




# Updates in Pediatric Asthma

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**North Carolina Society for Respiratory Care  
September 27, 2012**





## Objectives



- Review current pediatric asthma epidemiology
- Revisit the definition of asthma: severity vs control
- Evaluate personalized asthma treatment
- Identify effective asthma management
- Underscore efforts to reduce health disparities



## National Institutes of Health National Asthma Education Prevention Program (NAEPP)

### 2007 Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma (EPR-3)

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma/index.htm>



<http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/edtools.htm>

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## What Is Asthma?

“Asthma is a common chronic disorder of the airways that involves a complex interaction of airflow obstruction, bronchial hyperresponsiveness and an underlying inflammation. This interaction can be highly variable among patients and within patients over time”.

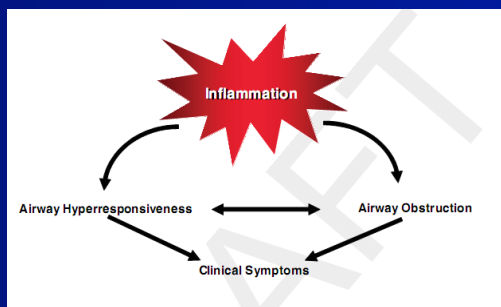
2007 NAEPP Guidelines, EPR 3- Section 2, p 12.

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<http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/edtools.htm>

## Characteristics of Asthma

- Airway Inflammation
- Airway Obstruction (reversible)
- Hyperresponsiveness (irritability of airways)



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<http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/edtools.htm>

## Key Differences from 1997 & 2002 Reports

- The critical role of inflammation is validated - there is considerable variability in the pattern of inflammation indicating phenotypic differences that may influence treatment responses. (*in other words – genetics*)
- Gene-by-environmental interactions affect the development of asthma. Of the environmental factors, allergic reactions are important. Viral respiratory infections are key and have an expanding role in these processes.
- The onset of asthma for most patients begins early in life with the pattern of disease persistence determined by early, recognizable risk factors including atopic disease, recurrent wheezing, and a parental history of asthma.
- Current asthma treatment with anti-inflammatory therapy does not appear to prevent progression of the underlying disease severity.

EPR 3 – section 2, p. 12

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<http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/edtools.htm>

## Asthma

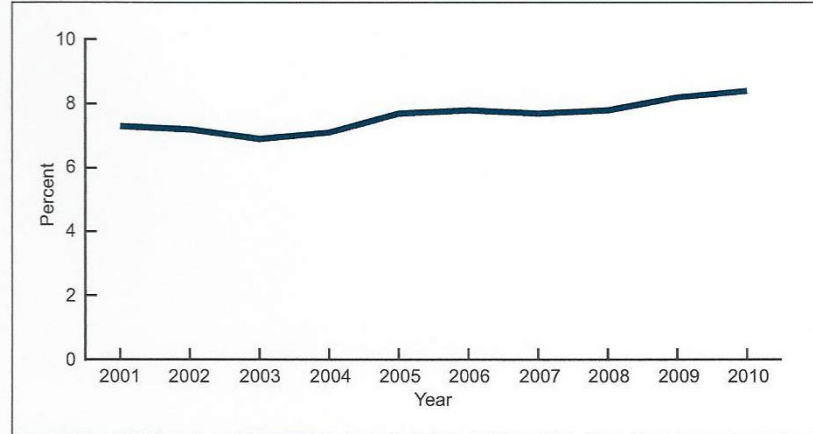
- In 2008, it is estimated that 23.3 million Americans currently have asthma
- Is one of the most common chronic disorders in childhood, affecting an approx. 7.1 million children under 18 years (9.6%)
- In 2007, 3,447 deaths were attributed to asthma, 152 deaths were children under the age of 15<sup>1</sup>
- Is the **third** leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15<sup>2</sup>
- Is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism<sup>3</sup>. In 2008 asthma accounted for approx. 14.4 million lost school days<sup>4</sup>
- The annual health care costs of asthma is approx. \$20.7 billion dollars<sup>5</sup>

From ALA website 11/2010 <http://www.ala.org>  
 1 CDC National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey Raw Data, 2009  
 2 CDC National Center for Health Statistics, Final Vital Statistics Report, Deaths: Final Data for 2007, April 17, 2009, Vol 58 No 19.  
 3 CDC National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Healthy Youth! <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma>, August 14, 2009  
 4 CDC National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey Raw Data, 2008  
 5 NHLBI Chartbook, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Health, 2009  
 6 CDC National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Discharge Survey, 2006

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/edtools.htm>

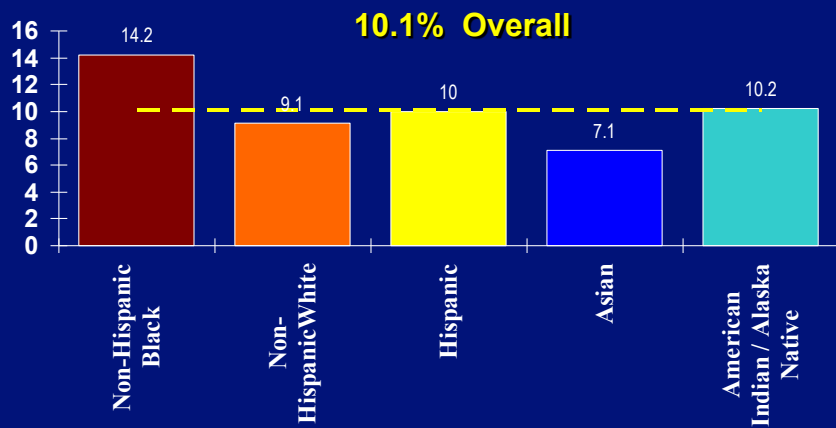
**Asthma prevalence increased from 2001 to 2010 and is now at its highest level.**

Figure 1. Asthma prevalence in the United States, 2001–2010



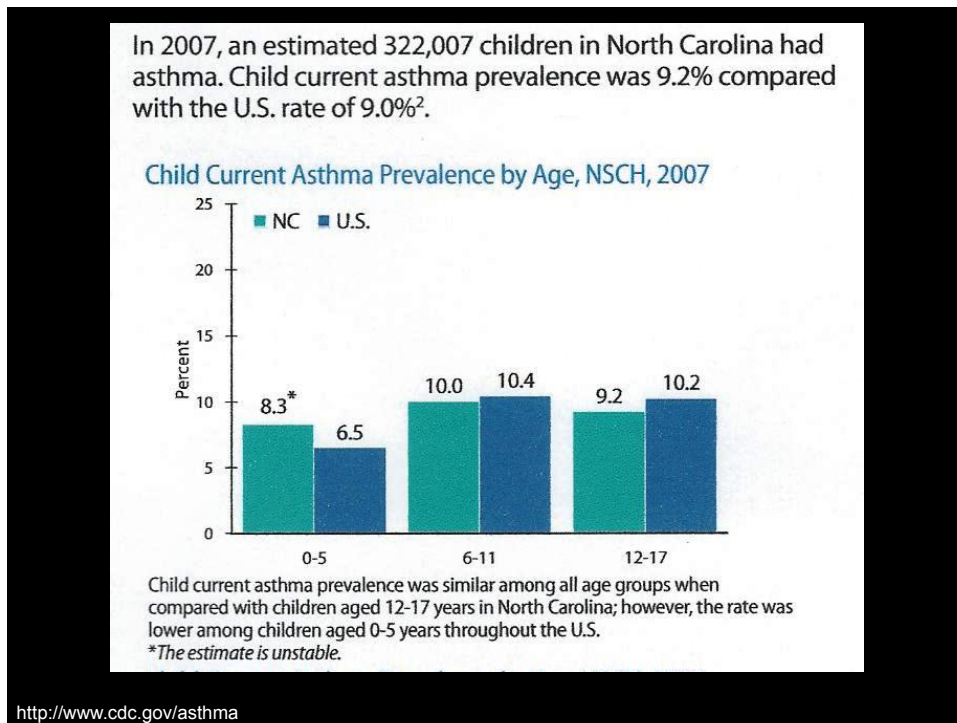
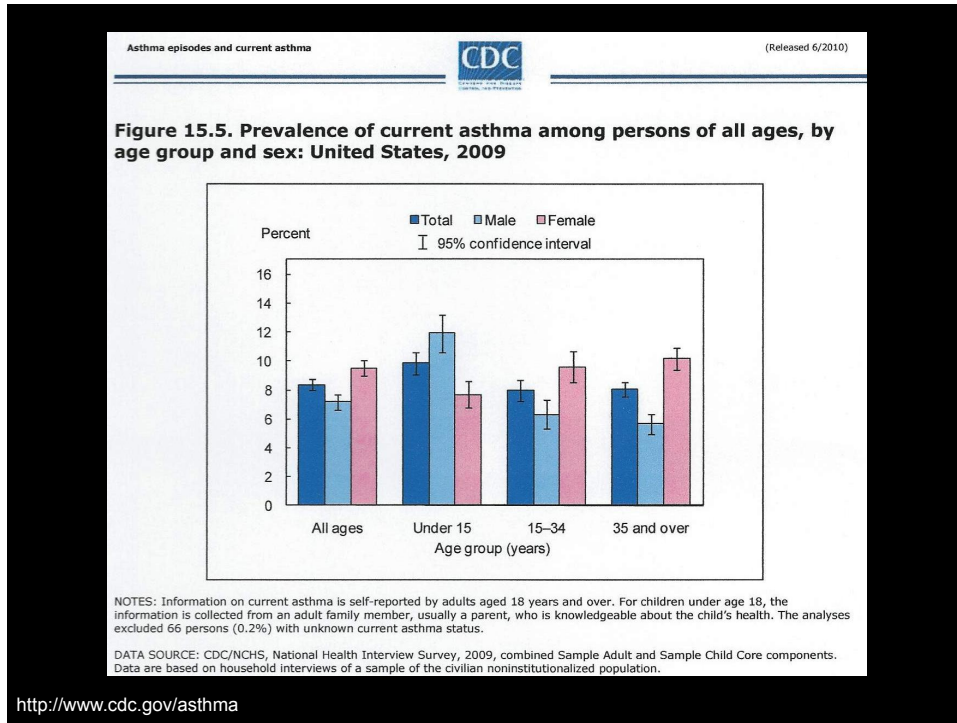
NOTES: Asthma prevalence refers to percentage of people who have ever been diagnosed with asthma and still have asthma. Data are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Access data table for Figure 1 at: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db94\\_tables.pdf#1](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db94_tables.pdf#1).  
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey.

**Current Asthma Prevalence for Youth by Race/Ethnicity, Ages 5-17, 2005-2007**

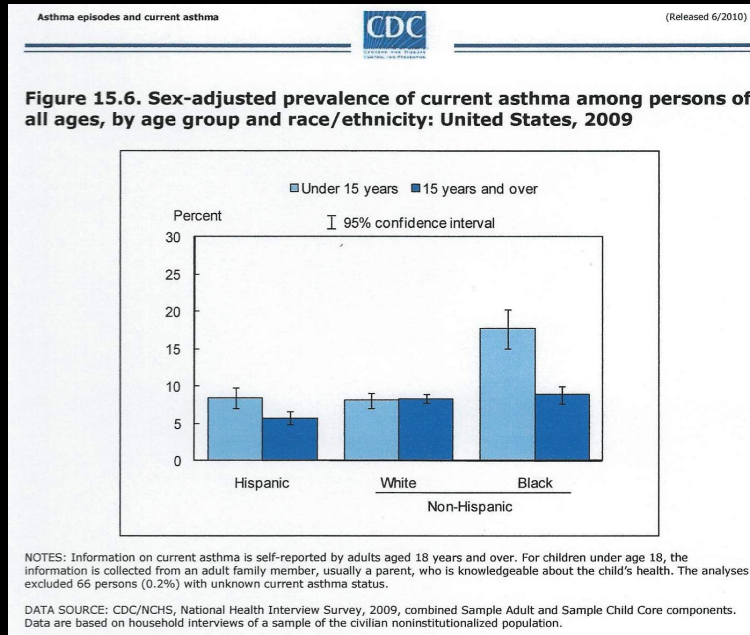


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Health Data Interactive. [www.cdc.gov/nchs/hdi.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hdi.htm). [July 15, 2009].

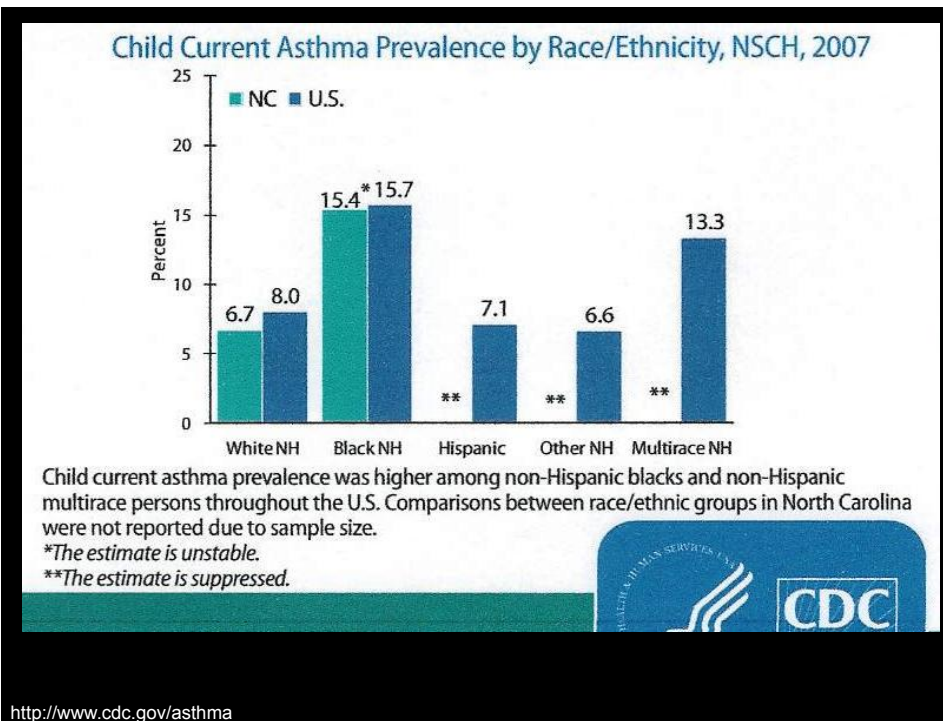




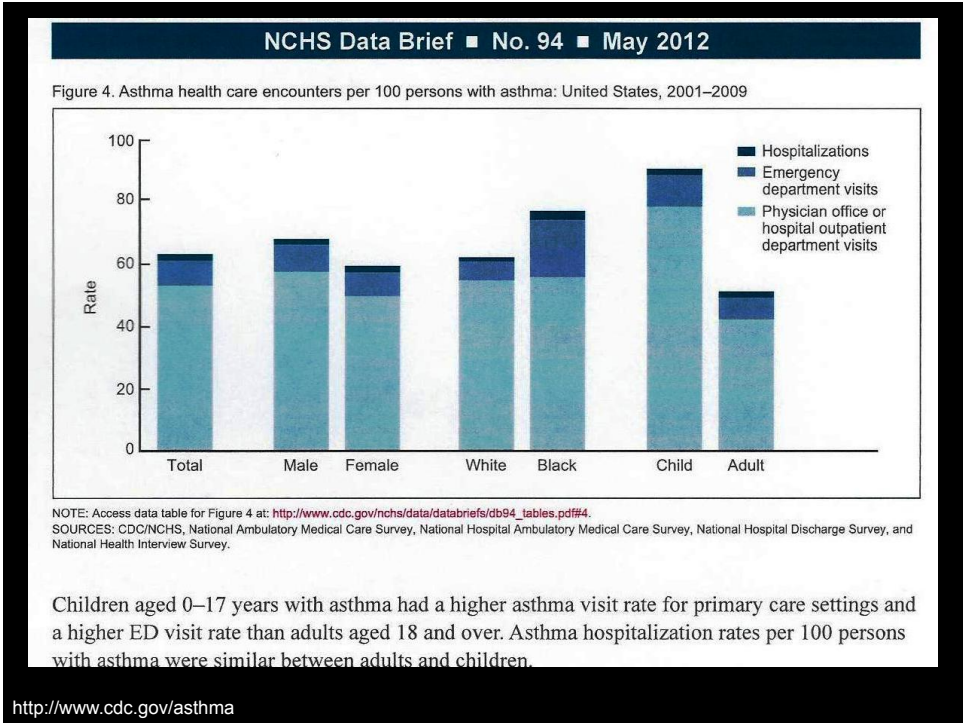




<http://www.cdc.gov/asthma>



<http://www.cdc.gov/asthma>





### Expected Treatment Approaches (NAEPP)

- ◆ Key elements of assessment and monitoring
  - Severity
  - Control
  - Responsiveness to treatment
- ◆ Severity only for initiating therapy
- ◆ Control emphasized for monitoring and adjusting therapy
- ◆ Control defined in terms of 2 domains
  - Impairment
  - Risk

<http://www.medscape.org>

## The 4 Components of Asthma Management

- Component 1: Measures of Asthma Assessment and Monitoring
- Component 2: Education for a Partnership in Asthma Care
- Component 3: Control of Environmental Factors and Comorbid Conditions That Affect Asthma
- Component 4: Medications

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## Key Points - Overview: Measures of Asthma Assessment & Monitoring

*Assessment and monitoring are closely linked to the concepts of **severity, control, and responsiveness** to treatment:*

- **Severity** - intensity of the disease process. Severity is measured most easily and directly in a patient not receiving long-term-control therapy.
- **Control** - degree to which asthma (symptoms, functional impairments, and risks of untoward events) are minimized and the goals of therapy are met.
- **Responsiveness** - the ease with which asthma control is achieved by therapy.

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/edtools.htm>

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EPR-3, Pg. 36.

## Summary of the New Strategies of the EPR-3

EPR-3, Page 36-38

	Assessment	Management
Severity	the intrinsic intensity of the disease	a clinical guide most useful for initiating controller therapy
Control	the degree to which symptoms are minimized	(after therapy is initiated) a clinical guide used to maintain or adjust therapy
Responsiveness	the ease of which prescribed therapy achieves asthma control	(variable) frequent follow-up to step-up and step-down therapy to achieve the goal of control

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CLASSIFYING ASTHMA SEVERITY AND INITIATING TREATMENT IN CHILDREN 0-4 YEARS OF AGE					
EPR-3, p72, 307					
Components of Severity		Classification of Asthma Severity			
		Intermittent	Persistent		
			Mild	Moderate	Severe
Impairment	Symptoms	≤2 days/week	>2 days/week not daily	Daily	Continuous
	Nighttime Awakenings	0	1-2x/month	3-4x/month	>1x/week
	SABA use for sx control	≤2 days/week	>2 days/week not daily	Daily	Several times daily
	Interference with normal activity	none	Minor limitation	Some limitation	Extremely limited
Risk	Exacerbations (consider frequency and severity)	0-1/year	≥2 exacerbations in 6 months requiring oral steroids, or ≥4 wheezing episodes/ year lasting >1 day AND risk factors for persistent asthma		
		Frequency and severity of may fluctuate over time Exacerbations of any severity may occur in patients in any category			
Recommended Step for Initiating Treatment		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	
		In 2 -6 weeks, evaluate asthma control that is achieved and adjust therapy accordingly		Consider short course of oral steroids	

ASSESSING ASTHMA CONTROL AND ADJUSTING THERAPY IN CHILDREN 0 - 4 YEARS OF AGE				
EPR-3, p75, 309				
Components of Control		Classification of Asthma Control		
		Well Controlled	Not Well Controlled	Very Poorly Controlled
IMPAIRMENT	Symptoms	≤ 2 days/week	> 2 days/week	Throughout the day
	Nighttime awakenings	≤ 1/month	≥ 2 x/month	≥2x/week
	Interference with normal activity	none	Some limitation	Extremely limited
	SABA use	≤ 2 days/week	> 2 days/week	Several times/day
RISK	Exacerbations	0- 1 per year	2 - 3 per year	> 3 per year
	Progressive loss of lung function	Evaluation requires long-term follow up care		
	Rx-related adverse effects	Consider in overall assessment of risk		
Recommended Action For Treatment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Maintain current step</li> <li>•REGULAR FOLLOW UP EVERY 3 - 6 MONTHS</li> <li>•Consider step down if well controlled at least 3 months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Step up 1 step</li> <li>•Reevaluate in 2 - 6 weeks</li> <li>•If no clear benefit in 4-6 weeks , consider alternative dx or adjust therapy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Consider oral steroids</li> <li>•Step up (1-2 steps) and reevaluate in 2 weeks</li> <li>•If no clear benefit in 4-6 weeks , consider alternative dx or adjust therapy</li> </ul>

### Assessing Asthma Control in Children 5 - 11 Years of Age

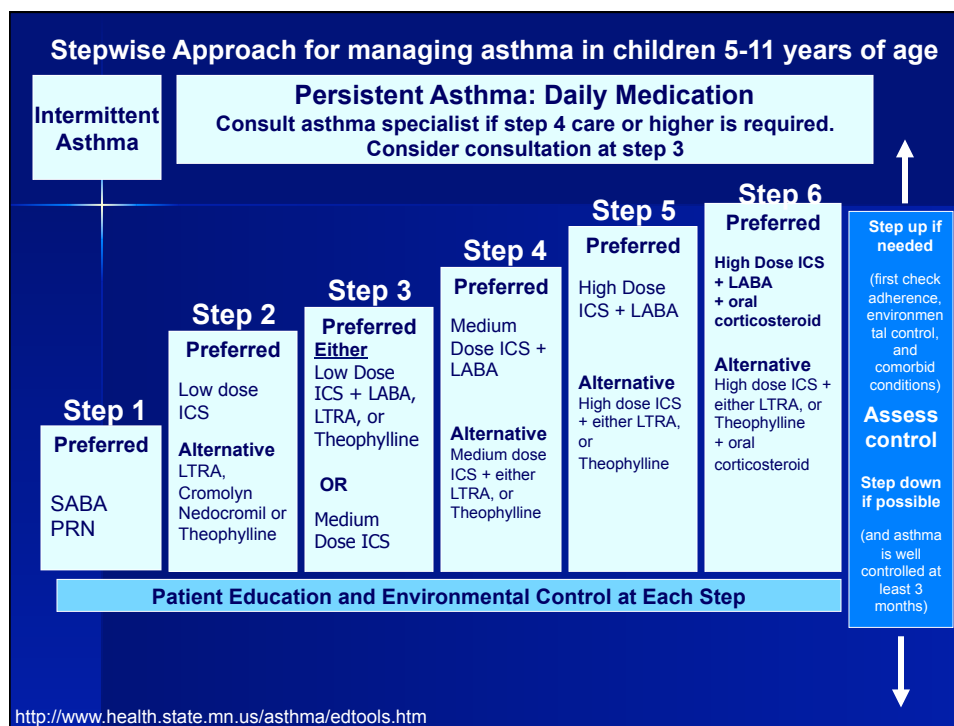
Components of Control		Classification of Asthma Control (Children 5-11 years of age)		
		Well Controlled	Not Well Controlled	Very Poorly Controlled
<b>Impairment</b>	Symptoms	≤2 days/week but not more than once on each day	>2 days/week or multiple times on ≤2 days/week	Throughout the day
	Nighttime awakenings	≤1x/month	≥2x/month	≥2x/week
	Interference with normal activity	None	Some limitation	Extremely limited
	Short-acting beta <sub>2</sub> -agonist use for symptom control (not prevention of EIB)	≤2 days/week	>2 days/week	Several times per day
	Lung function ▪ FEV <sub>1</sub> or peak flow ▪ FEV <sub>1</sub> /FVC	>80% predicted/ personal best >80%	60-80% predicted/ personal best 75-80%	<60% predicted/ personal best <75%
<b>Risk</b>	Exacerbations requiring oral systemic corticosteroids	0-1/year	≥2/year (see note)	
	Reduction in lung growth	Evaluation requires long-term followup.		
	Treatment-related adverse effects	Medication side effects can vary in intensity from none to very troublesome and worrisome. The level of intensity does not correlate to specific levels of control but should be considered in the overall assessment of risk.		

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/edtools.htm>

### ASSESSING ASTHMA CONTROL AND ADJUSTING THERAPY IN YOUTHS ≥ 12 YEARS OF AGE AND ADULTS

EPR-3, p77, 345

Components of Control		Classification of Asthma Control		
		Well Controlled	Not Well Controlled	Very Poorly Controlled
<b>IMPAIRMENT</b>	Symptoms	≤ 2 days/week	> 2 days/week	Throughout the day
	Nighttime awakenings	≤ 2/month	1-3/week	≥ 4/week
	Interference with normal activity	none	Some limitation	Extremely limited
	SABA use	≤ 2 days/week	> 2 days/week	Several times/day
	FEV <sub>1</sub> or peak flow	> 80% predicted/ personal best	60-80% predicted/ personal best	<60% predicted/ personal best
<b>RISK</b>	Validated questionnaires ATAQ/ACT	0/≥20	1-2/16-19	3-4/≤ 15
	Exacerbations	0- 1 per year	2 - 3 per year	> 3 per year
	Progressive loss of lung function	Evaluation requires long-term follow up care		
Rx-related adverse effects		Consider in overall assessment of risk		
<b>Recommended Action For Treatment</b>		•Maintain current step •Consider step down if well controlled at least 3 months	•Step up 1 step •Reevaluate in 2 - 6 weeks	•Consider oral steroids •Step up 1-2 weeks and reevaluate in 2 weeks



## Safety of Long-Acting Beta<sub>2</sub>-Agonists (LABA's)

- Adding a LABA to the tx of patients whose asthma is not well controlled on low- or medium-dose ICS improves lung function, decreases symptoms, and reduces exacerbations and use of SABA for quick relief in most patients
- The FDA determined that a Black Box warning was warranted on all preparations containing a LABA
- For patients who have asthma not sufficiently controlled with ICS alone, the option to increase the ICS dose should be given equal weight to the option of the addition of a LABA to ICS
- It is not currently recommended that LABA be used for treatment of acute symptoms or exacerbations
- LABAs are not to be used as monotherapy for long-term control

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<http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/edtools.htm>

## The Goals of Asthma Therapy: (Asthma Control)

EPR-3, p284

- Reducing impairment
  - ◆ prevent chronic and troublesome symptoms
  - ◆ require infrequent use ( $\leq 2$  days a week) of inhaled SABA for symptoms
  - ◆ maintain (near) “normal” pulmonary function
  - ◆ maintain normal activity levels
  - ◆ meet patients’ and families’ satisfaction with care
  
- Reducing risk
  - ◆ prevent recurrent exacerbations of asthma (ED/inpatient)
  - ◆ prevent progressive loss of lung function
  - ◆ provide optimal pharmacotherapy

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## Monitoring Asthma Control

EPR-3, Page 78

### Ask the patient

- ◆ Has your asthma awakened you at night or early morning?
- ◆ Have you needed more rescue inhaler than usual?
- ◆ Have you needed urgent care for asthma? (office, ED, etc)
- ◆ Are you participating in your usual or desired activities?
- ◆ What are your triggers? (and how can we manage them?)

### Actions to consider

- ◆ Assess whether medications are being taken as prescribed
- ◆ Assess whether inhalation technique is correct
- ◆ Assess spirometry and compare to previous measurements
- ◆ Adjust medications, as needed to achieve best control with the lowest dose needed to maintain control
- ◆ Environmental mitigation strategy

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## Treatment Strategies

- **Gain Control!!!**
  - ◆ Aggressive, intensive initial therapy to suppress airway inflammation and gain prompt control
- **Maintain Control**
  - ◆ Frequent follow-up, clinically and physiologically
  - ◆ Therapeutic modifications depending on severity and clinical course
  - ◆ “Step down” long-term control medications to maintain control with minimal side effects

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EPR-3, p121-139

## Key Educational Messages

- Significance of the diagnosis
- Inflammation as the underlying cause of symptoms
- Controllers versus quick-relievers
- How to use medication delivery devices
- Triggers, including second-hand tobacco smoke
- Home monitoring/ self-management
- How/ when to reach the provider
- The need for continuous on-going interaction with the clinician to step-up and step-down therapy
- Annual Influenza vaccine (yearround reminder)

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**FIGURE 6. SAMPLE ASTHMA ACTION PLAN—CHILD**

ENGLISH

**Child Asthma Action Plan**  
0–5 years of age

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Record #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Health Care Provider's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Care Provider's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Long-Term/Control Medicines (Use Every Day to Stay Healthy)	How Much To Take	How Often	Other Instructions (such as spacer/masks, nebulizer)
		_____ times per day <b>EVERY DAY!</b>	
		_____ times per day <b>EVERY DAY!</b>	
		_____ times per day <b>EVERY DAY!</b>	
		_____ times per day <b>EVERY DAY!</b>	

Quick-Relief Medicines	How Much To Take	How Often	Other Instructions (NOTE: If this medicine is needed often (_____ times per week), call physician. Give ONLY as needed.)

**GREEN ZONE**

**Child is well** and has no asthma symptoms, even during active play.

**Child is not well** and has asthma symptoms that may include:

- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Runny nose or other cold symptoms
- Breathing harder or faster
- Awakening due to coughing or difficulty breathing
- Playing less than usual

**PREVENT** asthma symptoms every day:

- Give the above long-term-control medicines every day.
- Avoid things that make the child's asthma worse.
- Avoid tobacco smoke; ask people to smoke outside.
- 
- 

**CAUTION:** Take action by continuing to give regular asthma medicines every day AND:

- Give \_\_\_\_\_ (include dose and frequency)
- Give \_\_\_\_\_ (include dose and frequency)

If the child is not in the Green Zone and still has symptoms after 1 hour, then:

- Give more \_\_\_\_\_ (include dose and frequency)
- Give more \_\_\_\_\_ (include dose and frequency)

**YELLOW ZONE**

Other symptoms that could indicate that your child is having trouble breathing may include: difficulty feeding, ignoring sounds, poor feeding, changes in sleep patterns, irritability and tired, decreased appetite.

**Child feels awful!** Warning signs may include:

- Child's wheezing, cough, or difficulty breathing continues or worsens, even after giving yellow zone medicines.
- Child's breathing is so hard that he/she is having trouble walking/talking/eating/sleeping.
- Child is drowsy or less alert than normal.

**RED ZONE**

**Danger! Get help immediately!**

**Call 9-1-1 if:**

- The child's skin is sallow or around neck and ribs, or
- Lips and/or fingernails are grey or blue, or
- Child doesn't respond to you.

**MEDICAL ALERT! Get help!**

- Call \_\_\_\_\_ (include dose and frequency)
- Take the child to the hospital or call 9-1-1 immediately!
- Give more \_\_\_\_\_ (include dose and frequency)
- Give more \_\_\_\_\_ (include dose and frequency)
- Give \_\_\_\_\_ (include dose and frequency)

Adapted and reprinted with permission from "The Asthma Action Plan" developed by a committee facilitated by the Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMPP) Initiative, a program of the Public Health Institute.  
Source: <http://www.caleasthma.org/uploads/resources/actionplan.pdf>; San Francisco Bay Area Regional Asthma Management Plan, <http://www.smpasthma.org>

## Preventing exercise induced asthma (EIA)

- Have an Asthma Action Plan (AAP) that provides details on pre-exercise medication regimen
- Athletes should use their reliever medication (Albuterol) 10-15 minutes before activity
- Do warm-up/ cool-down exercises before and after activities
- Check outdoor ozone/air quality levels  
<http://aqi.pca.state.mn.us/>
- Never encourage an athlete to “tough it out” when having asthma symptoms

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/edtools.htm>

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## Clearing the Air: Indoor Air Exposures & Asthma Exacerbation

### Biological Agents

- ❖ **Sufficient evidence of causal relationship**
  - ❖ Cat
  - ❖ Cockroach
  - ❖ House dust mite
- ❖ **Sufficient evidence of an association**
  - ❖ Dog
  - ❖ Fungus/Molds
  - ❖ Rhinovirus
- ❖ **Limited or suggestive evidence of association**
  - ❖ Domestic birds
  - ❖ Chlamydia and Mycoplasma pneumonia
  - ❖ RSV

### Chemical Agents

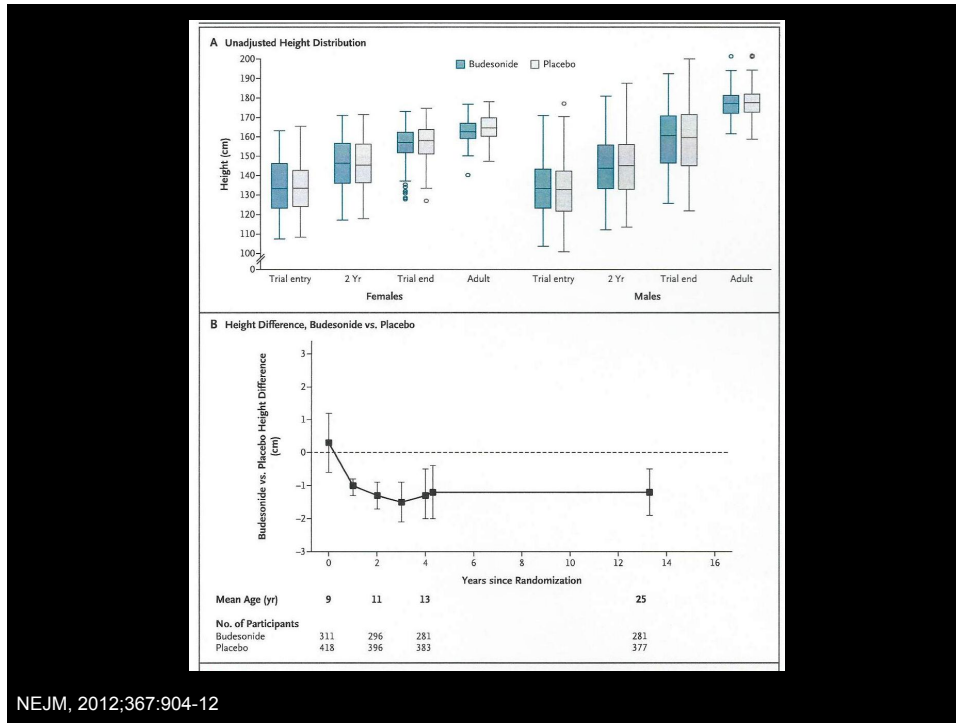
- ❖ **Sufficient evidence of causal relationship**
  - ❖ Environmental tobacco smoke (among pre-school aged children)
- ❖ **Sufficient evidence of association**
  - ❖ NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> (high levels)
- ❖ **Limited or suggestive evidence of association**
  - ❖ Environmental Tobacco Smoke (among school-aged, older children, and adults)
  - ❖ Formaldehyde
  - ❖ Fragrances




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NEJM, 2012;367:904-12



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...Another observation of interest is the recognition that tiotropium, a long-acting anticholinergic agent, can improve lung function in patients with severe uncontrolled asthma treated with high-dose ICSs and LABAs.


The next logical step is to conduct studies for specifically labeling this medication for use in the treatment of asthma and extending those studies to children.



JACI, 2012;129:60-68


May, 2012 [www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce](http://www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce)

### President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children




Coordinated Federal Action Plan  
to Reduce Racial and Ethnic  
Asthma Disparities

[http://www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce/federal\\_asthma\\_disparities\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce/federal_asthma_disparities_action_plan.pdf)



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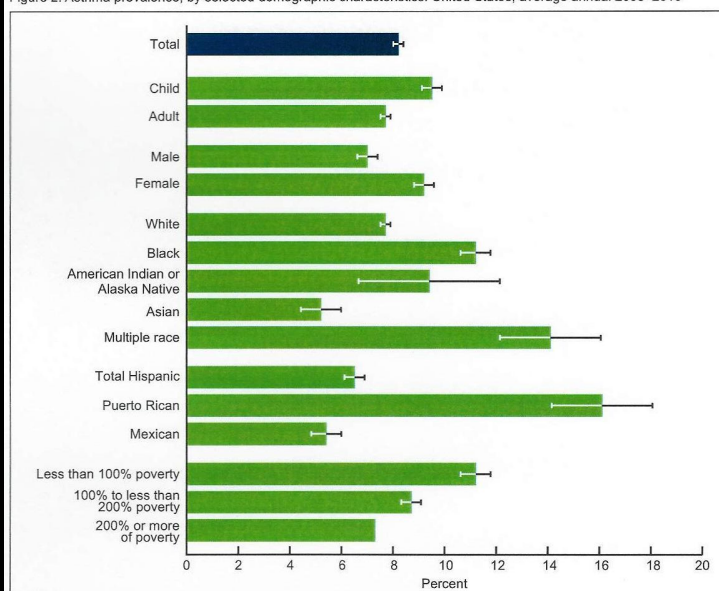
The prevalence of current asthma in the U.S. is 16 percent among non-Hispanic black children; 10.7 percent among American Indian and Alaska Native children; 6.8 percent among Asian; 8.2 percent among non-Hispanic white; and 7.9 percent among Hispanic children (16.5 percent among Puerto Rican children and 7 percent among Mexican children).



<http://www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce/>



Figure 2. Asthma prevalence, by selected demographic characteristics: United States, average annual 2008–2010



— 95% confidence interval.

NOTES: Asthma prevalence refers to percentage of people who have ever been diagnosed with asthma and still have asthma. Access data table for Figure 2 at: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db94\\_tables.pdf#2](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db94_tables.pdf#2).  
SOURCES: CDC/NCHS, Health Data Interactive and National Health Interview Survey.


## Asthma Disparities Among U.S. Children

- ❖ Low-income populations, minorities, and children living in inner cities experience more ED visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to asthma than the general population.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ The burden of asthma falls disproportionately on non-Hispanic black, American Indian/Alaskan Native and some Hispanic (i.e., Puerto Rican) populations.<sup>2, 3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lieu TA et al. Racial/Ethnic Variation in Asthma Status and Management Practices Among Children in Managed Medicaid. *Pediatrics* 2002; 109:857–865.

<sup>2</sup>National Center for Health Statistics. Health data for all ages [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/health\\_data\\_for\\_all\\_ages.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/health_data_for_all_ages.htm).


<sup>3</sup>Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America and National Pharmaceutical Council. *Ethnic Disparities in the Burden and Treatment of Asthma*. Reston, 2005.



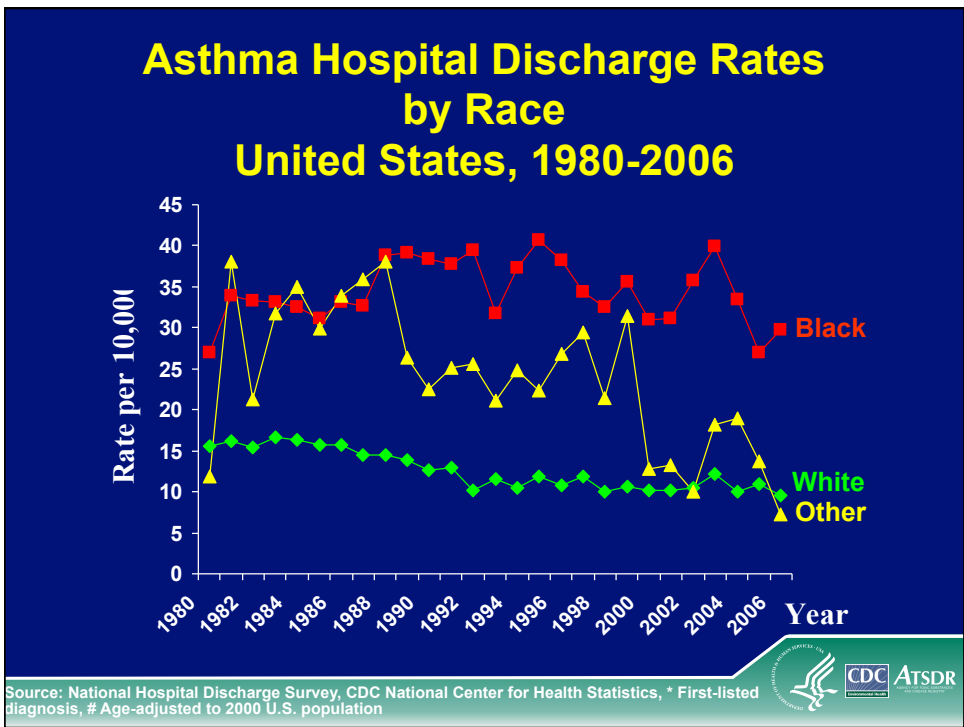
On top of disparities in the prevalence, there are significant racial and ethnic disparities in asthma outcomes (e.g., measures of asthma control, exacerbation of symptoms, quality of life, health care utilization and death). Among children with asthma, black children are:

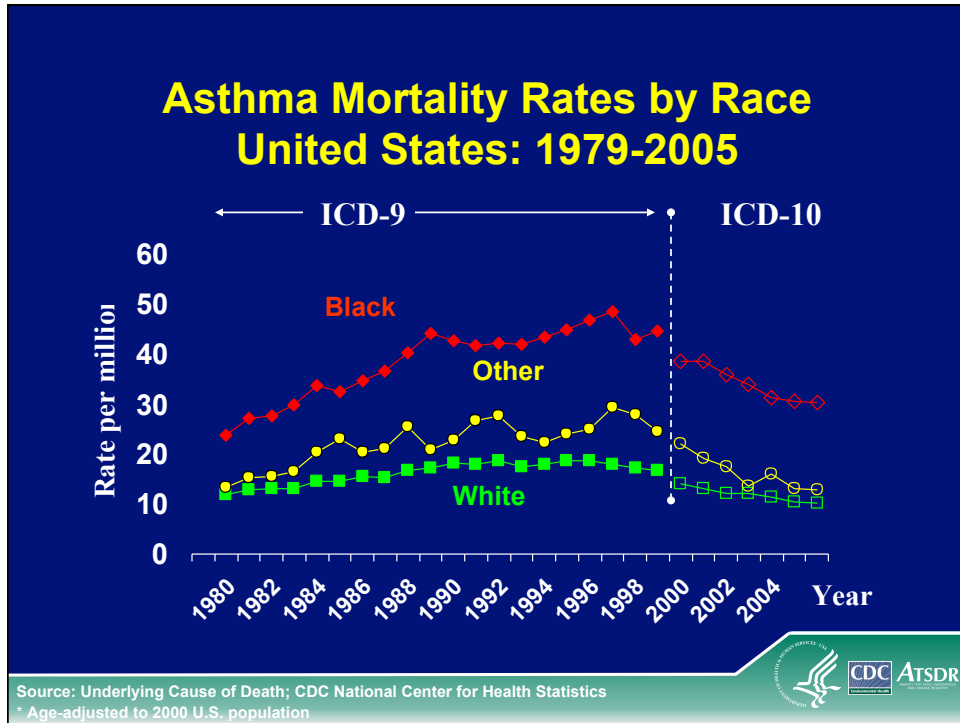
- Twice as likely to be hospitalized.
- More than twice as likely to have an ED visit.
- Four times more likely to die due to asthma than white children.



Minority children are less likely than white children to be prescribed or take recommended treatments to control their asthma, and are less likely to attend outpatient appointments.



<http://www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce/>










- Reduce barriers to the implementation of guidelines-based asthma management.**
- Enhance capacity to deliver integrated, comprehensive asthma care to children in communities with racial and ethnic asthma disparities.**
- Improve capacity to identify the children most impacted by asthma disparities.**
- Accelerate efforts to identify and test interventions that may prevent the onset of asthma among ethnic and racial minority children.**

<http://www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce/>







  
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**National Asthma Educator Certification**  
<http://naecb.com/>

**NAECB Mission Statement**

**To promote optimal asthma management and quality of life among individuals with asthma, their families and communities, by advancing excellence in asthma education through the Certified Asthma Educator process.**

 NATIONAL  
ASTHMA EDUCATOR  
CERTIFICATION BOARD




**Why is Certification Important?**

**Role of the Asthma Educator has increased as research has shown the importance of a well-educated, informed patient.**

**Need for standardized approach to evaluate effectiveness of disease management.**

**Certification assures education based on scientifically sound concepts of disease management.**



**NATIONAL  
ASTHMA EDUCATOR  
CERTIFICATION BOARD**



**Mecklenburg County Asthma Coalition:  
Asthma Health Fair**

**January 26, 2013 (9 a.m.–2 p.m.)**

**UNC Charlotte Center City**  
**Sponsor: Department of Public Health Sciences**



**MCAC**  
Mecklenburg County  
Asthma Coalition