## Healthy Homes: A Key to Asthma Management

Sally Herndon
Public Health Leaders Conference
January 24, 2017

## Workshop Agenda

- Sally Herndon, MPH Moderator and Overview
  - Introductions of Presenters and Audience
  - Brief data on asthma in NC, with focus on children, ED visits and hospitalizations
  - Quick review of the Recommendation from the Guide for Community Preventive Services
  - NC data on the Return on Investment.
  - Opportunities to Scale up and Spread this Evidence-based intervention
- \* Neasha Graves, MPA, UNC Environmental Resource Program
  - The new CDC/EPA/HUD guidelines for Asthma home visits
  - Practical tips to its implementation in NC
  - Link to the NC Healthy Homes group
- Local Health Department experiences in implementation
  - Anne Lowry, Chatham County Health Department
- \* Q+ A and Discussion 10-15 Minutes

## North Carolina Asthma Statistics: Nothing to Wheeze At

Farnaz Chowdhury

North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services

Division of Public Health

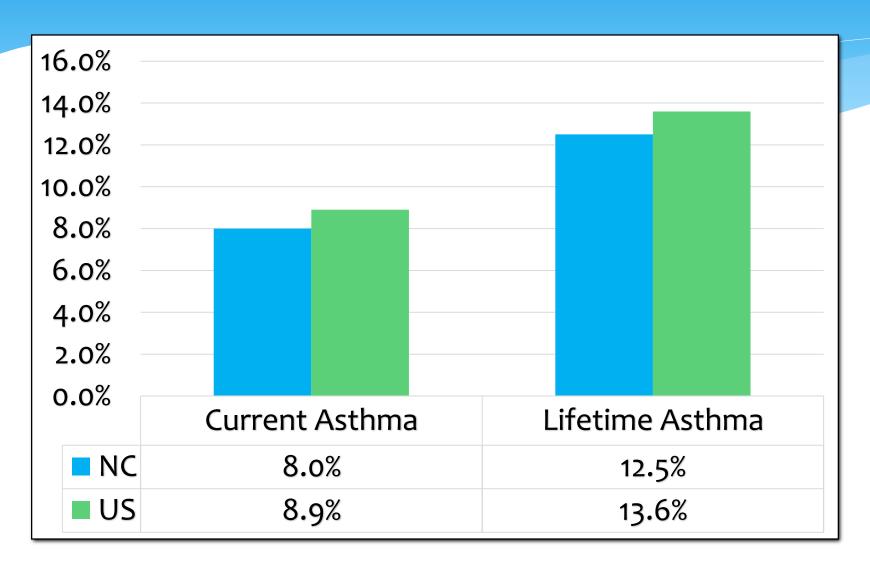
State Center for Health Statistics



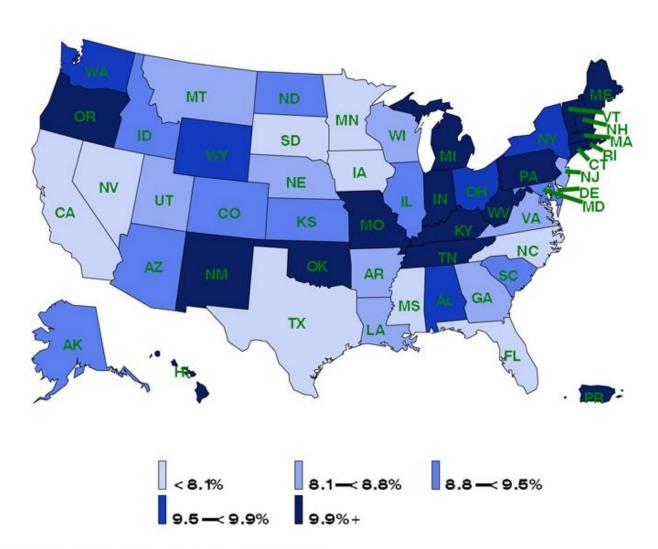
North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics

## Adult Asthma Prevalence

# 2016 Adult Asthma Prevalence, Current & Lifetime: U.S. & N.C.



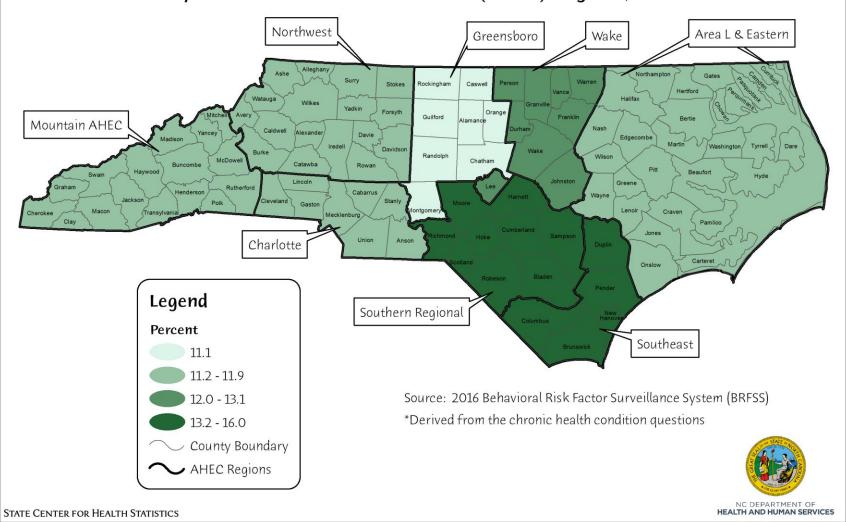
Map C1
Adult\* Self-Reported Current Asthma
Prevalence by State, BRFSS 2016



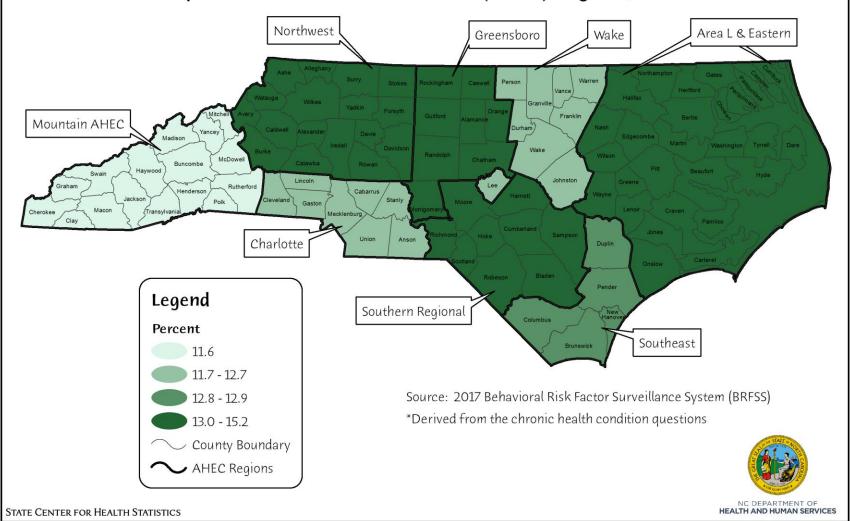
Footnote: Ranges are based on quintiles of the overall prevalence estimates from year 2011 data.

Air Pollution and Respiratory Health Branch, National Center for Environmental Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

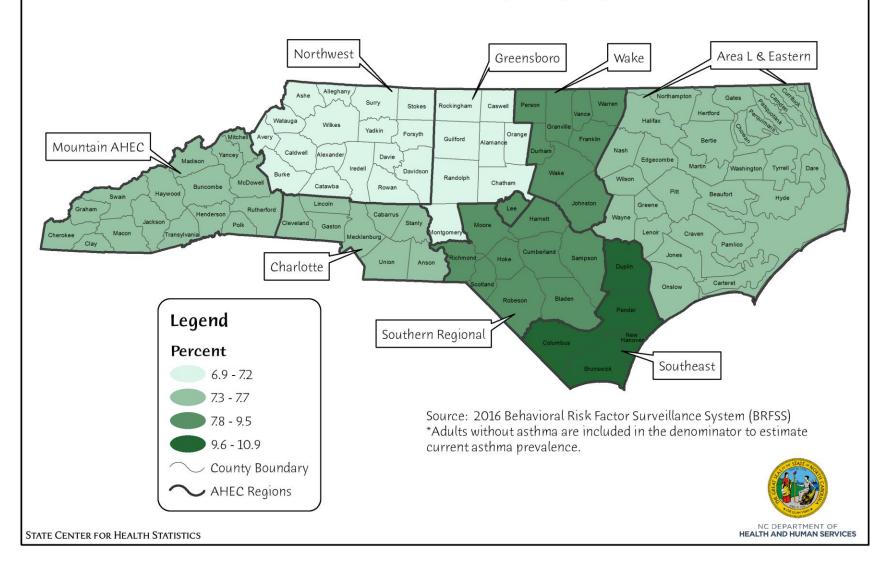
#### Percentage of North Carolina Adults Who Answered Yes to "has a doctor, nurse, or other health professional EVER told you that you had asthma?" by Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Regions, 2016



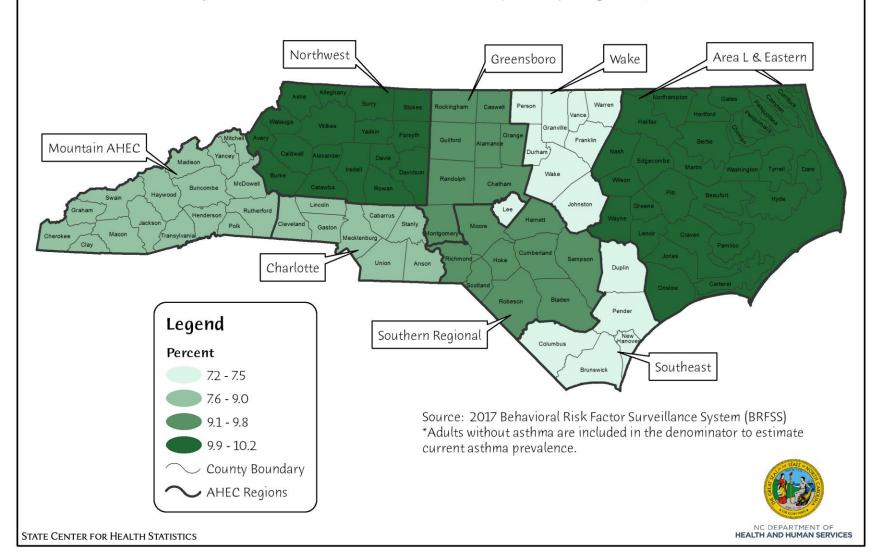
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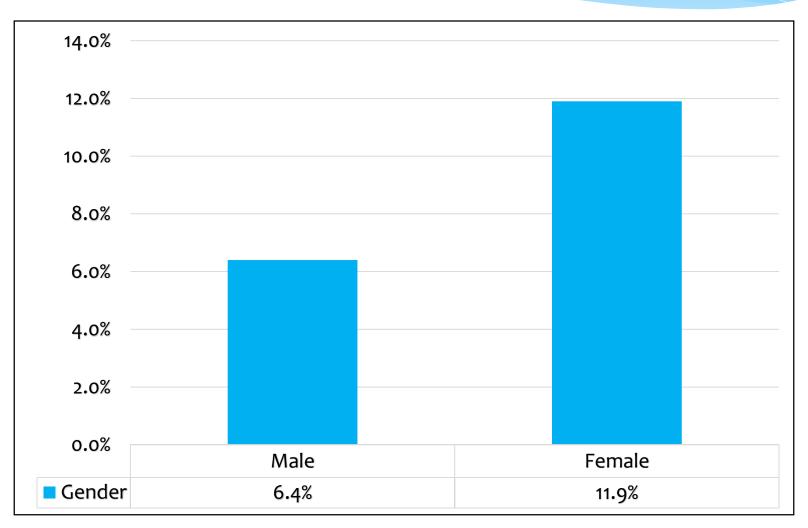
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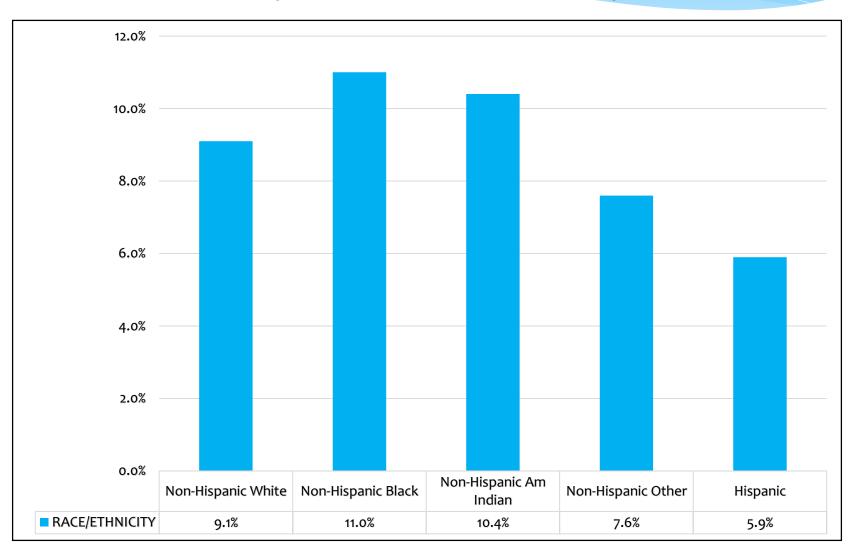
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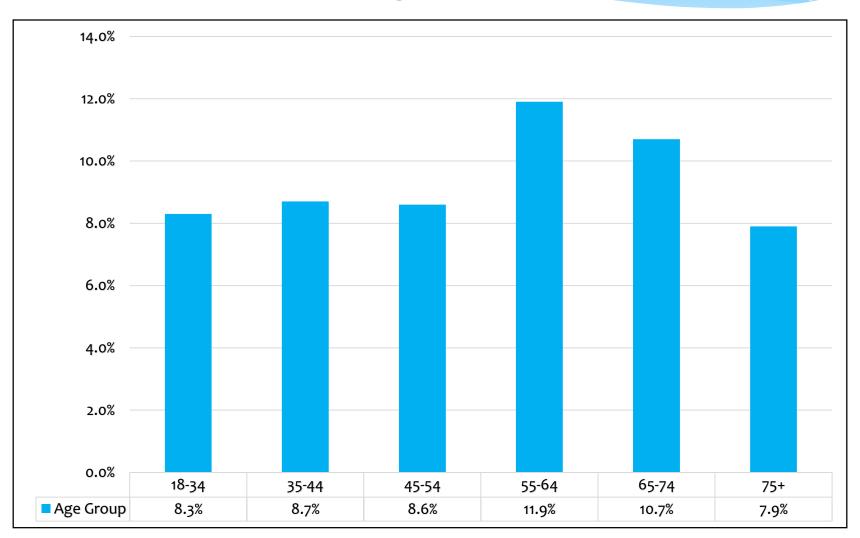
# NC Adult Current Asthma Prevalence Rates by Gender, 2017



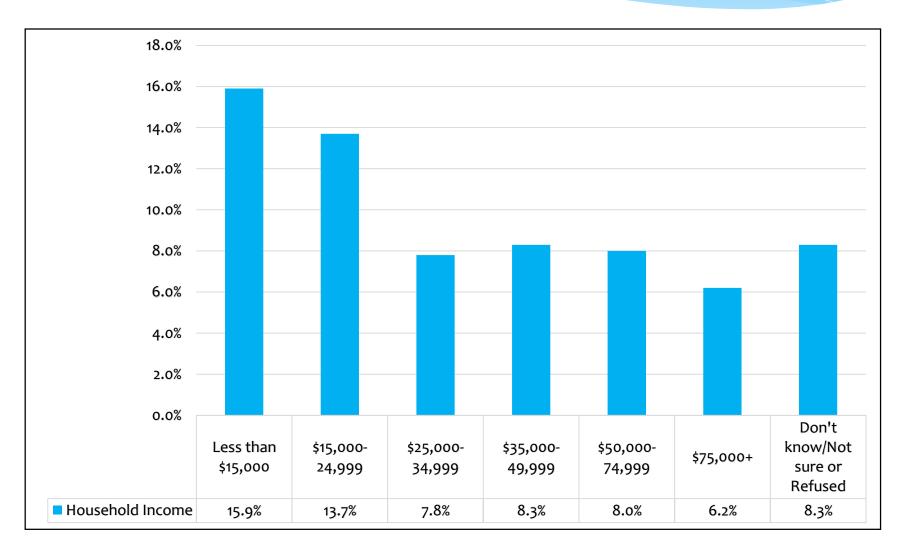
# NC Adult Current Asthma Prevalence Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2017



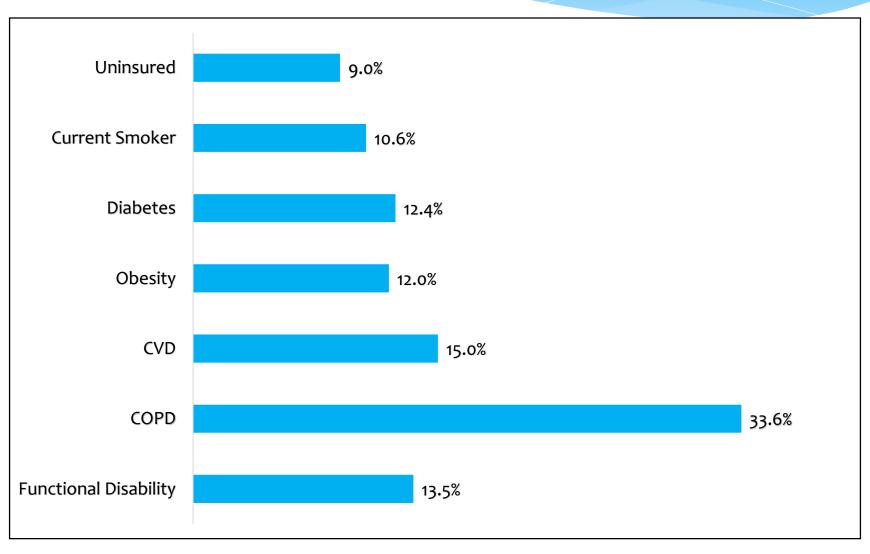
## NC Adult Current Asthma Prevalence Rates by Age Group, 2017



## NC Adult Current Asthma Prevalence Rates by Household Income, 2017



### NC Adult Current Asthma Prevalence by Comorbid Conditions/Risk Factors, 2017

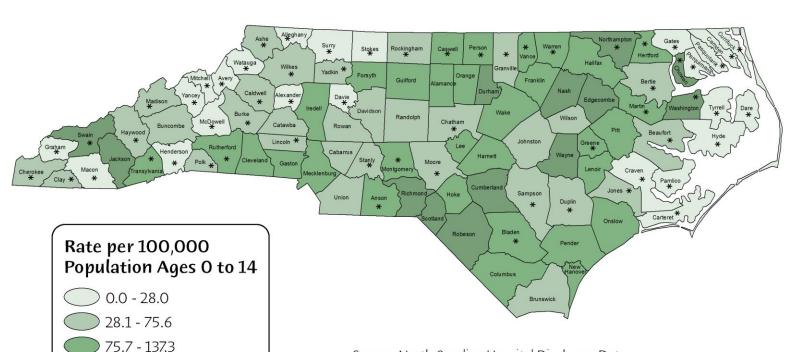


## **Asthma Hospitalizations**

# 2016 NC Resident Inpatient Hospitalizations for Asthma\*

Total Hospital Discharges	4,956
Discharge Rate per 100,000 Population	48.8
Average Length of Stay (in days)	2.8
Total Charges	\$77,464,678
Average Charge per Day	\$5,575
Average Charge per Hospitalization	\$15,630

#### North Carolina 2016 Hospital Discharge Rates with the Primary Diagnosis of Asthma for Ages 0 to 14, by County



Source: North Carolina Hospital Discharge Data Data includes only North Carolina resident data, served in North Carolina hospitals. It is provisional data and is subject to change.

\*Rates based on small numbers (fewer than 10 cases) are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

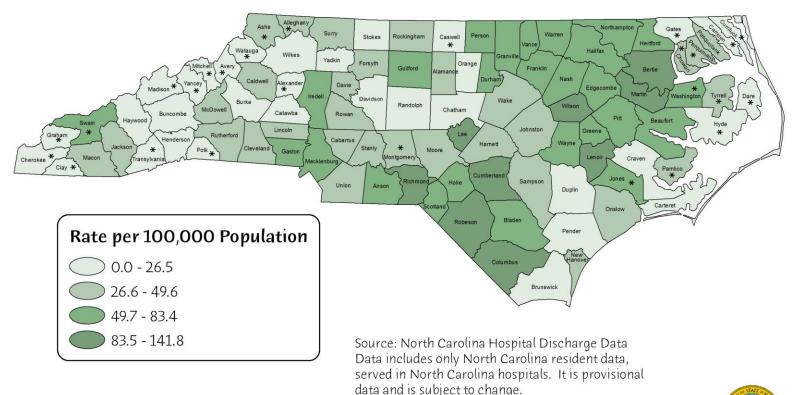


137.4 - 311.7

# 2017 NC Resident Inpatient Hospitalizations for Asthma\*

Total Hospital Discharges	4,954
Discharge Rate per 100,000 Population	48.2
Average Length of Stay (in days)	2.8
Total Charges	\$85,777,254
Average Charge per Day	\$6,116
Average Charge per Hospitalization	\$17,315

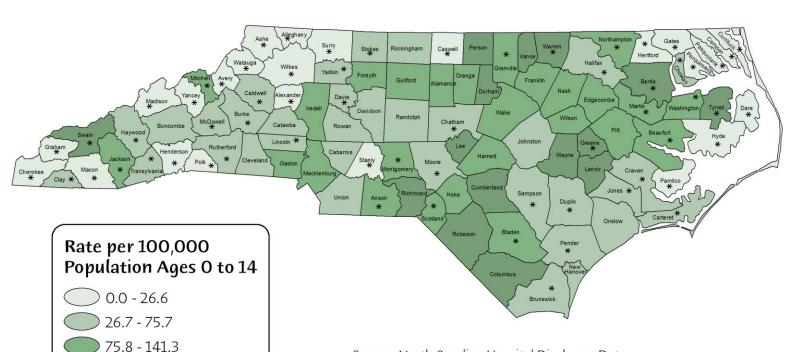
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141.4 - 242.7

## **Asthma Mortality**

# 2016 NC Resident Deaths Due to Asthma\*

Total Asthma Deaths	94
Crude (unadjusted) Mortality Rate	9.3
Age-adjusted Mortality Rate	8.9

# 2017 NC Resident Deaths Due to Asthma\*

Total Asthma Deaths	102
Crude (unadjusted) Mortality Rate	9.9
Age-adjusted Mortality Rate	9.6

<sup>\*</sup> Asthma as a Primary Cause of Death

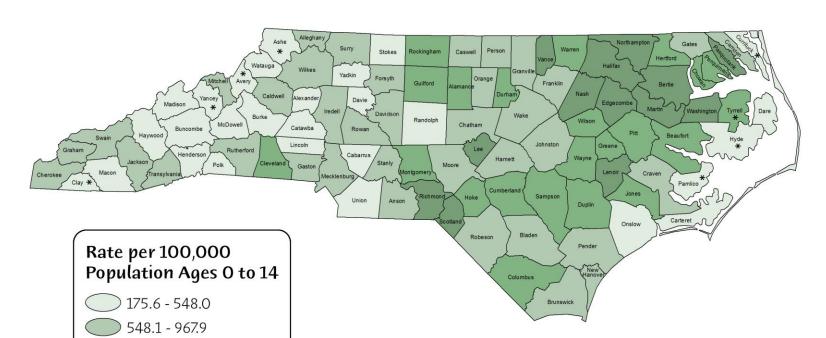
# Emergency Department Visits for Asthma

# NC Emergency Visits for Asthma (as a Primary Diagnosis) by Age Group, 2016

Age Group	Total Discharges	Crude Rate per 10,000 population
Ages 0-4	5,159	85.1
Ages 5-64	42,208	52.9
Ages 65+	2,357	15.0
Total	49,724	49.0

Source: State Center for Health Statistics Emergency Department Data

#### North Carolina 2016 Emergency Department Visits with the Primary Diagnosis of Asthma for Ages 0 to 14, by County



Source: North Carolina Hospital Discharge Data Data includes only North Carolina resident data, served in North Carolina hospitals. It is provisional data and is subject to change.

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968.0 - 1522.2

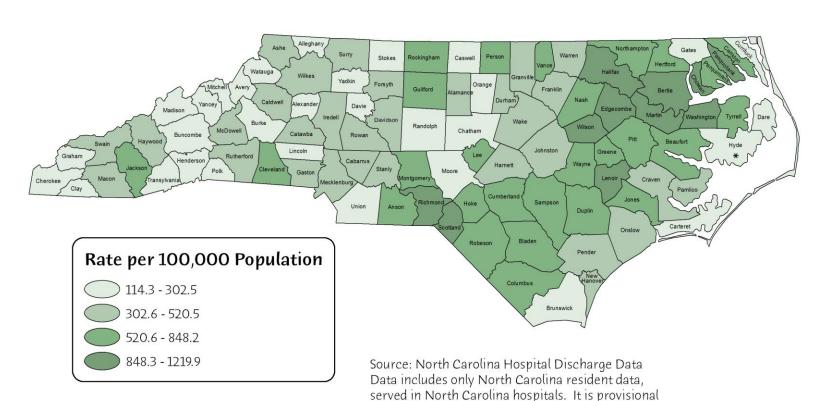
1522.3 - 2772.3

# NC Emergency Visits for Asthma (as a Primary Diagnosis) by Age Group, 2017

Age Group	Total Discharges	Crude Rate per 10,000 population
Ages 0-4	4,629	75.9
Ages 5-64	40,267	50.1
Ages 65+	2,503	15.4
Total	47,399	46.1

Source: State Center for Health Statistics Emergency Department Data

#### North Carolina 2017 Emergency Department Visits with the Primary Diagnosis of Asthma, by County



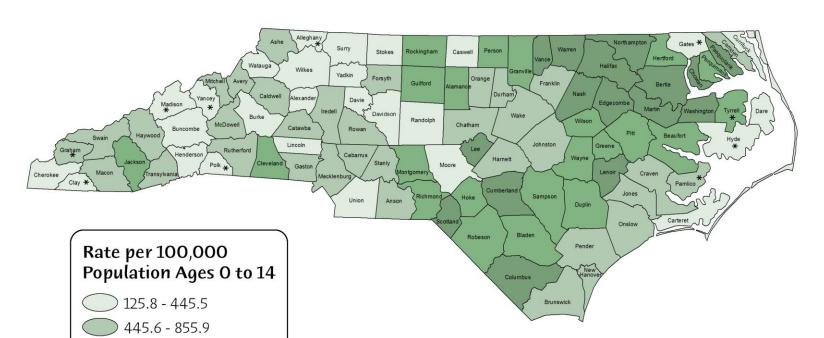
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856.0 - 1415.6

1415.7 - 2576.5

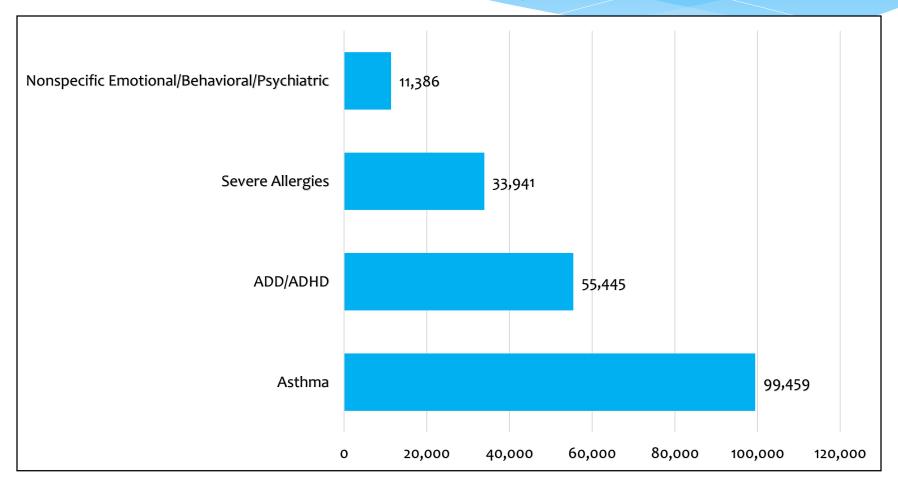
# Asthma & NC Children

# Prevalence of Asthma Among NC Children, 2016-17

	Ever Asthma	Current Asthma
Total	15.1%	8.2%
Male	18.4%	8.4%
Female	12.0%	8.1%
White	13.0%	<b>5.8</b> %
African American/Black	14.7%	12.2%
Other Minorities	*	13.2%
Hispanic	*	*

<sup>\*</sup> Statistically unreliable estimate.

## Most Common Chronic Health Conditions Reported to School Nurses, 2016-17



# School Nurse Asthma Case Management

	Consistently verbalized accurate knowledge of the pathophysiology of their condition	81%
ro To	Consistently demonstrated correct use of asthma inhaler and/or spacer	85%
Ę	Accurately listed his/her asthma triggers	84%
Ast	Remained within peak flow/pulse oximeter plan goals	73%
	Improved amount and/or quality of regular physical activity	80%
	Improved grades	67%
	Decreased number of absences	28%

Source: 2015-2016 NC Annual School Health Services Report

### **Contact Information**

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- \* Fax: 919-733-8485
- \* farnaz.h.chowdhury@dhhs.nc.gov
- \* www.schs.state.nc.us

#### **CPSTF** Recommendation:



The <u>Community Preventive Services Task Force</u>
(<u>CPSTF</u>) recommends the use of home-based multi-trigger, multicomponent interventions with an environmental focus for children and adolescents with asthma based on strong evidence of effectiveness in improving overall quality of life and productivity, specifically:

- \* Improving asthma symptoms
- \* Reducing the number of school days missed due to asthma

CDC'S 6 18 INITIATIVE

#### EVIDENCE SUMMARY

### Control Asthma



#### Evidence-based Interventions: Payers

- \* Use the 2007 National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP Guidelines) as part of evidence-based clinical practice and medical management guidelines.
- Promote strategies that improve access and adherence to asthma medications and devices.
- \* Expand access to intensive self-management education by licensed professionals or qualified lay health workers for patients whose asthma is not well-controlled with the medical management approach outlined in the NAEPP Guidelines.
- \* Expand access to home visits by licensed professionals or qualified lay health workers to provide both targeted, intensive self-management education and the reduction of home asthma triggers for patients whose asthma is not well controlled through use of both NAEPP Guidelines' medical management and asthma self-management education.

# Community Care of Wake and Johnston Counties Success Story

As part of a comprehensive approach to asthma management, Community Care of Wake and Johnston Counties, in partnership with Wake County Human Services and Wake County Environmental Services, conduct in-home multi-trigger, multi-component interventions for pediatric patients with asthma.

#### **Results**

- Data base tracks costs 1-year pre/and 1-year post intervention for patients receiving in-home environmental assessments— on average, >\$700 decreased cost per patient
- Overall Network Asthma rates have declined from 2003 to 2012
  - \* Asthma ED rate decreased from 40 visits/1000MM to 17 visits/1000MM
  - \* Asthma Inpatient rates decreased from 8.3 hospitalizations/1000MM to 1.9 hospitalizations/1000MM



## Piloting Asthma & Healthy Homes Assessment Initiatives

# NC Public Health Leaders Conference January 24, 2019

Neasha B. Graves, MPA
Community Outreach And Engagement Core
UNC Center For Environmental Health And Susceptibility

### **Environmental Asthma Home Checklist**

Revised by EPA, HUD and CDC

Guidance for home visitors

Assessment of home systems and individual rooms

Low-cost steps for remediation



### Common Environmental Asthma Triggers

#### **Home Characteristics and Asthma Triggers**

#### **Checklist for Home Visitors**

#### Using this Home Assessment Can Help Make Homes Healthier.

A trained home visitor can help find common asthma triggers in homes and discuss ways to reduce and remove triggers. Removing asthma triggers in the home, along with proper medical care can improve health.

The checklist is organized into a Core Assessment plus two appendices (Dust Mite Module and Mold and Moisture Module). The Core Assessment can be used for all types of housing and climates, but the additional modules can be used if dust mites or mold/moisture issues are suspected by the trained home visitor. The suggested action items in this checklist are generally simple and low cost.









Pets with fur Triggers: Fur, skin flakes, and saliva.

Secondhand Smoke

Triggers: Cockroaches—Body parts and droppings. Rodents-Fur, skin flakes, and urine. Where Found: Areas with food and water such as kitchens.

Where Found: Throughout entire home.

Triggers: Mix of smoke from the burning end of

a cigarette, pipe, or cigar and the smoke exhaled

Where Found: Anywhere that smoking is allowed.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Where Found: Products such as cleaning agents,

Triggers: Chemical vapors that come from household items

deodorizers, air fresheners, perfumes, paints, nail polish,



#### Glossary of Asthma Triggers Commonly Found in Homes

#### **Combustion by-products**

Triggers: Particles and gases that are formed when fuel

Where Found: Gas cooking appliances, fireplaces, woodstoves, candles, incense, cigarettes, and unvented kerosene and gas space heaters.

Triggers: Body parts and droppings.

Where Found: Mattresses, bedding, carpeting, curtains, upholstered furniture, and stuffed toys. Dust mites are too small to be seen with the naked eye. They can survive in a range of climates, but they prefer high humidity.

Triggers: Mold spores, fragments, and odors.

Where Found: Indoor mold growth is often found in areas with more moisture such as kitchens, bathrooms, and basements, or areas where water damage has occurred. There are many types of mold and they can be found in any climate.







and nail polish remover.



Heating/Cooling systems

Gas appliances

Smoking/E-cigarettes

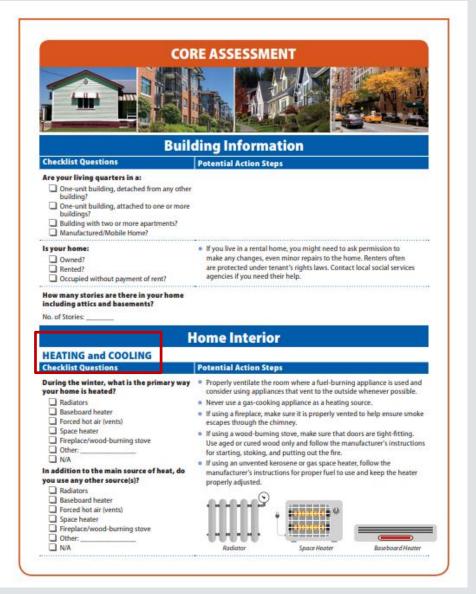
Animal dander

Pests and pesticides

Moisture and mold

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

# Examining home systems



#### **MOLD AND MOISTURE MODULE**

Answers in a red checkbox (first column) are associated with moisture and potentially mold. A yellow checkbox (second column) indicates medium potential for concern, and a green home. You can take actions shown at the end of this list. checkbox (third column) indicates low potential for concern.

The more checkmarks you have in red checkboxes, the more likely it is that you have moisture and mold in your

Is there a crawlspace under the building?	Yes		☐ No	Don't know
Are any of the bedrooms in the basement	Yes	<b>-</b>	□No	
NOTE: Many crawl spaces and basements are damp an	nd may have mole	d that can enter the	home.	•
Heating , Ventilation and Cooling	,			
In the bathroom where you shower or bathe, does the exhaust fan work?	□ No □ N/A	Don't know	Yes	
If YES, how frequently do you use it when showe <u>ring or bathing?</u>	Never	Sometimes	All the time	□ N/A
Does your kitchen vent ex laust outdoors?	□ No □ N/A	Don't know	Yes	
Does your clothes dryer exhaust outdoors?	No	Don't know	☐ Yes	□ N/A
xhaust fans do not work or do not vent outside, high Carpet	humidity can de	,	nd can lead to molo	
exhaust fans do not work or do not vent outside, high Carpet		,		
NOTE: Properly maintained exhaust fans that vent to texhaust fans do not work or do not vent outside, high  Carpet  Do you have wall-to-wall carpeting in your kitchen or bathrooms  What kind of floor covering is in the bedroom?	Yes Wall- to-wall	,	nd can lead to molo	
cahaust fans do not work or do not vent outside, high  Carpet  Do you have wall-to-wall carpeting in your kitchen or bathrooms  What kind of floor covering is in the bedroom?  NOTE: Carpeting in areas that are prone to water spills	Yes Wall- to-wall carpeting	Some carpeting	No All smooth	d growth.
cahaust fans do not work or do not vent outside, high  Carpet  Do you have wall-to-wall carpeting in your kitchen or bathrooms  What kind of floor cover ng is in the bedroom?  NOTE: Carpeting in areas that are prone to water spills lace where dust mites can thrive.	Yes Wall- to-wall carpeting	Some carpeting	No All smooth	d growth.
cahaust fans do not work or do not vent outside, high  Carpet  Do you have wall-to-wall carpeting in your kitchen or bathrooms  What kind of floor cover ng is in the bedroom?  NOTE: Carpeting in areas that are prone to water spills lace where dust mites can thrive.  Dampness  In the last 12 months, have you noticed	Yes Wall- to-wall carpeting	Some carpeting	No All smooth	d growth.
Carpet  Do you have wall-to-wall carpeting in your kitchen or bathrooms  What kind of floor covering is in the bedroom?  WICE: Carpeting in areas that are prone to water spills lace where dust mites can thrive.  Dampness  In the last 12 months, have you noticed condensation on windows in your home?  NOTE: Condensation (water droplets) on windows is so	Yes Wall-to-wall carpeting Can be hard to d	Some carpeting	No All smooth floor can lead to mold gr	d growth.
exhaust fans do not work or do not vent outside, high  Carpet  Do you have wall-to-wall carpeting in your  kitchen or bathrooms	Yes Wall-to-wall carpeting Can be hard to d	Some carpeting	No All smooth floor can lead to mold gr	d growth.

### Hazards in individual rooms

Kitchen

**Bathroom** 

**Bedroom** 

# Conducting an assessment

Identify the environmental health hazard

Observe/Ask questions

Recommend corrective action steps

#### Core Assessment (continued) **SMOKING** Checklist Quest ons **Potential Action Steps** In the last 12 months, how often has secondhand tobacco smoke entered inside your home from somewhere else in or around the building? Work with the building owner/manager and other occupants to start a Daily smoke-free policy throughout the building. ■ Weekly Use a portable air cleaner that is rated to remove tobacco smoke. ■ Monthly A few times a year ■ Never PETS **Checklist Questions Potential Action Steps** Do you have any pets in your home? Yes No No Talk to your healthcare provider to see if testing for allergy to your pets If Yes, please check all that apply: might be helpful for you. Cat(s) Dog(s) If you are allergic to pets, the best way to decrease asthma symptoms is ☐ Bird(s) to remove the pet from the home and thoroughly clean all surfaces in Other furry pets (e.g., rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice) If you are allergic, and cannot remove the pet from your home, you can Other non-furry pets decrease exposure, but it might not be enough to decrease symptoms. The best way to decrease symptoms is to do all of these things: » Keep pets out of your bedroom, » Wash your furry pets, » Use an air cleaner with HEPA filter, » Use allergen-proof mattress & pillow covers. PESTS **Checklist Questions Potential Action Steps** In the last 12 months, have you seen Use integrated pest management (IPM) described below. For those with cockroaches inside your home? asthma, especially avoid the use of sprays and foggers. Yes IPM concepts include: ■ No Keep counters, sinks, tables, and floors clean and free of clutter. ☐ Don't know Clean dishes, crumbs, and spills right away. Store food in airtight containers. This also applies to pet food. Seal cracks or openings in cabinets, walls, baseboards, and around Keep trash in a closed container. Use pesticide baits and traps in areas away from children and pets. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct use.

# Forging a partnership to establish local home assessment initiatives







# Local Health Departments

Chatham, Cumberland, Jones, Macon, Onslow

# Preparing public health professionals to engage with asthma patients





#### 5-hour EH training

- -Asthma as a chronic lung disease
- -Peer-reviewed research on asthma triggers
- -Communication skills

33 PH professionals from 7 counties

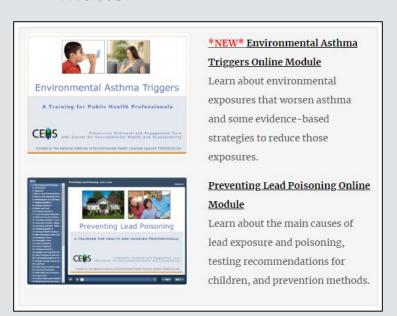
85% increased pre/post training scores

94% felt more prepared to share information with patients

Intervention tools provided on-site

### Providing resources and technical assistance

- Resources website for participating counties
- Webinars on relevant subject matter

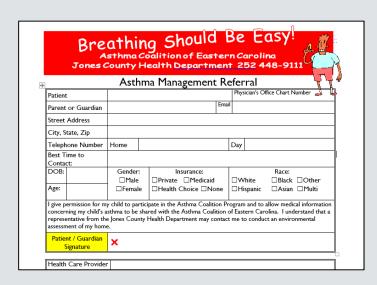


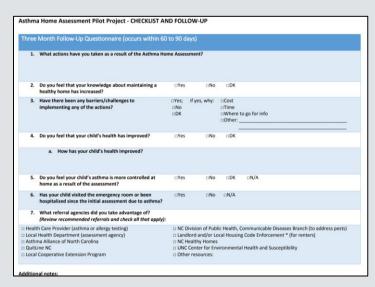


- Time sensitive EH resources (e.g., disaster response)
- Educational materials for varying literacy levels

### Implementing local assessment initiatives

- Development of recruitment and referral materials
- Referrals from providers
- 30-90 day follow-up assessments





#### Lessons learned

- Long-term persistence
- Natural events that affect implementation (e.g. hurricanes)
- Creative recruitment

### NC Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force: Support to improve homes and public health



- Coordinated by NC DHHS & UNC IE
- Membership of state and local health and housing agencies
- Exchange ideas, address challenges
- Engage with subject matter experts
- Forge collaborations
- Develop educational materials

http://nchealthyhomes.com

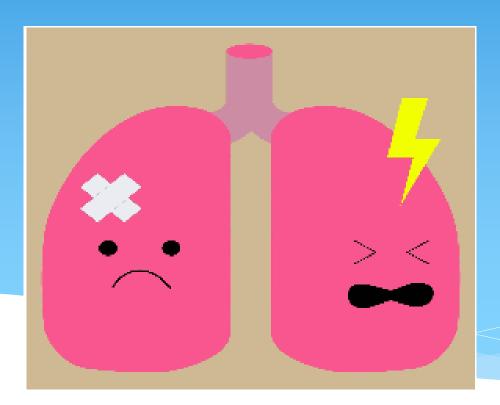
### **Contact information**

Neasha Graves, MPA neasha\_graves@unc.edu (919)966-3746

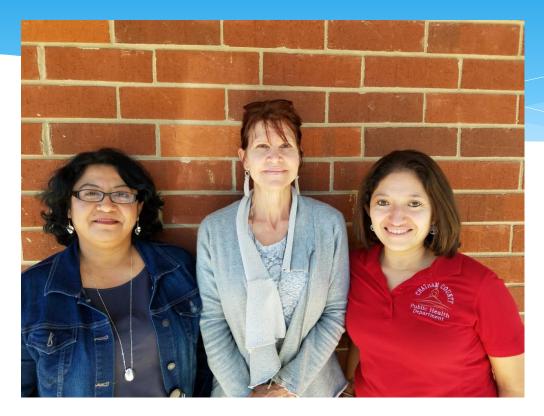
To join the NC Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force listserv contact Megan Rodgers at merodgers@unc.edu



# Chatham County Asthma Intervention Program



## **Asthma Intervention Team**



**Nellie Benitez- Community Outreach Worker** 

**Elizabeth Fridley- Public Health Nurse** 

Roxana Sandria – Environmental Health Technician

## Starting an Asthma Program





- Attended Health Homes Training provided by UNC Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility
- Developed Asthma Intervention Program Policy
- Developed Referral sources with local medical providers, Chatham County schools, and UNC Hospital
- Developed informational flier about Asthma Intervention Program
- Purchased outreach items for asthma program

# Outreach Items

- Allergen pillow cases and mattress covers
- Green Cleaning Supplies
- Roach Baits
- Spacers
- CO detectors
- Dehumidifier



## **Chatham County Year 1 Results**

- Received 7 referrals for children with poorly controlled asthma
- \* Conducted 3 Asthma Trigger Assessments
  - \* Identified asthma triggers mold, carpeting, pets, air fresheners
- Completed initial follow up visits for 3 children
  - \* Parents report improved asthma control for children
  - \* Additional follow up visits to take place in the months to come
- \* Refusal from 4 parents/guardians due to
  - smoking in home,
  - moving from home,
  - \* new born baby

# Chatham County Asthma Program Next Steps

- \* Advertise Asthma Program on Facebook
- \* Continue medical provider office visits to talk about asthma program

\* Partner with school nurses to host Asthma Event in school

 Develop program that removes barriers to conducting a home visit –



# Questions & Comments Ideas

