

BREATHING EASIER *in* **FLORIDA**



SUCCESS STORIES
FROM THE FLORIDA
ASTHMA PROGRAM



“One-on-one care between patients and doctors isn't enough to really control asthma. Asthma requires coordinated care, and public health has the infrastructure to create the connections and partnerships needed to make that happen. CDC's support is critical in Florida — we couldn't continue to have the impact we're having without it.”

JULIE DUDLEY

program manager
FLORIDA ASTHMA PROGRAM

THE PROBLEMS:

- As of 2010, nearly 2 million Florida adults had been diagnosed with asthma in their lifetimes and about 1.2 million adults currently had asthma. That same year, about one out of every 10 Florida children younger than 18 was living with the chronic respiratory disease.
- From 2000 to 2010, lifetime asthma prevalence among adults increased by 52 percent. Lifetime asthma prevalence among middle and high school students increased by 21 percent between 2006 and 2012.
- From 2000 to 2010, asthma-related hospitalizations in Florida rose by more than 32 percent.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO ASTHMA:

The Florida Asthma Program and its partners focus on groups with the greatest needs. They increase asthma awareness, educate people on how to avoid environmental asthma triggers, partner with local stakeholders, and help residents manage their own health. And their efforts are paying off.

- The Florida Asthma Program began in 2009 and it's already making a difference. In 2011, the program launched its asthma control curriculum for child care providers as well as its Asthma-Friendly Childcare Award. To receive an award, child care centers must participate in asthma control training, keep asthma action plans on file and much more. By spring 2013, nearly 1,000 child care providers completed the training, seven child care centers achieved silver-level recognition, and nine achieved bronze-level recognition. Today, the number of asthma action plans on file among child care centers is on the rise.
- The Florida Asthma Program partners with the state chapter of the American Lung Association to bring asthma education to schools. By spring 2013, more than 1,300 third- through fifth-graders learned to better control their asthma via the Open Airways for Schools program, and about 600 school faculty participated in the Asthma 101 program.
- Before the Florida Asthma Program, the state had no systematic approach to asthma surveillance. But with CDC's support, the program has developed a robust system for gathering asthma data and making it easily accessible to local partners. Today, the system offers 24-hour access to the latest, county-specific asthma data. And providing such localized asthma data is empowering localized action. As of 2011, 15 percent of the state's county health departments had tapped asthma as a priority health issue.
- When the Florida Asthma Program convened the Florida Asthma Coalition in 2010, it had 48 members representing 20 partner organizations. In less than three years, the coalition has grown to about 150 members representing about 100 organizations.
- In Florida, asthma results in millions of dollars in health care costs — costs that are largely preventable through an evidence-based, public health approach to asthma control.



All information and data provided
by the Florida Department of Health
Asthma Program

CDC's National Asthma Control Program

Florida is one of 36 states that receives funding and technical support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Asthma Control Program. Since 1999, CDC has been leading public health efforts to prevent costly asthma complications, create asthma-friendly environments, and empower people living with asthma with the tools they need to better manage their own health. **Find out more at** www.cdc.gov/asthma.

