**Appendix**

**Covariate Definitions**

Race/ethnicity was defined as follows. Hispanic origin groups (Puerto Rican, Mexican American, or other Hispanic) included people of any race. Children categorized as non- Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black identified these respective race groups as the single best group that described their race. Children who identified multiple race groups, or other race groupings (American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander) were included in the non-Hispanic other/multiple race category. Starting with 2003 data, race responses of “other race” and unspecified multiple race were treated as missing, and then race was imputed if these were the only race responses. Almost all persons with a race response of other race were of Hispanic origin.10

Insurance categories of private insurance included children that were identified to have any private source of insurance. Children that did not have any source of private insurance but identified Medicaid, State Children’s Health Insurance Program, or another state sponsored health plans were identified as having public insurance only. Other insurance included military coverage, Medicare, and other government programs. Uninsured was defined as having no known source of health insurance coverage.

Poverty level is based on family size and composition using US Census Bureau poverty thresholds.11

NCHS Urban-rural codes were defined as follows: Large central metropolitan counties are defined as metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) of 1 million population that: (1) contain the entire population of the largest principal city of the MSA; or (2) are completely contained within the largest principal city of the MSA; or (3) contain at least 250 000 residents of any principal city in the MSA.9 Large fringe metro counties are defined as those in an MSA of 1 million or more population that do not qualify as large central metro counties. Medium and small metro counties are defined as those in MSAs of less than 999 999 population. Micropolitan and non-core counties are micropolitan counties in micropolitan statistical area and nonmetropolitan counties that did not qualify as micropolitan statistical areas, respectively.

**Preventive Asthma Medication**

Use of preventive asthma medication was identified as part of a series of questions about asthma medication utilization. The questions were prefaced by the following instructions.

*“Now I’m going to ask you about 2 different kinds of ASTHMA medicine. One prevents symptoms over the long term. The other is for quick relief of symptoms during an attack or episode. This quick relief medicine is breathed in through your mouth using a canister inhaler or a disk inhaler.”*

This was followed by questions concerning asthma rescue medications, which were then followed by the following instructions and question about preventive asthma medications.

*“The second kind of asthma medication is different from inhalers used for quick relief. It is the preventive kind that is used to protect your lungs and keep you from having attacks. It can be either a pill or an inhaler.*

*Are you NOW taking a preventive asthma medication every day or almost every day, less often, or never?”*

Responses categories were “Every day or almost every day,” “Less often” and “Never.”