

BREATHING EASIER *in*

LOUISIANA



SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE
LOUISIANA ASTHMA MANAGEMENT
AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

“ (The state asthma program) closes the gap between environmental issues and clinical issues. Without CDC funds, there would be no regional coalitions, no training, no bus idling policies. The asthma program is the most comprehensive of any of the state’s chronic disease programs. ”

MARK PERRY

program manager

LOUISIANA'S ASTHMA

CONTROL PROGRAM

THE PROBLEMS:

- Louisianans living with asthma face a higher risk of dying from the disease than those with asthma in any other state.
- About 200,000 adults in the state have asthma, and in 2007, about 12 percent of households were home to a child diagnosed with the chronic respiratory disease.
- More than 5 percent of kids reported missing school in 2011 because of asthma, and children younger than age 5 experience the highest asthma-related hospitalization rates. The good news is death due to asthma declined from 2002 to 2007.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO ASTHMA:

The Louisiana Asthma Management and Prevention Program and its partners focus on communities with the greatest needs. They increase asthma awareness, educate people on how to avoid environmental asthma triggers, partner with community stakeholders, and help residents manage their own health. And their efforts are paying off.

- Three Louisiana school districts have achieved the state's asthma-friendly designation. To get this designation, the state asthma control program and its partners have educated more than 1,000 school personnel on asthma care and prevention and helped identify hundreds of additional children living with asthma. These districts also have an additional 260 action plans for students with asthma on file with their schools. All three school districts adopted indoor and outdoor air policies, such as requiring school buses to turn off their engines while idling. The school-based activities are reaching more than 13,000 Louisiana schoolchildren.
- Thanks to support from the Louisiana Asthma Management and Prevention Program, hundreds of health care providers throughout the state are trained in the latest asthma care and management guidelines. Training not only focuses on reducing asthma symptoms; it also encourages doctors to empower their patients with the tools they need to manage the chronic disease on their own.
- The asthma control program encourages enrollment in the state's phone-based asthma helpline, which helps eligible residents better manage their asthma. In the past 2 years, the program and its partners have helped increase enrollment by 25 percent.
- In Louisiana, asthma results in hundreds of millions of dollars in health care costs – costs that are largely preventable. Data show that asthma-related health care spending is going down more in communities where the Louisiana Asthma Management and Prevention Program is most active.



CDC's National Asthma Control Program

Louisiana is one of 36 states that receives funding and technical support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Asthma Control Program. Since 1999, CDC has been leading public health efforts to prevent costly asthma complications, create asthma-friendly environments, and empower people living with asthma with the tools they need to better manage their own health. **Find out more at** www.cdc.gov/asthma.

