

Asthma Facts



THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM

The **Asthma Control Program (ACP)** is dedicated to reducing the burden of asthma in New Hampshire, which has some of the highest asthma rates in the United States. Through **data surveillance**, implementation of **public health interventions**, and **partnerships** with stakeholders, the ACP supports the Division of Public Health Services' broader mission to promote optimal health and well-being for all people in the state.

SURVEILLANCE Through data collection and analysis, epidemiologists capture the true burden of asthma in New Hampshire and allow us to target interventions to the communities that need them most. Surveillance activities monitor asthma prevalence, mortality, hospitalizations, control, risk factors, and environmental contributors.

OUTREACH The ACP promotes asthma self-management and the 5 steps to better asthma control: Avoiding tobacco smoke, getting a flu shot, having an Asthma Action Plan, knowing your triggers, and managing your medications. Outreach aims to improve clinical care, to pass legislation, and to make schools, homes, and workplaces healthy and safe for all people with asthma.



PARTNERSHIP The ACP has numerous state and community partners that work in collaboration to reduce the burden of asthma in New Hampshire. These partners include school nurses, public health departments, medical providers, state health programs, environmental programs, and community-based organizations. Partners come together quarterly through the NH Asthma Collaborative to combine efforts in the fight against asthma. See the reverse for more information on the NH Asthma Collaborative!

Because of the Asthma Control Program and its partners...

- ... asthma self-management education is reinforced for over 30 kids each year through Zebra Crossing's summer camp for kids with asthma
- ... asthma home visiting programs currently run in Nashua and Manchester
- ... emergency inhalers have been provided for students in 30 schools across 10 districts
- ... a standardized Asthma Action Plan (AAP) has been developed for patients across the state
- ... the number of asthma emergency department visits dropped in target communities between 2009 and 2015

Visit www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdpc/asthma for more information about the ACP



THE NH ASTHMA COLLABORATIVE

The **NH Asthma Collaborative** is a group of stakeholders from multiple sectors committed to understanding and alleviating the burden of asthma in New Hampshire communities through a holistic framework of resource sharing, partnership, outreach, and education. Within the collaborative several work groups meet to plan and implement initiatives targeting the many facets of asthma the state, such as workforce development, clinical quality improvement, healthy homes, and healthy schools. Members come together quarterly to share their work, share tools and resources, and collaborate on best practices for managing asthma in New Hampshire.

Partners: Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, NH School Nurse Association, Well Sense, The Way Home, WorkWise NH, Lamprey Health Care, BreatheNH, Zebra Crossings, Moms Clean Air Force, Southern NH Medical Center, Dartmouth Hitchcock, Lakes Region General Hospital, Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, NH Healthy Families, American Lung Association, NH Housing, and more!



The Asthma Health Improvement-Asthma Educator Network (AHI-AEN) Workgroup aims to improve clinical care of asthma across the state. Additionally, partners meet to discuss community programs for asthma patients, school-based interventions, home visiting programs, and asthma education.



The Occupational Hazards Workgroup aims to combat work-related asthma. As of 2014, over 25% of adults with asthma believed their condition was related to their work. Partners in this workgroup identify occupations with high rates of asthma and target education and training to people working in these fields.



The Bronchodilators, Spacers, and Nebulizers Implementation (BSNI) Workgroup aids in the implementation of the 2016 RSA 200:54, which provides emergency inhalers to schools for students with asthma. Partners work to procure medications for schools, train personnel on use, and understand the impact of such policies.



The School Health Workgroup aims to improve asthma management and awareness in school. By bringing together partners across the clinical and educational worlds, the group works on promoting the use of asthma action plans, implementing asthma self-management education, and creating a safe and healthy respiratory environment for all students.

New Members Always Welcome! Contact the Asthma Control Program
(www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdpc/asthma) for more information