

Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments:

Key Drivers for Improving Health Outcomes for People with Asthma

David Rowson, *Director, Center for Asthma and Schools, US Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC*



Effective Interventions & Best Practices

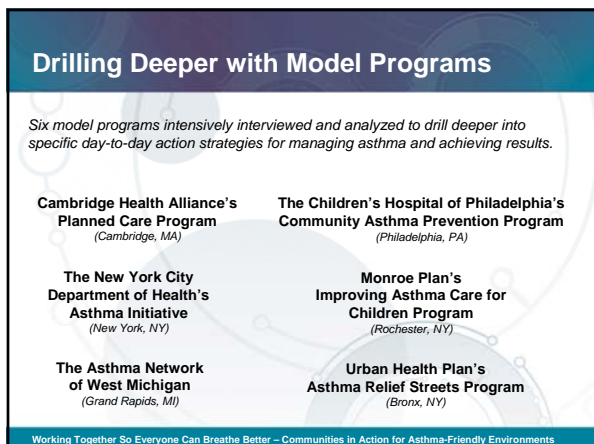
UNIVERSITY of MICHIGAN ASTHMA HEALTH OUTCOMES PROJECT
FINDINGS in BRIEF

Programs with Positive Health Outcomes:

- work with healthcare providers
- have close ties to their communities
- collaborate with other agencies/institutions
- tailor interventions to individuals' needs, especially environmental trigger sensitivity

www.AlliesAgainstAsthma.net/AHOP

Working Together So Everyone Can Breathe Better – Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments



Drilling Deeper with Model Programs

Six model programs intensively interviewed and analyzed to drill deeper into specific day-to-day action strategies for managing asthma and achieving results.

Cambridge Health Alliance's Planned Care Program <i>(Cambridge, MA)</i>	The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Community Asthma Prevention Program <i>(Philadelphia, PA)</i>
The New York City Department of Health's Asthma Initiative <i>(New York, NY)</i>	Monroe Plan's Improving Asthma Care for Children Program <i>(Rochester, NY)</i>
The Asthma Network of West Michigan <i>(Grand Rapids, MI)</i>	Urban Health Plan's Asthma Relief Streets Program <i>(Bronx, NY)</i>

Working Together So Everyone Can Breathe Better – Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments

The “Change Package”

The **Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments** Change Package Version 1 is a comprehensive tool that synthesizes:

- The AHOP findings
- In-depth study of six highly effective asthma management programs
- Evidence from the community-based chronic care literature

Analysis and site visits with the six model programs revealed *how and why* certain program characteristics lead to successful outcomes.

The result is the Change Package Version 1 that identifies **five key change concepts** that can lead to asthma program success and presents specific strategies, activities, and methods for improving program effectiveness.

<http://www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org/keydrivers.aspx>

Working Together So Everyone Can Breathe Better – Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments

5 Change Concepts: Key Drivers of Program Effectiveness

- Committed Asthma Champions
- Strong Community Ties
- High Performing Collaborations
- Integrated Health Care Services
- Tailored Environmental Interventions

Communities in Action

CHANGE CONCEPT – COMMITTED ASTHMA CHAMPIONS

Committed champions can affect program outcomes when they promote core goals; track outcomes and disseminate results; commit energy to the change process; and take ownership of steps in the change process to ensure results.

Strategies for Action:

- Lead with energy and focus on results
- Use outcomes data to promote change
- Demonstrate passion and perseverance in pursuit of program goals
- Be open to change and test new methods for improving outcomes

Working Together So Everyone Can Breathe Better – Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments

Communities in Action

CHANGE CONCEPT – STRONG COMMUNITY TIES

Community engagement should be more than a component of your program; it should be a central focus of all program activity. Highly effective asthma programs have strong relationships with community members and organizations embedded in the community.

Strategies for Action:

- Increase your program's cultural competence by working closely with your community: hire locally, have service sites in the community, and engage community members in your planning process
- Make your commitment, communications, and services easy to understand, welcoming, and easy to access
- Support other community programs

Working Together So Everyone Can Breathe Better – Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments

Communities in Action

CHANGE CONCEPT – HIGH PERFORMING COLLABORATIONS

Collaborations and partnerships can lead to improved program sustainability, increased credibility in the community, more community support, and better and more strategic program planning and implementation. Collaborations with healthcare providers and government agencies can be particularly effective.

Strategies for Action:

- Partner as much as you can particularly with established organizations
- Collaborate to implement your program and share the workload
- Share everything possible to leverage your and your partners' resources to greatest effect
- Be a reliable collaborator for your partners: deliver on commitments

Working Together So Everyone Can Breathe Better – Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments

Communities in Action

CHANGE CONCEPT – INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Highly effective community-based asthma programs ensure the consistent delivery of effective clinical care, help providers incorporate best practices, and facilitate communication across the care team.

Strategies for Action:

- Educate clinical care teams and address their needs to help them incorporate best practices into their standards of care
- Promote patient-provider interaction outside of the clinical visit
- Facilitate communication across the care team: school nurses, parents, case managers, home visitors, primary care providers, specialists and others need to communicate regularly about patient care to achieve the best outcomes

Working Together So Everyone Can Breathe Better – Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments

Communities in Action

CHANGE CONCEPT – TAILOR ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTIONS TO THE INDIVIDUAL, THE SETTING AND THE COMMUNITY

Customize environmental interventions to meet individual health and education needs; provide counseling and tools to manage environmental triggers in all of the environments where patients spend time.

Strategies for Action:

- Educate clinical care teams and individual patients on environmental asthma triggers
- Assess patients for allergies and triggers and provide *tailored* environmental education and counseling during the clinical visit
- Provide tools and training to manage environmental asthma triggers at home, at school, at work, and in the outdoor environment

Working Together So Everyone Can Breathe Better – Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments

Model Program Results

- 80% decreases in unplanned provider visits
- Decreases in asthma severity classification for 50% of patients with moderate to severe asthma
- Up to 60% - 75% decreases in emergency room visits
- Up to 80% decreases in hospitalizations
- Improved medication use
- Net saving of \$800 in health care costs per child per year

See the Change Package (www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org) for more details



Networking to “Give and Get” at this Event

- What driver appears most strongly in your own work? (offer area)
- What driver area needs work and attention in your program? (request area)



Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments

“CHANGE PACKAGE” VERSION 2 – The SYSTEM for Asthma Control Program SUSTAINABILITY

- EPA has teamed with the 2006 Asthma Forum Faculty and new 2007 Faculty to advance the Change Package.
- Reflects Communities in Action Learning from:
 - 2006 National Asthma Forum
 - Past year of the Communities in Action Network
 - Analysis of Forum Faculty programs
- Beyond the Key Drivers of Program Effectiveness, Version 2 presents how successful programs are:
 - Built
 - Evaluated
 - Resourced
 - Sustained

Working Together So Everyone Can Breathe Better – Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments

Change Package Version 2: A Systems-Based Approach for Creating & Sustaining Effective Community Asthma Programs

System for Asthma Control Program Sustainability