Wisconsin Asthma Coalition’s Walkthrough Program

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Coalition by Discipline

- Advocacy
- Asthma/allergy
- Asthma education
- Disparities
- Emergency medicine
- Environmental
- Epidemiology
- Health education
- Medicaid/Insurers
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacy
- Primary care
- Public health
- Respiratory therapy
- School nursing
- Tobacco prevention
- Tribal community
- Work-related asthma
Asthma Introduction
What is asthma?

• Chronic lung disease
• Cannot be cured, but can be controlled
• Airways:
  – Inflamed
  – Tighten
  – Mucous
Asthma is common

More than half a million Wisconsinites

1 in 10 adults

1 in 13 children
ASTHMA IS DEADLY

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISIT & HOSPITALIZATION RATES

- 6X AFRICAN-AMERICANS
- 2X NATIVE AMERICANS & HISPANICS
- 3X CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN AGE 5

1 PERSON DIES EVERY 5 DAYS
ASTHMA IS EXPENSIVE

18,642
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS

+ 4,992
HOSPITALIZATIONS

EXCEEDING $100 MILLION ANNUALLY
AMONG THOSE WITH ASTHMA

1 IN 2 ADULTS

1 IN 3 CHILDREN

HAVE UNCONTROLLED ASTHMA

1 IN 2 ADULTS

HAVE ASTHMA CAUSED OR MADE WORSE BY THEIR JOB

1 IN 4 ADULTS

UNABLE TO CARRY OUT THEIR WORK

1 IN 2 CHILDREN

MISS SCHOOL
What is an asthma trigger?

• A trigger is anything that causes asthma symptoms to begin or get worse.
Most common triggers

• Animals
• Cockroaches/other pests and vermin
• Dust and dust mites
• Mold, mildew and moisture
• Strong odors
Cause for Concern

Poor Indoor Air Quality + Increased Absenteeism = Lower Grades
Walkthrough Program
Walkthroughs: An Origin Story

- Started in 2013
- Part of the Wisconsin Asthma Plan 2015-2020
  - Routine health care, pharmaceutical care, education, environment
Walkthrough Program Benefits

- Identify triggers
- Recommend low and no-cost trigger reduction strategies
- Demonstrates commitment to providing safe and healthy environment for children
- Easy to replicate (in case of staff turnover)
- No cost and NONPUNITIVE!!!!
Program success

• To date: 285 walkthroughs completed

• Top three changes:
  – Removing difficult-to-clean toys
  – Cleaning up clutter (bins, storage)
  – Cleaning vents
Innovation

- Partner with school/child care champion
- Education focus
- Collaboration with state and federal partners (e.g., DHS, ALA, EPA, CDC)
- Personalized post-walkthrough report
- Credit in other programs
Asthma-Friendly Award

• Debuts for 19-20 academic year!
• Recognition for actively promoting asthma-friendly environment
• Designation lasts for 2 years
## Schools and Child Care Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Designate an asthma champion</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Gold</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Complete a WAC environmental walkthrough</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Take the American Lung Association’s Asthma Basics online course</td>
<td>1 champion</td>
<td>50% of staff</td>
<td>80% of staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Establish a process for identifying all students with asthma</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>5. Ensure all students with asthma have access to rescue medications</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>6. Create policies allowing students with asthma to self-carry and administer medications (with doctor’s permission)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>7. Create policies for staff to follow when students have asthma episodes</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>8. Establish a plan to allow students with asthma to fully participate in school or center activities, including pre-treating exercise-induced asthma and modifying physical activities for students with limitations</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Share WAC’s medication assistance webpage with families</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>10. Subscribe to the EPA’s air quality alerts</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Keep Asthma Action Plans on file for students with asthma</td>
<td>20% of students with asthma</td>
<td>40% of students with asthma</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Provide asthma education for all students (posters, videos, etc.)*</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Provide asthma self-management education for students with asthma*</td>
<td>50% of students with asthma</td>
<td>80% of students with asthma</td>
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<td>14. Provide opportunities for parents and caregivers to participate in American Lung Association’s Asthma Basics training</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>15. Make at least two changes recommended by the WAC walkthrough</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>16. Educate parents about Wisconsin Asthma Program’s home walkthrough program</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>17. Become a member of the WAC (designated asthma champion)</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>18. Put at least three comprehensive policies in place: facility-wide tobacco-free or third-hand smoke policy, bus idling, green cleaning, flag program, and/or ongoing staff asthma management education</td>
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<td>19. Implement an ongoing Integrated Pest Management System</td>
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<td>X</td>
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Sustainability

- Easy to replicate
- Pre- and post-tests = QI feedback
- Decreased exposure to environmental asthma triggers
- Decreased use of rescue inhalers and 911
- Train-the-trainer = expansion statewide