Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities

ACCP 13th Annual Community Asthma and COPD Coalitions Symposium: Addressing Health Disparities in Health Care Reform

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History

• Issued “Asthma and the Environment: A Strategy to Protect Children” in 2000
• Resulted in enhancements of several federal asthma programs

Leadership

• Co-chairs: Administrator, EPA and Secretary, HHS
• Steering Committee: 16 federal agencies represented
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
Task Force: Reducing Asthma Disparities is a Priority Focus Area

• Since the inception of the NAEPP in 1989, increased research and education programs and new policies have achieved positive results for the total asthma population:
  - Reduced asthma mortality and hospitalization
  - Improve self management and activity levels

• However, troubling racial and ethnic disparities persist:
  - Black children still 5 times as likely to die, 2 times as likely to be hospitalized
  - Black and Latino children are less likely to be prescribed or take recommended treatment
Federal Action Plan Development

80 Participants
- Federal Program Officers from 14 Dept/Agencies
- Extramural Scientists
- Lay Voluntary Groups
- Community Leaders

Sept 2011: Agency briefings: Refining Plan

June 2011: Agency briefings: Refining Plan

November 2010: Workshop generated topics, actions

October 2011: Gain Agency support and commitments

Spring/Summer 2011: Writing team synthesized topics & drafted plan

December 2010: Agency briefings: Refining Plan

May 2011: Writing team synthesized topics & drafted plan

October 2010: Workshop generated topics, actions

November 2011: Initiate implementation

Oct/Nov 2011: Release plan
CEH Task Force Goal: Health Equity for Children Who Have Asthma

Right Asthma Care
With Right Support
To the Right Children
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
Get the right asthma care to children, at all points of care

• Explore reimbursement strategies to cover all asthma care services and reduce out-of-pocket expenses for families

• In health care settings, coordinate existing federal programs in underserved communities to improve asthma care
  ➢ Train primary care providers to practice NAEPP guidelines based care
  ➢ Expand quality improvement models

• In homes, reduce environmental exposures
  ➢ Increase use of Community Guide
  ➢ Require federally – assisted housing to reduce exposures

• In school and child care settings, implement asthma care services
  ➢ Promote use of asthma action plans
  ➢ Deliver training for reducing exposures
  ➢ Develop demonstration projects for case-management
Highlights: Strategy Two
Get community support for asthma care: build capacity

• Integrate asthma care with existing community resources to support and reinforce asthma management

• Promote cross-sector partnerships among federally-supported, community-based asthma programs

• Promote data-sharing mechanisms (e.g., across health care, and school)

• Encourage linkages between asthma programs and community health workers, healthy homes, tobacco control, radon and lead reduction, and obesity programs

• Initiate research to evaluate models of systems approaches to address the multi-factorial causes of asthma disparities
• 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

• Currently, there are no evidence based interventions to prevent asthma. Association studies suggest we should:
  ➢ Reduce exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) among pregnant women and infants
  ➢ Promote comprehensive asthma care for pregnant women who have asthma

• Research is urgently needed. Federal agencies will establish priorities and collaborations for research to identify and test interventions that prevent the onset of asthma
• Senior Leadership across government is focused on reducing health disparities:
  - Affordable Care Act
  - Healthy People 2020
  - HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
  - National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity
  - The National Prevention Strategy

• Asthma Plan contributes a specific blueprint for reducing asthma disparities in children
  - This could be a model for addressing disparities in chronic diseases
We Need You!!!

- Coordination of federal programs to reduce asthma will make a difference

- ...ONLY with participation of our private sector colleagues, the professional societies, lay voluntary groups such as coalitions, and, as appropriate, industry

- We will reach out to you to help TAKE ACTION
How do you see your organization/program helping to advance this effort?

Action Plan: Four Strategies

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