

REACH U.S.

Children's Hospital Corporation Children's Hospital Boston

Boston, Massachusetts

A REACH Action Community (AC)

300 Longwood Avenue, LO-306
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 355-8496
[www.childrenshospital.org/
communityasthma](http://www.childrenshospital.org/communityasthma)

REACH U.S.

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health Across the U.S. (REACH U.S.) is a national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) program aimed at eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. It utilizes community-based approaches to reduce the burden of chronic illness in specific at-risk populations. There are 22 **REACH Action Communities** using practice-based and evidence-based programs. These programs look at cultural and environmental influences related to health disparities and their underlying causes. They develop, evaluate, and share their culturally specific and relevant strategies and best practices.

ISSUE

The Children's Hospital Boston Community Asthma Initiative (CAI) is a community-based program providing asthma care, education, and policy change in urban Boston. Asthma is the leading cause of hospitalization at Children's Hospital Boston. Seventy percent of the patients hospitalized at Children's for asthma are from diverse, low-income Boston neighborhoods. CAI's goal is to reduce the number of asthma-related emergency department (ED) visits and hospital admissions through a comprehensive approach including patient care, evaluation, training, education, and policy change. Of the patients served by CAI, 64.5% are from Latino/Hispanic families, 45.8% are from African-American families, and 70.8% are enrolled in Medicaid.

ACTIVITIES

- Enrolls patients from eight urban zip codes with asthma-related ED visits or hospitalizations to receive tailored asthma care, including: nurse case management, community health worker and nurse home visits, home environmental interventions to reduce asthma triggers, as well as connection to community resources.

- Partners with YMCAs to provide free asthma-friendly activities for children.
- Provides asthma workshops for healthcare providers, school nurses, families, Head Start programs, and community members. Outreach efforts include community forums and social marketing campaigns.
- Collaborates with Family and Community Advisory Boards to provide input about the health impacts of asthma-related policies.
- Works in coalitions at the local and state level to educate decision makers about the benefits of healthy housing and schools, standardized asthma home visits, and reimbursement by payers for asthma home visits and environmental interventions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- After 12 months of participation in the CAI, enrolled children experienced a 62% reduction in ED visits, 82% reduction in hospital admissions, 40% reduction in missed school days, and 47% reduction in parent/guardian missed work days.
- Conducted 283 asthma workshops for over 7,000 participants.
- Conducted a cost analysis of CAI that demonstrated a \$1.46 return on investment.
- Provided data and information to a hospital government relations office. These data helped support the passage of a state budget amendment mandating Medicaid to develop a bundled payment pilot program for management of high-risk pediatric asthma patients.
- As key partners in the Boston Asthma Home Visiting Collaborative, provided leadership in developing a standard protocol, educational tools, and trainings for asthma home visits conducted by multi-cultural, multi-lingual Community Health Workers. This protocol is currently being piloted city-wide.

Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention (CDC)
1600 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333
Tel: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6354
Email: CDCINFO@cdc.gov
Web: www.cdc.gov

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Division of Community Health

