



## **A glass half full? The decline in the prevalence of childhood asthma is not the whole story.**

*AAFA's CEO and President, Cary Sennett, MD, PhD, responds to new study findings suggesting changing trends in asthma prevalence*

[A study released this week](#) (December 28<sup>th</sup>) by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that there is good news: after years of increase, the prevalence of asthma in children appears to be falling. Why that is so—and whether this is the beginning of a trend, or an anomaly—remains to be seen, but it is both an intriguing and an encouraging finding.

But the data are not all good. While the prevalence of asthma may be—MAY BE—declining, there are still more than 6 million children in America whose lives are limited by a condition for which there is no cure. And it is very troubling that whatever gains we are seeing are not evident in those populations who are struggling most: the poor and near poor, as well as many minority populations.

So what these data say to me, and to those of us at the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, is that there is a need for further investment in programs that can improve outcomes for America's most vulnerable children with asthma. While we do not know how to prevent asthma, we do know how to help people live with it. Attention to the environment—air quality, dust, mold, and other triggers; appropriate and timely medical care; and education of and support to families of children with asthma can and have made a huge difference.

AAFA remains committed to working on these issues, and to collaborating with others to solve them. Our website—[www.aafa.org](http://www.aafa.org)—remains a trusted source for information and support to families with asthma. In addition, we are working specifically to further address the problem of asthma in underserved populations with generous support from the CDC. We hope that—in the near future—data will show not only declines in the prevalence of asthma, but that those with asthma are leading lives that are not limited by their health conditions.

### **Media contact:**

Michele Cassalia

[Info@aafa.org](mailto:Info@aafa.org) or 215-230-5394

### **About the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America**

Founded in 1953 and celebrating over 60 years of service, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) is the oldest and largest nonprofit patient organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with asthma, allergies and related conditions through education, advocacy and research. AAFA provides practical information, community-based services, support and referrals through a national network of chapters and educational support groups. AAFA also sponsors research toward better treatments and a cure for asthma and allergic diseases. For more information about AAFA, visit [www.aafa.org](http://www.aafa.org) and [www.kidswithfoodallergies.org](http://www.kidswithfoodallergies.org).