Building and Maintaining State Health Agency Capacity to Develop Evidence-based Initiatives to Reduce Asthma
To gain a better understanding of policy barriers that state and territorial health agencies face with regard to implementing their asthma programs, and to provide recommendations on how state and territorial health agencies can overcome those challenges.
About the Assessment

- Included questions about:
  - health agency make up
  - political and legislative make up
  - legislation and policy
  - asthma education and awareness
  - asthma care
  - surveillance

- Completed by 40 state Environmental Health & Chronic Disease directors (80% response rate)
Prioritization of Asthma Programs

What Priority Does Asthma Receive in Your State?
- Medium: 50%
- Low: 24%
- High: 18%
- I don't know: 8%

Reasons for Low Priority
- Lack of funding/resources: 39%
- Not a top community concern: 17%
- Not priority in SHA: 13%
- Not on Governor's health agenda: 13%
- Staff support: 9%
- Other: 9%
Where Asthma Programs are Housed within a Health Agency

- Chronic disease: 58%
- Environmental Health: 20%
- Both CD and EH: 5%
- Other: 18%
Asthma Programs & Activities Performed by Health Agencies

- School-based education: 77%
- Medical provider education: 72%
- Community-based strategies: 67%
- Home-based education: 59%
- ED- and Hospitalization-based intervention: 44%
- Pharmacy-based education: 41%
- Workplace-based interventions: 41%
- Other: 15%
Introduced and Passed Legislation

- Anti-school bus idling programs: 13% introduced, 31% passed
- Asthma-friendly learning environments: 5% introduced, 10% passed
- Indoor air quality: 26% introduced, 36% passed
- Right-to-carry: 26% introduced, 64% passed
- Self-management skills for children with asthma: 15% introduced, 13% passed
- Smoke-free bans: 49% introduced, 82% passed
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey on asthma prevalence: 8% introduced, 38% passed
Types of Smoke-free Band Legislation

- Smoke- and tobacco-free schools: 68% Introduced, 81% Passed
- Smoke-free bars and restaurants: 74% Introduced, 91% Passed
- Smoke- and tobacco-free daycares: 37% Introduced, 59% Passed
- Enforcement of a measurable distance from entrance of daycare at which smokers can stand: 16% Introduced, 31% Passed
- Enforcement of a measurable distance from entrance of school at which smokers can stand: 32% Introduced, 53% Passed
Types of Indoor-air Quality Legislation

- **Green cleaning**: 14% Introduced, 30% Passed
- **Smoke-free workplace**: 20% Introduced, 71% Passed
- **Smoke-free multi-unit housing**: 14% Introduced, 20% Passed
- **Other smoking bans**: 80% Introduced, 79% Passed
Types of School-, Home-, and Community-based Education

- Asthma triggers and reduction techniques (School: 73%, Home: 81%, Community: 96%)
- Asthma self-education and management (School: 91%, Home: 80%, Community: 69%)
- Inhaler use (School: 67%, Home: 65%, Community: 54%)
- Asthma home team formation (School: 23%, Home: 39%, Community: 38%)
- Referral to Certified Asthma Educator (School: 20%, Home: 22%, Community: 19%)
1. Review *CDC’s Guide for State Health Agencies in the Development of Asthma Programs* and the *National Institutes of Health’s National Asthma Education and Prevention Program* guidelines for suggestions on how to improve or kick-start asthma planning.

2. Regardless of where the asthma program is housed, work across departments – chronic disease, environmental health, family and community health, and others – to augment staff and resources for asthma programs and activities.

3. Work with education agencies to identify level of asthma prevalence in students, for instances instrumentalizing a Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

4. Build relationships with asthma coalitions at the state, regional and local levels.

5. Enhance surveillance activities to better understand and demonstrate asthma prevalence.

6. Engage both public and private insurers, pharmacies, and hospitals to ensure patients have access to care and treatment, as well as self-management and inhaler use education.

7. Advocate for smoke-free multiunit housing bans.

8. Increase school-based asthma education activities by working with the state Department of Education, the National Association of School Nurses, and other appropriate groups.

9. Encourage all school and school districts to have environmental management plans that include purchasing and use of green cleaning products.
Thank you!

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