

Childhood Asthma in North Carolina: How Can We Do Better?

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“Asthma accounts for 14 million lost days of school missed annually.”¹

“Asthma is the third-ranking cause of hospitalization among those younger than 15 years of age.”¹

“The estimated cost of treating asthma in those younger than 18 years of age is \$3.2 billion per year.”¹

“One of the problems that we can and must overcome is uncontrolled asthma among children and adolescents.”²

¹ From: “Asthma’s Impact on Children and Adolescents,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/children.htm>, extracted on March 10, 2008

² Remarks by Dr. Richard H. Carmona, Surgeon General, U.S. DHHS, at conference with American Lung Association and Jerome Bettis to Launch “World Asthma Day,” May 2, 2005

Lifetime Prevalence & Current Prevalence: Children vs. Adults, by Gender*

	Lifetime Prevalence		Current Prevalence	
	Children	Adults	Children	Adults
Male	18.7%	9.5%	11.7%	4.5%
Female	15.5	12.3	10.0	8.9
All	17.1	10.9	10.8	6.8

* Children: 0-17 years of age; adults: 18+ years of age

Lifetime Prevalence & Current Prevalence among Children, by Race/Ethnic Group*

	Lifetime Prevalence	Current Prevalence
African American	25.3%	18.4%
White	14.8	8.7
Other Minorities	11.3	6.0
All	17.1	10.8

* Children: 0-17 years of age

Emergency Department/Urgent Care Center Visits: Children vs. Adults, by Gender*

	Visits in Past 12 Months	
	Children	Adults
Male	28.0%	16.4%
Female	28.1	25.4
All	28.1	22.5

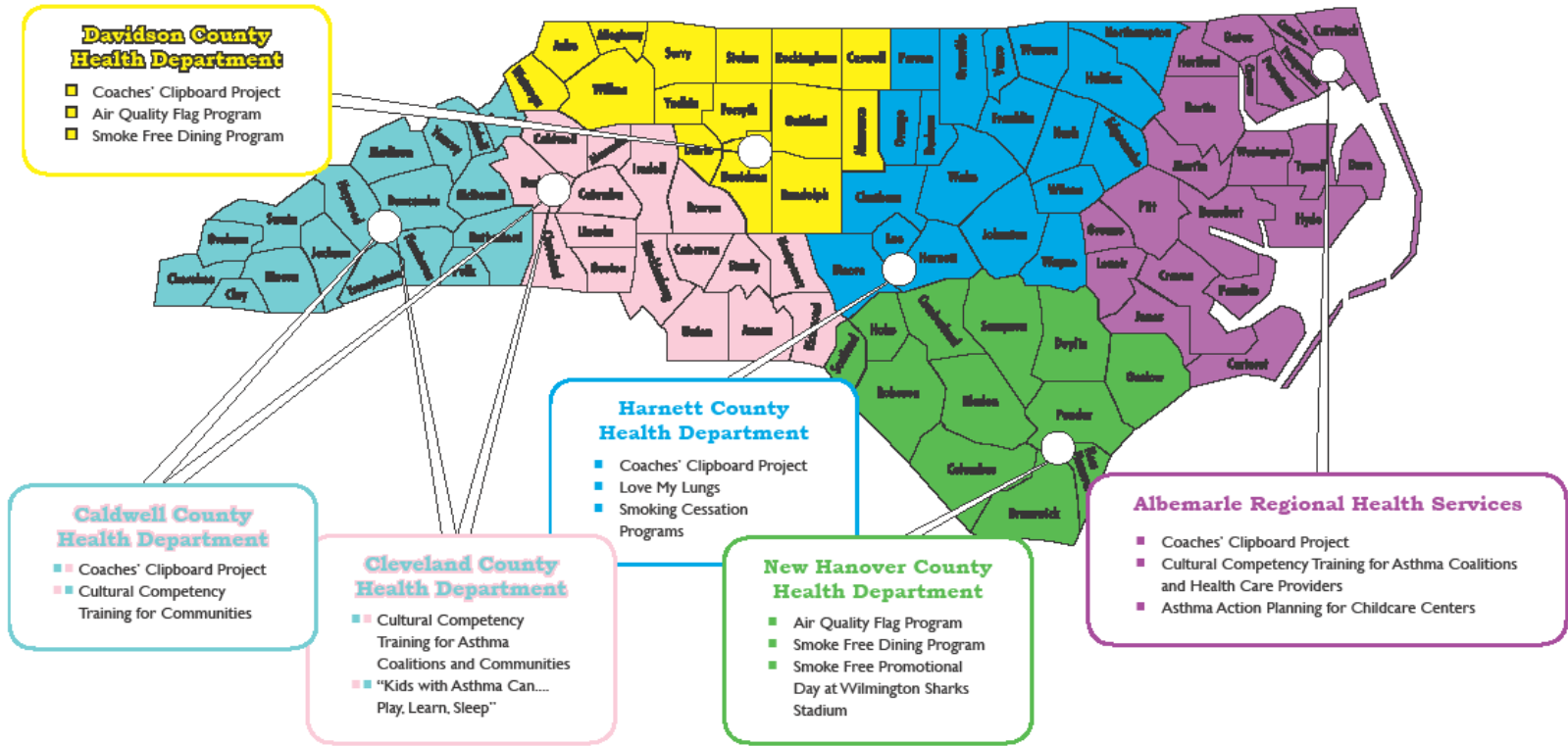
* Children: 0-17 years of age; adults: 18+ years of age

Hospitalizations Due to Asthma: Children vs. Adults*

	Hospitalizations Due to Asthma (per 100,000 population)
Children	156.1
Adults	117.6
All	127.3

* Children: 0-17 years of age; adults: 18+ years of age

Enhancing Local Asthma Efforts Project Regions



Enhancing Local Asthma Efforts (ELAE) Project Leads

- Albemarle Regional Health Services
- Caldwell County Health Department
- Cleveland County Health Department
- Davidson County Health Department
- Harnett County Health Department
- New Hanover County Health Department

Purpose of the ELAE Project

- Continue to build community capacity around addressing asthma
- Replicate and/or establish successful asthma related interventions
- Ultimately – reduce the burden of asthma in North Carolina!

Selected Projects – A Snapshot

- **Air Quality Flag Program** – Highlights the Air Quality Index and local air quality forecasts. Educational programs and resources go along with the raising of a colored flag to match each day's air quality forecast.
- **Coaches' Clipboard Program** – Originally developed in Utah and Minnesota; a tool for educating coaches, physical education teachers, and other recreation personnel who work with children with asthma. Includes an interactive educational tool and a clipboard outlining procedures for working with children with asthma.
- **Smoke Free Dining** – Promotional activities for the NC Smoke Free Dining Campaign; includes resources for restaurants aiming to go 100% smoke free.
- **Love My Lungs** – Promotional project outlining the effects of secondhand smoke on asthma.

Selected Projects – A Snapshot (cont.)

- **“Kids with Asthma Can... Play, Learn, Sleep”** – Asthma awareness community campaign originally developed by WGBH in Boston; features Arthur characters from successful children’s books authored by Marc Brown.
- **Cultural Competency** – Workshop and training program on issues relating to cultural competency and asthma outreach; targeted for local asthma coalition or work group representatives and health care professionals.
- **Asthma Action Planning for Childcare Centers** – Focuses action plans for children in the Birth-4 years age group; promote and disseminate among child care centers

How Can We Do Better?

Increase Awareness

- ▶ Recognize the signs of uncontrolled asthma

Promote Asthma Management

- ▶ Talk with a healthcare professional and follow an asthma-control action plan

Partnerships

▶ The Asthma Program seeks to work with its stakeholders to inform and educate North Carolina residents about asthma, including:

- School systems and school-based organizations
- Health departments
- Asthma coalitions
- Healthcare providers
- Community-based health organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Respiratory disease organizations
- Other non-profit and private sector organizations

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The authors dedicate this presentation in memory of Janet Reaves.

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