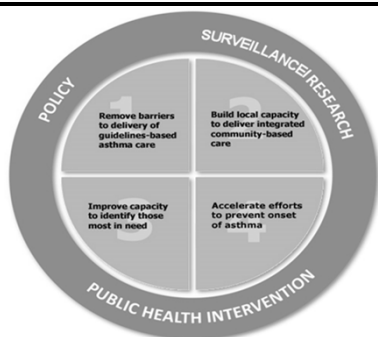
- Asthma Disparities
- Settings where children live, learn, and play (e.g., healthy homes)

Focus of the Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities

The focus of the plan is on: *“preventable factors that contribute to disparities in the burden of asthma”*, including:

- Barriers to the implementation of guidelines-based asthma care
 - Medical care factors
 - Physical and psychosocial environmental factors
- Lack of local capacity to deliver community-based, integrated, comprehensive asthma care
- Gaps in capacity to identify and reach children most at risk

Taking Action: Four Key Strategies



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Strategy 1: Reduce barriers to the implementation of guidelines-based asthma management

Priority Actions:

- 1.1 Explore strategies to expand access to asthma care services
 - including: patient education, home interventions, medications, subspecialty services when needed
- 1.2 In health care settings, coordinate existing federal programs in underserved communities to improve the quality of asthma care
- 1.3 In homes, reduce environmental exposures
- 1.4 In schools and child care settings, implement asthma care services and reduce environmental exposures

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Advancing Healthy Housing: A Strategy for Action

Released on Feb. 4, 2013 by the President's Task Force on Env. Health/Safety Risks to Children:

- Interagency press event
 - HUD Secretary (Shaun Donovan)
 - EPA Administrator (Lisa Jackson)
 - U.S. Surgeon General (Dr. Regina Benjamin)
 - Deputy Secretary of Energy (Daniel Poneman)
 - Council on Environmental Quality Chair (Nancy Sutley)



Healthy Homes Strategy: Some Relevant Priority Actions

- ❖ Strengthen federal efforts to reduce public health risks in housing.
- ❖ Support pilot projects to incorporate healthy homes concepts into existing federal programs.
- ❖ Strategically target healthy homes activities to support the needs of underserved populations.
- ❖ Acknowledge and incorporate work promoting approaches that support health equity.
- ❖ Encourage pilots or demonstration programs that advance healthy housing.

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Thank you!

Acknowledgements:

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The Asthma Action Plan is available at:

www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce

The Healthy Homes Strategy for Action at:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/healthy_homes/advh

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