



Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America®

MARYLAND-GREATER WASHINGTON, DC CHAPTER

YEAR IN REVIEW

2013

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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. Nearly 5 million asthma sufferers are under age 18. It is the most common chronic childhood disease, affecting more than 1 in 20.

* 2009 Stats

** Based on a 5-year average

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. Since 2008 the Chapter's focus has been on those with asthma health disparities.

THE AAFA CHAPTER'S STATEWIDE ASTHMA-FRIENDLY CHILD CARE INITIATIVE FOR DAYCARE SITES

Asthma is one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood, with children under the age of 4 years most severely impacted. It results in frequent emergency department visits and hospitalizations and can be deadly if not properly managed. However, with proper diagnosis and good asthma care, children with asthma should live normal, active lives.

The Maryland Asthma Control Program (MACP) of the MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in collaboration with an interdisciplinary team of community health and child care experts and our own MD-DC AAFA Chapter, developed the *Asthma-Friendly Child Care Initiative (AFCCI)*.

The Chapter then produced a workshop template, an AFCC Resource Toolkit Binder, and a DVD Overview on how to apply for designation as an AFCC approved site. The goal of the *Asthma-Friendly Child Care Initiative* is to encourage child care centers and family child care homes all over the state to create and sustain safe, supportive, and asthma friendly environments through providing excellent asthma

management, reducing environmental asthma triggers, and providing asthma education programs for children, parents and staff. Key partners and stakeholders met monthly for over a year to develop the criteria, activities and implementation strategies. Partners included departments of Education, Environment, Health, the State Child Care Association, and the Family Child Care Association.

ALL credentialing criteria had to be taken into consideration across multiple state departments. The collaboration utilized best practices in asthma control and management, problem solving strategies, and the use of a wide variety of asthma education resources. As a result, the program has been included in several quality improvement and credentialing programs of the MD State Department of Education's Office of Child Care. Prior to the implementation of this initiative, a holistic approach to asthma management through trigger reduction and medication administration was **not** a component of the child care setting. Educating providers about triggers and medication management has also resulted in helping families to better understand



asthma control strategies. By engaging the child care community in the creation of this initiative, interest in being a part of it has been considerable. The concepts have been easily applied within the Division of Environmental Health and within Healthy Homes and home-visiting initiatives. The program has routinely been presented at statewide child care conferences and at individual day care chains and sites. Funds for development and implementation were part of a 5-year Centers for Disease Control grant to DHMH's MD Asthma Control Program, funds of which were awarded to the Chapter to cover creation and implementation.



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Over Thirty
Years of
Service

Highlights of 2013 AAFA Service Stats



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State Farm Damascus
Sunshine Properties, Inc.
United Way—Philadelphia &
Southern NJ
United Way—Richmond & St.
Petersburg
United Way—Nat'l Capital Area
Verizon Foundation
Wells Fargo

88 Nurses & Allied Health
Professionals & Physicians
207 Children, Youth, Parents
623 General Public (Fairs)
243 Child Care Staff
125 Child Care SITES
45 Corporate Employees
909 Information & Referrals

Total Counties 'Touched': Nine
Total Served: 2,115

Special Thanks—Individuals

Mr. Dimitris Anagnostopoulos &
Dr. Athena Economides
The Benton Family
The Brochou Family
Trinette Cheeks
Melissa Clifton
Michele Crutchfield-Duncan
Elisa & Mike Delia
Adele Friedman
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Ann Rudolph
The Seymour Family
Richard A. Slaven
Jaime Slocum
Krislyn Suljak
Susan Sweitzer
Dalton Tong
Te-Ming & Chien-Ting Tu
The Twemlow Family
Andrea Wenger

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 re-
ferrals to assist patients,
their families and health
care providers in the
control and management of
these chronic diseases.

Special Thanks

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Dance-A-Thon Event Committee

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