

# REACH U.S.

## Regional Asthma Management and Prevention

Oakland, California

*A REACH Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities (CEED)*

**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 18 REACH **Centers of Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities**. They serve as national expert centers implementing, coordinating, refining, and disseminating programmatic activities designed to eliminate health disparities.

### ISSUE

The Public Health Institute - Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP) program is dedicated to reducing the effects of poorly controlled asthma and the new onset of asthma in otherwise healthy people. RAMP focuses on addressing asthma disparities among African American/Black and Hispanic/Latino populations in nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area of California.

### ACTIVITIES

- Designs and implements interventions to reduce environmental asthma triggers related to diesel pollution, chemical use in schools and childcare settings, and housing conditions.
- Provides educational and coalition-building support to encourage school districts to take proactive steps to create and maintain healthy school environments, including transitioning to less toxic cleaning products.
- Supports efforts of local healthcare providers, families, and schools to coordinate asthma management in the community.
- Educates policy makers about the benefits of consistent healthcare coverage and the incorporation of a "social determinants of health" approach to provider-patient interactions. Supports efforts to increase at-risk populations' access to culturally competent quality care, particularly among African Americans and Hispanic/Latinos.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Educated land use and transportation planners about the potential impacts of land use and transportation policy on asthma management and health outcomes, resulting in the passage of new diesel regulations by the California Air Resource Board.
- Worked with healthcare providers to encourage systematic utilization and incorporation of Asthma Action Plans into clinical care.
- Improved the education and management of asthma in schools and childcare settings within predominately African American and Hispanic/Latino communities.

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[http://www.rampasthma.org/  
about-ramp/programs/  
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