

Facts About Asthma

- ◆ Asthma is a leading chronic illness of children in the US. Eight percent of all children are afflicted.
- ◆ In Riverside County, there are 258,000 people suffering from asthma (CHIS, 2005).
- ◆ The cost for treatment in our county is over \$8 million per year.
- ◆ The asthma epidemic is most severe in lower income and minority families.
- ◆ Nationwide, there are nearly 500,000 hospitalizations, 10.4 million physician visits and 2 million emergency department visits per year.
- ◆ Asthma is the leading cause of school absence in the United States with over 14 million absences annually.
- ◆ Nationally, asthma's annual cost for treatment is in the billions of dollars.
- ◆ Asthma causes nearly 5,500 deaths nationwide each year.
- ◆ In the past 20 years, asthma rates have quadrupled in children.



Coalition Partners

- Riverside County Community Health Agency, Department of Public Health programs: Childhood Asthma Program (*Lead Agency*); CHDP; Epidemiology and Program Evaluation; Office of Industrial Hygiene
- American Lung Association of the Inland Counties
- Catholic Charities
- Corona / Norco Unified School District
- Desert Sands Unified School District
- Hemet Unified School District
- Hemet Valley Medical Center
- Inland Empire Health Plan
- JFK Memorial Hospital
- Jurupa Family Care Center
- Molina Healthcare
- Palm Springs Unified School District
- Perris Unified High School District
- Riverside County Office of Education
- Santa Rosa del Valle
- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- Riverside / San Bernardino Indian Health
- Riverside Unified School District



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR Riverside County Asthma Coalition



Mission Statement: *Through leadership, education, advocacy & coordination of resources, Riverside County Asthma Coalition seeks to reduce the impact of asthma & improve the quality of life for all people in Riverside County affected by asthma.*

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Bringing the Community Together



By working together, we can combine our efforts to reduce the impact of asthma in Riverside County.

Individuals and organizations with an interest in asthma are encouraged to participate in this county-wide asthma coalition.

The Riverside County Asthma Coalition has objectives and activities that will support our children with asthma, their families and the community at large.

Objectives developed by four sub-committees, focus on the following goals:

- 1) Improving Patient & Public Education
- 2) Improving Environmental Factors that Contribute to Asthma
- 3) Improving Asthma Management in the School Setting
- 4) Improving Quality of Care for Asthma Patients



Improving Patient & Public Education

The goal of this sub-committee is to provide asthma education countywide so individuals can better manage their asthma .

One objective is to build a “Community Member Advisory Committee” composed of adult asthmatics and parents of asthmatic children.



Improving Environmental Factors that Contribute to Asthma

The goal of this sub-committee is universal knowledge of asthma triggers for children .

One objective involves educating childcare providers on minimizing asthma symptoms during smoggy days.



Improving Asthma Management in the School Setting



This sub-committee promotes the use of the asthma action plan (AAP) at schools and day-care centers.

This subcommittee also conducts Asthma Workshops at various school sites to educate parents and school personnel about asthma.



Improving Quality of Care

The main focus of this sub-committee promotes the use of a standardized asthma action plan by providers.

