

About Philadelphia MCAN

The Merck Childhood Asthma Network, Inc., (MCAN), a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization established to address the complex and growing problem of pediatric asthma, began its Philadelphia MCAN project in 2005. The overall goal of this project is to improve asthma outcomes for children and to reduce school absenteeism through integration of asthma-related programs/services and improved asthma management. Partners include the Philadelphia Allies Against Asthma (PAAA), The Community Asthma Prevention Program (CAPP) of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), Health Promotion Council (HPC), Department of Family and Community Medicine of Thomas Jefferson University (TJU), The Philadelphia School District (SDP) and The Philadelphia Department of Health (PDH). During the past three years, partners have worked collaboratively to improve asthma management for urban, disadvantaged children in Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia MCAN program includes three components: CAPP classes that educate parents, other caretakers and children with asthma; CAPP home visits where community health workers help families eliminate or control allergens and irritants within the home; and HPC Link Line services that connect families to asthma care coordinators.

Prevalence of Childhood Asthma in Philadelphia

- Philadelphia MCAN conducted school screenings in partnership with the SDP in 16 schools and CAPP conducted door-to-door screenings using a validated pediatric asthma tool to determine asthma prevalence in West, Southwest, Olney, Logan and Germantown communities.
- Screening of 5,798 students found that 1 out of 4 students have been diagnosed with asthma and/or have been admitted to the hospital for wheezing. At Thurgood Marshall Elementary School the results were even higher with 30 percent (~1 out of 3) students screening positive for asthma and another 7 percent had symptoms consistent with asthma but were not diagnosed.
- CAPP conducted door-to-door screening of 1,315 households which similarly found an asthma prevalence of 25 percent.

Facts & Preliminary Outcomes from the Philadelphia MCAN Program

Once children are identified by healthcare providers, screenings, or self-referrals, they are offered evidence-based programs which include CAPP classes, CAPP Home Visits and/or HPC Link Line Services.

- 405 families have been enrolled in CAPP Home Visits receiving one-to-one asthma education and tools to reduce asthma triggers in the household. **Preliminary findings** indicate that these children have experienced reduced asthma symptoms, reduced **emergency room visits and reduced hospitalizations**.
- ~400 families have enrolled in Link Line services where they are linked to asthma-related services through Asthma Care Coordinators. **Preliminary findings** show that these children have **improved quality of life and reduced school absenteeism**.
- CAPP has partnered with 32 community sites to provide group asthma education sessions for 325 caregivers and children with asthma. These classes are **successful in improving asthma knowledge** for participants.
- SDP has conducted other asthma educational sessions including "asthma clubs" for students to **provide additional information** and support.
- The PDH has conducted asthma classes in three centers in the targeted area. These participants also show **improved asthma knowledge**.



Key Partners:

Health Promotion Council (HPC), Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), Department of Family Medicine/Thomas Jefferson University (DFM/TJU), the School District of Philadelphia (SDP), the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), Healthier Babies Healthier Futures, Inc. (HBHF) and the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation (PHMC).

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