

BREATHING EASIER *in*

CALIFORNIA



SUCCESS STORIES
FROM CALIFORNIA
BREATHING

“Asthma is so multifaceted... while it’s important to have access to quality health care, prevention is much more cost effective. We couldn’t do a lot of our work without CDC funds...and those funds help us leverage new funds.”

DEANNA ROSSI

associate director
CALIFORNIA BREATHING

All information and data provided
by California Breathing, California
Department of Public Health

THE PROBLEMS:

- Approximately 5 million Californians have been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lives, and almost 3 million currently have asthma.
- Asthma results in an estimated 11.8 million days of missed work and other missed activities per year among adults and 3.7 days of missed school and day care per year among children.
- There are about 400 deaths, 35,000 hospital discharges, and 180,000 emergency room visits per year related to asthma. Asthma hospitalization costs topped \$1 billion dollars in 2010, with 12 percent of those hospitalized having one or more repeat visits during the year. Preventing repeat asthma hospitalizations would have saved \$156 million.



THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO ASTHMA:

California Breathing and its partners focus on communities with the greatest needs. They increase asthma awareness, educate people about avoiding environmental asthma triggers, partner with community stakeholders, and help residents manage their own health. And their efforts are paying off.

- California Breathing funded a local nonprofit to work with communities affected by air pollution at the Port of Oakland. The communities near the port are home to high rates of asthma and asthma-related hospitalizations. The effort helped persuade port officials to stop doing business with older-model trucks that emit dangerous diesel emissions. Today, state officials estimate that diesel emissions and pollution around the Port of Oakland are down by half.
- Schools around the state have competed for and been honored with California Breathing’s Achievements in Respiratory Health Awards. Award-winning schools enforce policies that improve air quality, such as stopping bus idling near schools, reducing environmental asthma triggers, and using nontoxic cleaning and school supplies. In addition, hundreds of school nurses have been trained in asthma care and prevention.
- With support from California Breathing, a community clinic in West Oakland sent an asthma educator to a local hospital to work with kids and families experiencing an asthma emergency. By empowering families with the knowledge to manage asthma at home, the effort helped reduce asthma-related emergency room visits.
- Healthy housing is the focus of California Breathing’s newest partnership. Hundreds of stakeholders have banded together to form the California Healthy Housing Coalition. Its work will create healthy home environments for people living with asthma.
- In California, asthma results in hundreds of millions of dollars in health care costs, much of which is preventable. Thanks in part to California Breathing and its partners, asthma-related health care costs are on the decline, especially among young children.

CDC’s National Asthma Control Program

California 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.

