

Improving Health and Developmental Outcomes for Children with Asthma

Case for Action:

- Asthma is the most common chronic childhood disease affecting almost 8 million U.S. children
- 9% of children living in the City of Rochester have asthma
- Asthma causes many missed school days, parents' missed workdays, and stress on daily family life
- Poor children living in the inner city have hospitalization rates 5 times higher than rates for suburban children. These children are less likely to receive or use preventive medications

Description:

The solutions to the asthma epidemic are not likely to lie in new medications or technologies. Unfortunately, many children who should receive effective preventive medications are not receiving them. The solutions, therefore, lie in overcoming multiple obstacles to the receipt of effective care.

Our work has focused on:

- Improving care for urban and minority children who suffer the greatest consequences of childhood asthma
- Developing sustainable models for identifying and treating children with asthma
- Working in community settings (like schools) to improve delivery of preventive care
- Implementing novel interventions, such as our program of school-based administration of preventive asthma medications to inner city children
- Reducing smoke exposure and preventing morbidity

Partners:

- Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong
- Rochester City School District
- Children's Institute
- National Institutes of Health (NHLBI)
- Halycon Hill Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Rochester Urban Primary Care Practices

Outcomes:

We have successfully partnered with all of the schools in the city school district to improve health and developmental outcomes for the growing number of children with asthma.

Our preliminary work has shown that children receiving preventive medications in school experience more symptom-free days during peak asthma season, fewer missed days from school, and improved parental quality of life.

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