



Asthma and Allergy  
Foundation of America®

MARYLAND-GREATER WASHINGTON, DC CHAPTER

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YEAR IN REVIEW  
2011

ASTHMA DISPARITIES:

- Since 1980 asthma death rates overall have increased more than 50% among all genders, age groups and ethnic groups. The death rate for children under 19 years old has increased by nearly 80% since 1980.
- In MD black adults had a 4.5 times higher rate of ER visits for asthma compared to white adults.\*
- Adult women had a 2.1 times higher rate of asthma hospitalizations & a 1.5 times higher ER visit rate than men in MD.\*
- From 2005-2009, black adults had a 2.3 times higher mortality rate for asthma than that of white adults in MD.\*\*
- From 2005-2009, older adults (65+) had 15 times higher mortality for asthma than children under 5 years old in MD.
- \*\*Ethnic differences in asthma prevalence, morbidity and mortality are highly correlated with poverty, urban air quality, indoor allergens, and lack of patient education and inadequate medical care.
- Nearly 5 million asthma sufferers are under age 18. It is the most common chronic childhood disease, affecting more than 1 in 20.
- Among children ages 5 to 17, asthma is the leading cause of school absences from a chronic illness & accounts for an annual loss of over 14 million school days per year.

Health Disparities are commonly defined as differences in the morbidity, mortality, health-care access, behavioral risk factors, exposure to environmental hazards, and social determinants of adverse conditions that exist among specific populations.

CLEARING THE AIR  
Addressing Asthma Disparities in Maryland



MD Secretary of Health Joshua Sharfstein, M.D. and Baltimore City Health Commissioner, Oxiris Barbot, M.D. both provided opening remarks.

The Chapter co-chaired the planning committee for a statewide event, "Clearing the Air: Addressing Asthma Disparities in Maryland" on June 28, 2011 at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum. Almost 200 health care professionals who serve individuals impacted by asthma were in attendance.

This important statewide training day was funded by CDC grants provided through the DHMH MD Asthma Control Program and through the Baltimore City Health Department. Limited stipends were made available to those attending from

CHAPTER ORGANIZES STATEWIDE ASTHMA DISPARITIES CONFERENCE FOR PROVIDERS

rural locations. Individuals earned continuing education credit in pharmacy, social work, nursing, medicine, and respiratory therapy.

Multiple keynote presentations and eight breakout sessions provided information on multiple topics including: the history and future of asthma treatment; new medicines in development; the link between poor diet and pediatric asthma disparities; how

Keynote Speaker Thomas LaViest, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health spoke on "Factors that Contribute to Asthma Disparities."



to create asthma friendly environments in schools and child care facilities; educating patients to make healthy decisions; and, ways to address the asthma disparities that already exist in Maryland (see sidebar at left).



Go to WWW.AAFA-MD.ORG and click on the above thumb drive icon to access conference handouts, speaker slide shows, and useful tools and 'best practices' to better address asthma disparities in Maryland.

Sessions were videotaped and will be available by 12/11 at: WWW.ACCP1.ORG

Earn credit via the American College of Clinical Pharmacology.

Volunteers Highlight Asthma Action Plan Use

Wearing Asthma Action Plan 'traffic light' sandwich boards, volunteers circulated the Asthma Disparities Conference to focus awareness on the importance of using this tool in school and child care settings to achieve better asthma management for patients.



# Highlights of 2011 AAFA Service Stats



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## Community Support Special Thanks

Allogram, Inc.  
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Hair Razors  
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La Papillon Spa & Gift Boutique  
Lets Dish!  
LIFT Zumba by Stephanie Philipp  
Lotus Jewelry Studio  
Mama Lucia's  
McCormick & Company  
McDonald's  
Mimi Nails  
Mt. Airy Liquors  
Mud and Metal  
Padonia Park Child Care Centers  
Parent's Choice Foundation  
Pasquales Deli  
Pavay Electrical Services  
Port Discovery Children's Museum  
Roby Photoshop  
Safeway  
Sol Azteca Restaurant  
Sports Tickets Unlimited  
State Farm - Damascus  
T.Rowe Price Foundation  
The Olney Tavern  
VR Holdings, Inc  
Wee Chic Baby Boutique

147 Nurses  
53 Physicians  
129 Allied Health Professionals  
172 Children, Students  
33 Public School Teachers  
1,233 General Public (Fairs)  
78 Child Care Center Staff  
180 Corporate Employees  
1,074 Information & Referrals

**MISSION:** AAFA MD-DC Chapter is a local, non-profit, 501(C)3 voluntary health organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for asthma and allergy sufferers.

The foundation provides education, support and referrals to assist patients, their families and health care providers in the control and management of these chronic diseases.



Special Thanks  
Asthma Disparities Conference Committee

## Special Thanks—Individuals

Dana and John Cline  
Dianette Coombs  
Elisa and Mike Delia  
Matthew Johnston  
Erdal Kahraman  
Dr. Tiffany McCalla  
Richard Slaven  
Michelle Stancil  
Clare Stewart  
The Suthard Family  
Angelique Waldron

Special Thanks  
Trike-A-Thon Event Committee  
Dance-A-Thon Event Committee

## In Memoriam

Louis W. Lucas  
Jerry Stallings

## Board of Directors

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Mona Tsoukleris, PharmD

*As Always, Special Thanks to*

Philip Norman, M.D.  
Founder & Chairman Emeritis

