EPA Award Winners, The Wisconsin Asthma Program - How Collaboration, Data, Equity Goals (And Perseverance) Improve Asthma Outcomes in Wisconsin

Erika Kluetmeier, Environmental Health Communications Strategist Wisconsin Department of Health Services, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Public Health, Presenting: Sheila Brown, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management

The nation’s highest honor for exceptional asthma management programs.

- Recognizes programs addressing the environmental components of asthma.
- Follows national guidelines and published criteria for achieving improved health outcomes.
- Employs two-tiered review process with reviewers from federal agencies and national nongovernmental organizations.
Award Winners Hall of Fame

www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org/awards/winners
Asthma Awards Program

Hall of Fame

The application process will open soon on www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org

2023 Award Winner
2023 Asthma Award Winner
Where Can I Learn More?

- Join the Asthma Community Network at www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org.
Join the Asthma Community Network to access recorded webinars and more at AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org
Wisconsin Asthma Program:
How collaboration, data, equity goals improve asthma outcomes in Wisconsin

USAsthma Summit
November 10, 2023
Overview

About the Wisconsin Asthma Program
Wisconsin asthma burden
Current initiatives
Stable funding for asthma services
Looking ahead
Wisconsin Asthma Program History

Our History

Housed in the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services

1992  Surveillance focused

2001  CDC grant expansion

2003  First Wisconsin Asthma Plan

2022  Medicaid reimbursement for asthma services
## Our Priorities

<table>
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<th>EDUCATION ON ASTHMA SELF-MANAGEMENT</th>
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<td>X</td>
<td>X-TINGUISHING SMOKING AND SECONDHAND SMOKE</td>
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<td>HOME VISITS FOR TRIGGER REDUCTION AND ASTHMA SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION</td>
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<td>ACHIEVEMENT OF GUIDELINES-BASED MEDICAL MANAGEMENT</td>
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<td>LINKAGES AND COORDINATION OF CARE ACROSS SETTINGS</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES OR BEST PRACTICES TO REDUCE ASTHMA TRIGGERS</td>
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DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING
Asthma Prevalence by State, 2021

U.S. Overall: 9.7%
Wisconsin: 10.8%
15% of Adults and 10% of Kids Reported Ever Being Diagnosed with Asthma
There Are Large Asthma Disparities by Race and Ethnicity

Hispanic: 18%
White: 17%
Other: 11%
Indigenous: 9%
Black: 8%

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2021

10.8%
There Are Large Asthma Disparities by Income

- <$15,000: 20%
- $15,000 – <$25,000: 19%
- $25,000 – <$50,000: 10%
- $50,000 – <$75,000: 8%
- $75,000+: 8%

Wisconsin Adult Prevalence: 10.8%
Asthma Rates Among People on Medicaid Are Doubled When Looking by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Not on Medicaid</th>
<th>On Medicaid</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2021
Poorly-Controlled Asthma in Adults is Greatest Among the Lowest-Income Group

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016-2020
Asthma ED and Hospitalization Rates per 10,000 People Were Stable Until the COVID-19 Pandemic
The highest ED and Hospitalization Rates per 10,000 People Are in Younger Age Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Hospitalization Rates</th>
<th>ED Rates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-34</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-64</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>8</td>
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</table>
Our Program Activities Primarily Focus in Those High-Burdened Counties
Black people are 4X more likely to die from asthma than white people in Wisconsin.
CURRENT INITIATIVES
Neighborhood Air Monitoring and Anti-Idling
Medication Therapy Management

Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin trains pharmacists on asthma best practices:

- Monitoring medication therapy plans.
- Reviewing personal medication records.
- Tracking medication action plans.
- Designing interventions or referring clients as needed.
- Documenting process and following up with asthma providers.
Patient Voice

Conversations to understand asthma patient and caregiver experiences with asthma care:

• Patient resources
  • Patient self-advocacy tips
  • Provider communication tips

• Outreach through trusted information sources

• Support groups
Asthma Control

Developing asthma care performance measures for health systems.
Quality Improvement

Developing guidelines-based medical care performance measures for health systems.
Provider Training

Delivering training on Pediatric Asthma Guidelines to Wisconsin asthma care providers.
School-Based Asthma Management Program

Four key components

• Circle of support
• Asthma management plans
• Asthma education plans
• Comprehensive environmental asthma plan
Asthma-Friendly Schools Mini-Grants

Funding to boost implementation of asthma best practices that help reduce asthma exacerbations:

- Staff education
- Asthma Action Plan on file
- Coordination with caregivers, healthcare provider & school
- School walkthrough program recommendations
School and Childcare Walkthroughs

“With the help of the school walkthrough program, I was able to impact the lives of more than 1,400 students living with asthma in our district by learning how to identify common triggers and positively modify their learning environment. This program not only helped our students, but it also benefited our entire community by improving the air quality in our schools.

—Lindsay Denheimer, school nurse and asthma educator
ASTHMA SAFE HOMES PROGRAM
Asthma-Safe Homes Program Mission

Provide asthma management tools and address asthma triggers in homes with kids who have poorly controlled asthma.
Asthma-Safe Homes Program

Provides Medicaid reimbursement funding for:

- Asthma self-management education
- Durables
- Home asthma trigger assessments
- Home repair services
THE PATH TO MEDICAID FUNDING

Successful Wisconsin Asthma Care pilot + ROI

Sustainable funding for Asthma Safe Homes Program
Results From a Case-Control Study of Asthma Care Program Participants Showed:

36% reduction in asthma-related **ED visits**

35% reduction in asthma-related **hospitalizations**

37% reduction in **total days of inpatient stays**
Results from Pre/Post Survey Data of Our Asthma Care Program Showed:

- 79% of participants had improved in ACT scores
- 54% had fewer missed days of school or work
The Return on Investment (ROI) of Our Asthma Care Program

$2.34
Path to Asthma Safe Homes Program

- **Sept 2014**: Developed Asthma Care Program under CDC grant
- **Oct 2019**: Approval to use Medicaid to provide lead hazard abatement
- **Sept 2021**: Approval of WI SPA with CHIP HSI for asthma services
- **Aug 2022**: Launched Asthma-Safe Homes program, promoted program, accepted first participants
- **June 2016**: Approval of WI SPA with CHIP HSI for Poison Control Center services
- **June 2021**: Drafted and submitted WI SPA with CHIP HSI for asthma services
- **Oct ’21-July ‘22**: Built program, recruited service providers, finalized contracts
- **Jan 2023**: First HMO-hospital financed asthma home visiting
$2.5 Million Annual Budget

- Asthma education home visits
- Durables to address home asthma triggers
- Home assessment and remediation services
- Training to expand service-provider workforce
- State program administration
Program Components

**Referral**
Client referred to asthma educator.

DHS checks Medicaid status.

Educator verifies client qualifies based on asthma screening.

**Education**
Asthma educator conducts home visits to provide self-management education, durables (up to $1000), and basic home assessment with recommendations.

**Home assessment and repairs**
In sub-set of referred homes, assessor completes comprehensive home assessment to identify and address asthma triggers (up to $5000).
Client Eligibility Criteria

Children aged 2-18 years or pregnant adults

Medicaid-eligible

Referred due to uncontrolled asthma

Living in Wisconsin, and in a program service area
Looking Ahead

• Expand Asthma-Safe Homes program service areas.

• Boost adoption of Asthma-Safe Homes program model in Medicaid HMOs.

• Promote other asthma quality improvement initiatives with Medicaid HMOs.

• Apply lessons learned from Asthma MTM.

• Expand Love My Air to schools statewide.
Cristine Rameker, MPH
cristine.rameker@wi.gov
Program Manager

Megan Elderbrook, MPH, CHES
megan.elderbrook@wi.gov
Epidemiologist

Carrie Tomasallo, MPH, PhD
carrie.tomasallo@wi.gov
Principal Investigator

Visit wi.gov/asthma