# Wisconsin Asthma Coalition's Walkthrough Program

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www.chawisconsin.org



#### WISCONSIN ASTHMA COALITION ← Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin

# **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



Narrowed Airway

#### **ASTHMA IS COMMON**

#### MORE THAN HALF A MILLION WISCONSINITES



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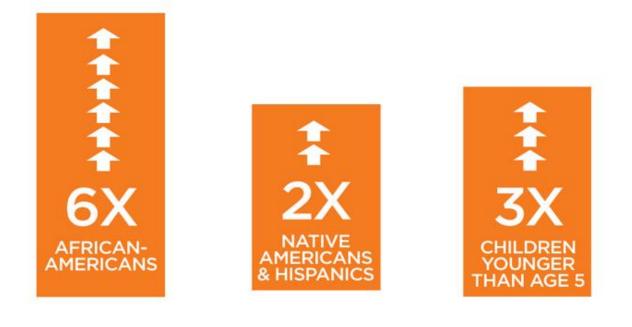
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#### ASTHMA IS DEADLY

#### EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISIT & HOSPITALIZATION RATES





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#### **ASTHMA IS EXPENSIVE**



#### **ASTHMA IS DISRUPTIVE**

#### AMONG THOSE WITH ASTHMA **1 IN 2 ADULTS** HAVE ASTHMA CAUSED OR MADE WORSE **1 IN 2 ADULTS** BY THEIR JOB **1 IN 3 CHILDREN 1 IN 4 ADULTS UNABLE TO** CARRY OUT THEIR WORK HAVE UNCONTROLLED ASTHMA



# What is an asthma trigger?

 A trigger is anything that causes asthma symptoms to begin or get worse.





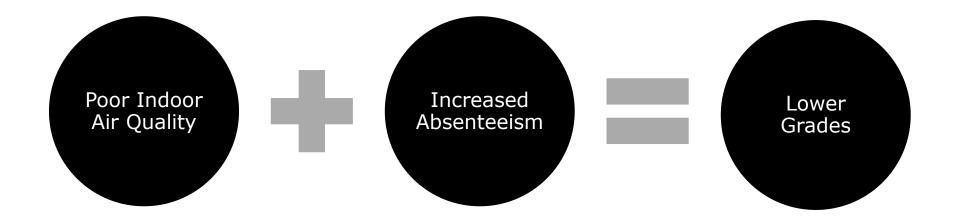


# **Most common triggers**

- Animals
- Cockroaches/other pests and vermin
- Dust and dust mites
- Mold, mildew and moisture
- Strong odors



### **Cause for Concern**



### Walkthrough Program

# WISCONSIN ASTHMA PLAN

- 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

Álliance of Wisconsin	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. Designate an asthma champion	x	x	x
2. Complete a WAC environmental walkthrough	x	х	x
3. Take the American Lung Association's Asthma Basics online course	1 champion	50% of staff	80% of staff
4. Establish a process for identifying all students with asthma	х	x	x
5. Ensure all students with asthma have access to rescue medications	x	x	x
6. Create policies allowing students with asthma to self-carry and administer medications (with doctor's permission)	x	x	x
7. Create policies for staff to follow when students have asthma episodes	x	x	x
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	x	x	x
9. Share WAC's medication assistance webpage with families	х	x	x
10. Subscribe to the EPA's air quality alerts		x	x
11. Keep Asthma Action Plans on file for students with asthma		20% of students with asthma	40% of students with asthma
12. Provide asthma education for all students (posters, videos, etc.)*		x	x
13. Provide asthma self-management education for students with asthma*		50% of students with asthma	80% of students with asthma
14. Provide opportunities for parents and caregivers to participate in American Lung Association's Asthma Basics training		x	x
15. Make at least two changes recommended by the WAC walkthrough		x	x
16. Educate parents about Wisconsin Asthma Program's home walkthrough program		x	x
17. Become a member of the WAC (designated asthma champion)		x	x
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			x
19. Implement an ongoing Integrated Pest Management System			x

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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