

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ASTHMA PROGRAM (ODHAP)

PROTECTING HEALTH, SAVING COSTS: WHY OHIO NEEDS THE NATIONAL ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM

The **Ohio Department of Health Asthma Program (ODHAP)** has been part of CDC's National Asthma Control Program since 2003. They collaborate with partners to reduce asthma disparities by improving the quality of asthma care, improving asthma management in schools, and fostering policies to help reduce exposure to asthma triggers in outdoor, indoor, and workplace environments.

OHIO'S ASTHMA BURDEN:

- Asthma affects over 1.2 million people in Ohio, including over 160,000 children, contributing to preventable health emergencies, missed school and workdays, and increased healthcare costs.
- From 2013–2022, an average of 132 Ohio citizens per year died from asthma.
- Asthma is the most common chronic disease in children and is a leading cause of missed school days.

KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ASTHMA PROGRAM:

The Asthma Home Assessment Project (AHAP) is a piloted home-based trigger management program, implemented in 2019 to identify and remediate household asthma triggers. ODHAP focused on two urban high priority areas in southwest Ohio: Cincinnati and Dayton. ODHAP expanded the home visiting program to concentrate more on these cities because of high numbers of children's hospital ED visits within a 12-month period. Since the inception of AHAP, Dayton Children's Hospital conducted home visits enrolling a total of 40 program participants, of which 36 completed the program. After participation, 29 individuals experienced improved asthma control, three participants experienced no change, and three participants had exacerbations of their asthma. Overall, the program is having positive outcomes.

ODHAP implemented the Asthma Care Improvement Collaborative (ACIC) in 2020 to address guidelines-based medical management. About 115 healthcare providers completed the Asthma Practices Survey to measure asthma knowledge and practices. The results indicated 53.5% of the providers were using guidelines-based medical care compared to 27.8% of providers with no prior knowledge of the guidelines. In response to the survey results, ODHAP facilitated a bi-monthly ACIC virtual learning series to educate and engage practitioners on guidelines-based management and CDC's EXHALE strategies. The ACIC learning series



focuses on six performance areas: guidelines-based medical management and EXHALE strategies, community-based strategies, environmental strategies, healthy equity, collaboration, and engagement.

WHY FEDERAL FUNDING MATTERS:

Without federal funding NACP, Ohio risks losing critical programs that prevent asthma-related hospitalizations and emergency room visits — particularly in high-risk areas like Cincinnati and Dayton.

Federal funding ensures that Ohio can continue proven efforts such as home visits for trigger reduction and asthma education, provider training on guidelines-based asthma care, and environmental policies to reduce triggers.

If NACP funding is not restored, Ohio will lose vital asthma surveillance data, public health infrastructure, and community-based interventions that protect over 1.2 million Ohioans with asthma.

THE RISKS OF DEFUNDING:

- Increases in hospitalizations and emergency visits.
- More missed school days, higher healthcare costs, and poorer asthma control.
- Worsened health outcomes

THE NATIONAL ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM is essential to Ohio's ability to manage asthma, improve quality of life, and save healthcare costs. Restoring and protecting NACP funding ensures people in Ohio with asthma—especially the most vulnerable—continue to receive the education, support, and services they need to breathe easier.