

2011 Information for Action # 2011-6

Control asthma through the implementation of the National Asthma Guidelines!

Quick facts:

Asthma is an epidemic. One in every twelve adults and one in every nine children currently has asthma in New York State (NYS).¹ The following facts indicate that asthma is not well controlled among children and adults in NYS:

- Forty-four percent of New Yorkers with asthma had asthma that was classified as not well controlled or very poorly controlled (Figure 1).²
- Among New Yorkers with asthma classified as not well controlled or very poorly controlled, 45% did not use asthma controller medications (Figure 2).²
- Seventy-one percent of New Yorkers with asthma had never been given an asthma action plan by a doctor or other health professional (data not shown).²
- Fifty-five percent of New Yorkers with asthma had never been advised by a health professional to modify their home, school or work environment to improve their asthma (data not shown).²

Public health importance:

- In 2008, asthma accounted for more than 170,000 emergency department (ED) visits and 40,000 hospitalizations.¹
- The goal of the 2007 National Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma is to control asthma.³
- A large gap exists between what the National Asthma Guidelines recommend and what is actually practiced.

Figure 1: Asthma Control Status Among Adults and Children With Asthma

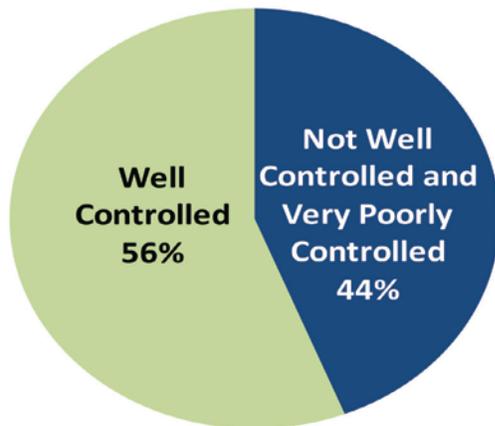
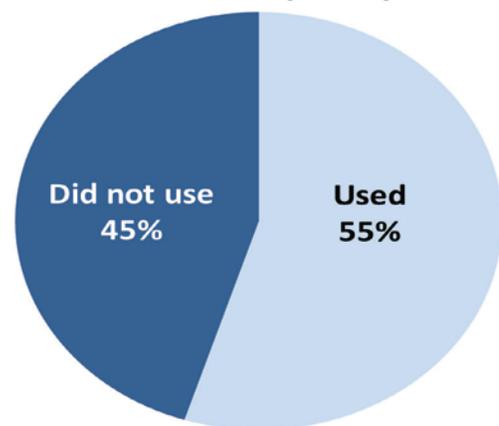


Figure 2: Asthma Controller Medications Used Among Adults and Children Whose Asthma Was Not Well Controlled or Very Poorly Controlled



Data Source: NYS Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Asthma Call-back Survey 2006 - 2008

PUBLIC HEALTH OPPORTUNITY

The NYS Department of Health has translated the National Asthma Guidelines into a decision support tool⁴ and an educational DVD⁵ to promote the application of the guidelines to practice in healthcare settings. Efforts to support the use of these tools in clinical practice are needed to improve asthma management, control asthma and reduce asthma ED visits and hospitalizations.

Contact:

For more information, please send an email to: asthma@health.state.ny.us with IFA # 6 in the subject line.

References:

¹ New York State Department of Health, Public Health Information Group, Information on Asthma in New York State. Available from:

http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/ny_asthma/

² New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Asthma Call-Back Survey data, 2006-2008.

³ National Asthma Education and Prevention Program. Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of asthma. NIH pub no 07-4051. Bethesda, MD: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institutes of Health. 2007. Available from: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma/>

⁴ New York State Department of Health. Clinical Guideline for the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Management of Adults and Children with Asthma - 2009. Available from: http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/asthma/pdf/2009_asthma_guidelines.pdf

⁵ Clinical Guideline for the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Management of Adults and Children with Asthma – DVD. Available at: <http://jeny.ipro.org/files/Asthma/>