

**Task Force on Environmental Health Risks  
and Safety Risks to Children**

**Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce  
Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities**

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

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## **Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children**

### **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

## Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children

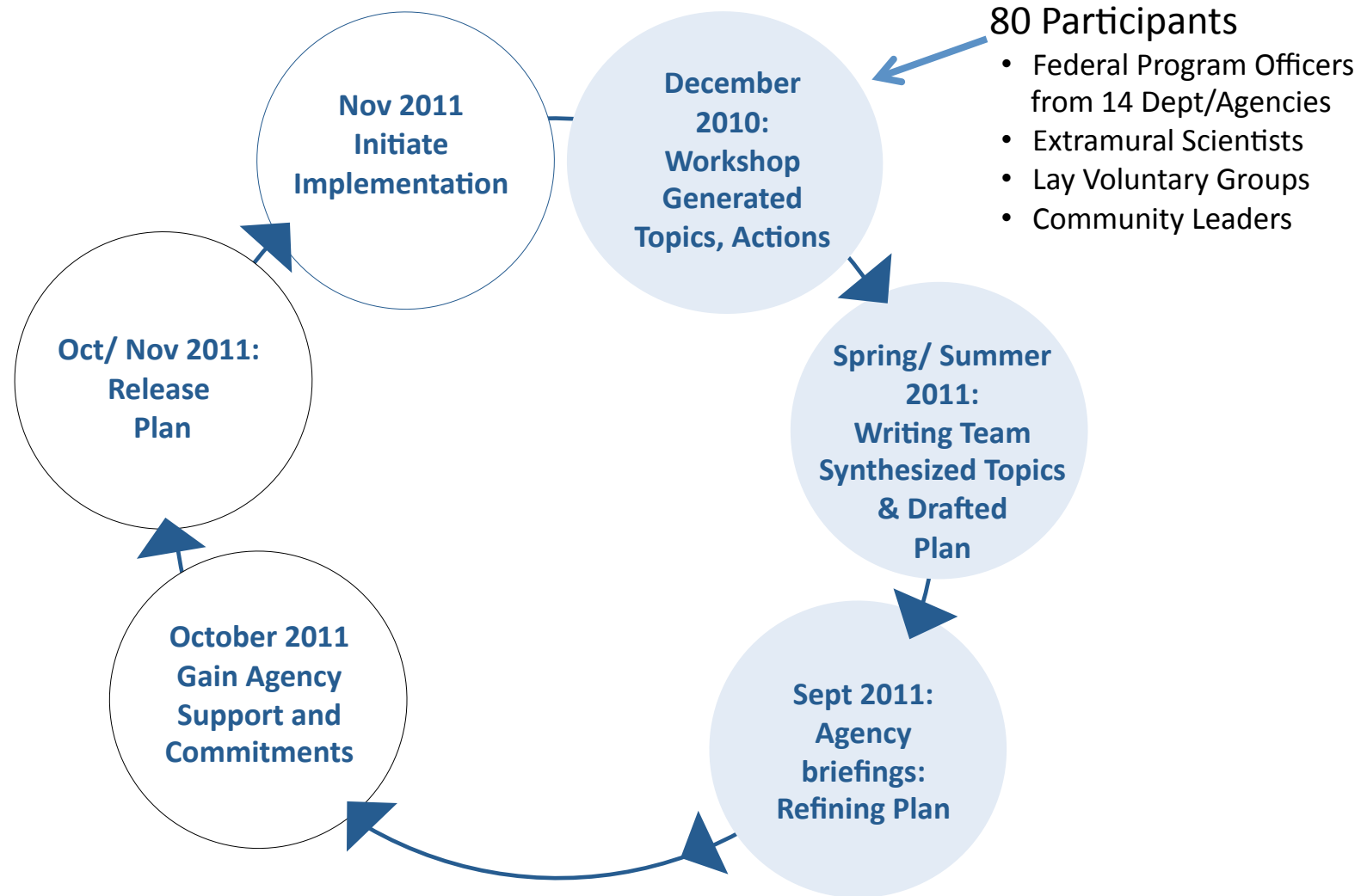
### Goal:

- 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

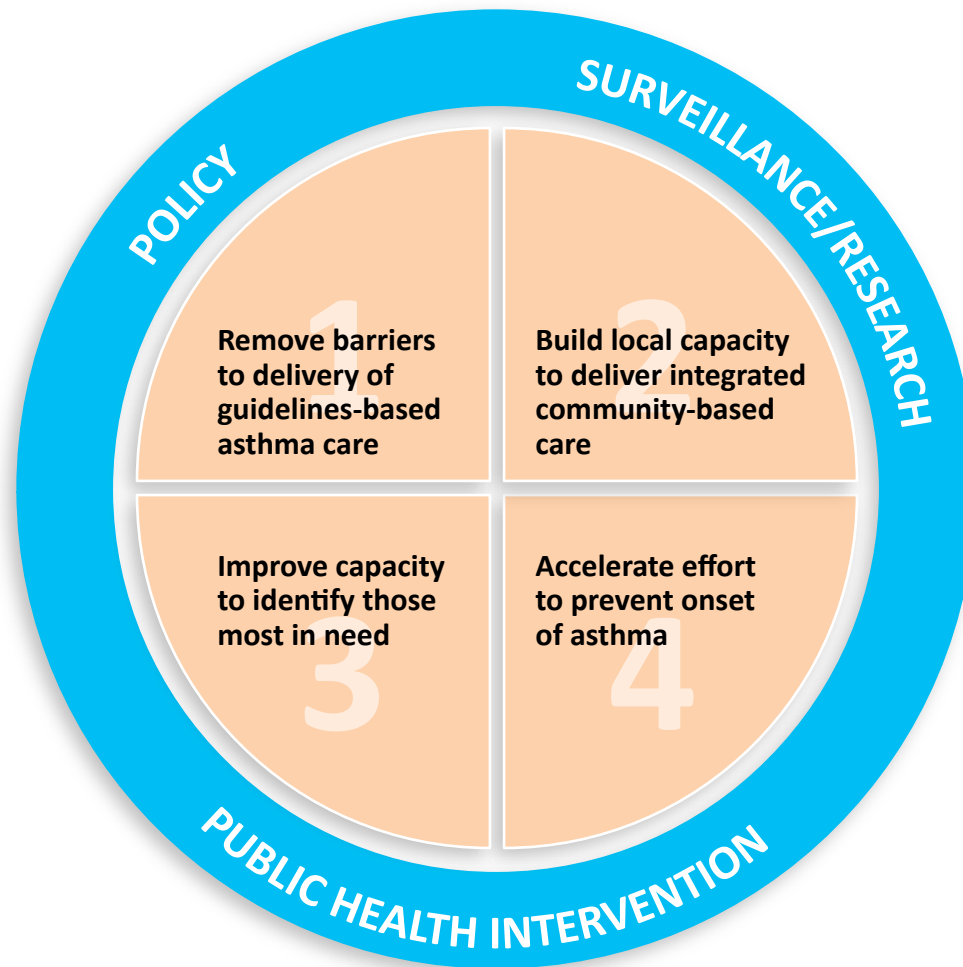


# CEH Task Force Goal: Health Equity for Children Who Have Asthma

Right Asthma Care  
With Right Support  
To the Right Children



## Federal Action Plan: Four Strategies



## 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

## **Highlights: Strategy Three**

### **Get asthma care and support to the right children**

- 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

## Turning the Plan into Action

- 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



## Action Plan: Four Strategies

How do you see your organization/program helping to advance this effort?

