

Health Equity Advancement & Leadership  
(HEAL) Program & Resource Updates  
Michigan Asthma Forum  
June 15, 2023



Asthma and Allergy  
Foundation of America

# About AAFA

## OUR VISION

To be recognized as the most trusted ally serving the asthma and allergy community.

## OUR MISSION

AAFA is dedicated to saving lives and reducing the burden of disease for people with asthma and allergies through **support, advocacy, education and research.**

## OUR VALUES



### Patient-Centric

Everything we do is in service of helping people with asthma and allergies, their families and their communities; of elevating the voice of the patient; of always putting their interests first.



### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

We acknowledge the harmful impact of disparities in asthma and allergy care on the communities we serve. We support the dismantling of systemic inequities and believe that by building the core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion into all of AAFA's operations, we can intentionally make space for positive outcomes to flourish as we model those values and advance our mission.



### Compassion

We understand that an asthma or allergy diagnosis can be a life-changing event. For those affected, we stand together, prepared not only to listen and empathize, but also serve as a lifeline of support and reliable helpmate for life.



### Trust

We live by the firm commitment to act with integrity and transparency in all our endeavors, and we provide the best information available.



### Empowerment

Our approach to advocacy amplifies the voices of and empowers the asthma and allergy community. We develop positions that reflect and represent their interests, and we champion vital policies that improve their lives.



### Innovation

Whether using new tools and technology to communicate and educate, seeking innovative opportunities to improve patient outcomes and reduce costs, or building new and creative alliances and partnerships, ours is a ceaseless quest to listen, adapt and respond for the good of our community.

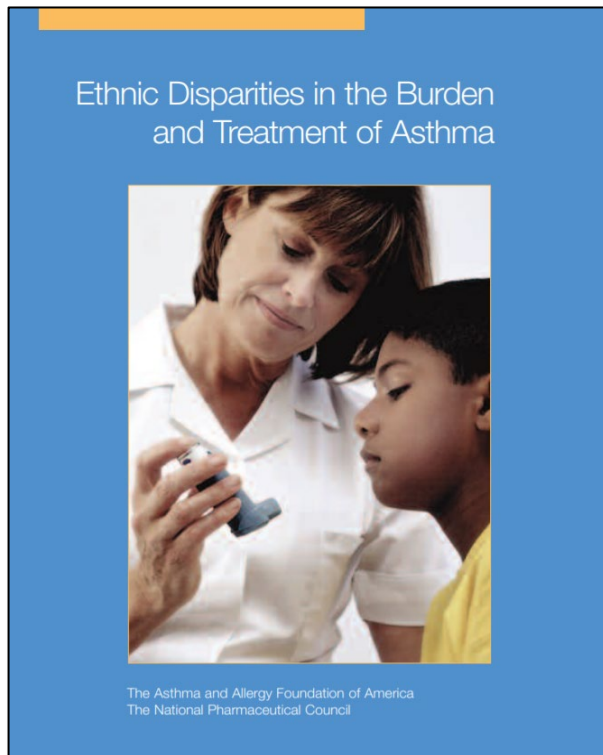
# Speaker – Lynne G. Bosma, MSW



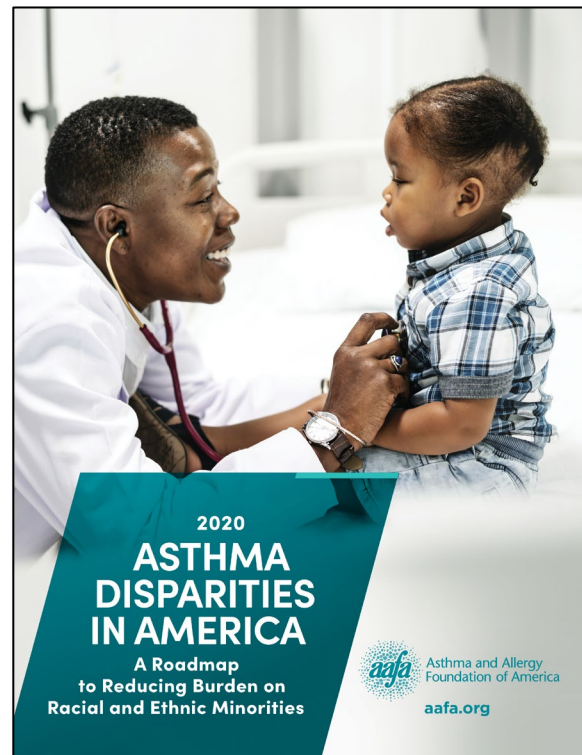
- Health Equity & Outreach Program Manager
- Fellow Michigander in the Grand Rapids area originally from SW Detroit
- Prior to AAFA spent almost 20 years working in CBOs, Health-Related Social Needs areas
  - Housing, Workforce & Economic Development, Resource Navigation, Education, Disability Services
  - Program Development/Coalition Building

# Disparities Report Update 2005-2020

2005

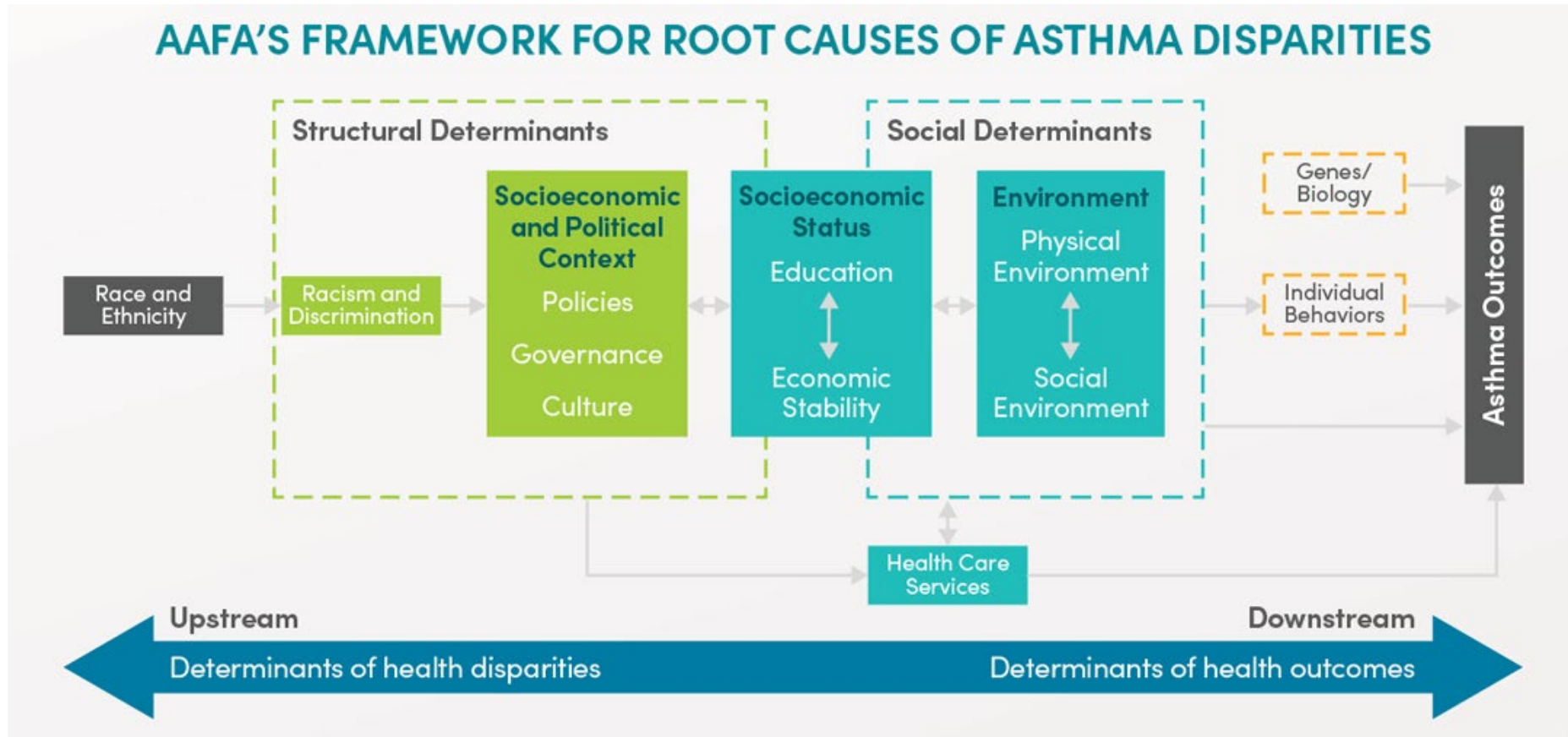


2020



- Examine changes since our 2005 report
- Identify strategies to promote systemic change
- Guide AAFA and stakeholders to prioritize policies and programs
- Provide action plan for sustainable solutions

# AAFA's Framework





# ASTHMA AND ALLERGY DISPARITIES: AT A GLANCE

## Compared to white Americans:

 Black Americans are nearly **1.5 times** more likely to have asthma<sup>1</sup>

 Puerto Rican Americans are nearly **2 times** more likely to have asthma<sup>1</sup>



When sex is factored in, **BLACK WOMEN** have the highest rates of death due to asthma<sup>3</sup>

 Black Americans are **5 times** more likely to visit the emergency department due to asthma<sup>2</sup>

 Black Americans are **3 times** more likely to die from asthma<sup>3</sup>

## Compared to white children:

Black children are **more likely** to die from food-induced anaphylaxis<sup>4</sup>



Black children are **1.5 times** more likely to have skin allergies<sup>5</sup>

Black children are **7% more likely** to have food allergies<sup>1</sup>

# HEAL – Health Equity Advancement and Leadership



- **Health Equity Advancement and Leadership (HEAL)** is the umbrella for AAFA’s health equity work.
- This initiative follows the launch of AAFA’s Asthma Disparities in America report and aligns with AAFA’s strategic focus on underserved populations.

# HEAL Program Goals

- Reduce deaths and hospitalizations due to asthma
- Build momentum in addressing asthma disparities
- Invest in community-based asthma programs
- Empower local organizations and partners
- Cultivate ideas and share best practices

HEAL

HEALTH EQUITY  
Advancement and Leadership



# HEAL: YEAR 1



Each site receives:

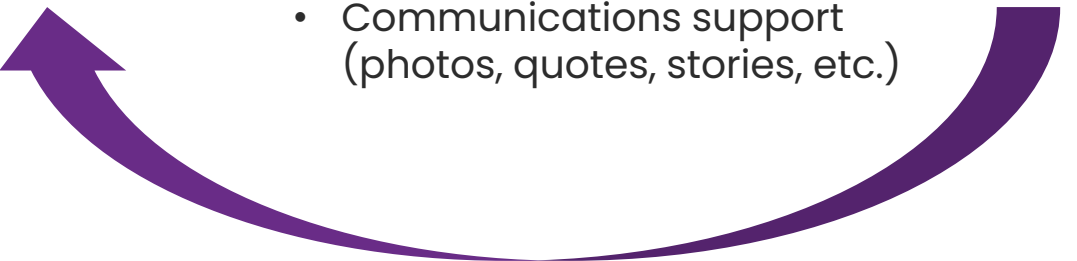
- Financial support
- Implementation support
- Technical support and training
- Dedicated project officer
- Resources and materials
- Product donations

DETROIT/  
SE MICHIGAN

ST. LOUIS

LOS ANGELES

CHICAGO



Each site provides:

- Outcome data
- Demographic data
- Long-term sustainability plans
- Communications support (photos, quotes, stories, etc.)

Sites use outcomes from HEAL Innovation to strengthen future applications for funding from public/private foundations, payors, etc.



# IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS



**KATHLEEN SLONAGER, RN, AE-C**  
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AAFA Michigan



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Project Coordinator  
AAFA Michigan



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Executive Director  
AAFA St. Louis



**Jackie O'Quin**  
Administrative Director  
AAFA St. Louis



**FELICIA FULLER, DR.PH**  
Director of Health Promotions  
American Lung Association, IL



**PATRICK HATTAWAY, MPH**  
Director of Health Promotions  
American Lung Association, OK



**GILMAR FLORES, MPH**  
Director of Programs &  
Research  
Breathe SoCal



**LEIDI REYES**  
Lead Health Educator  
Breathe SoCal

# PROGRAM COMPONENTS



**CARE COORDINATION  
AND SUPPORT**



**HOME ASSESSMENT AND TOOLS**



**GENERAL HEALTH  
AND WELLNESS**



**ASTHMA SELF-  
MANAGEMENT EDUCATION**



**OTHER TOOLS  
AND RESOURCES**

# Program Highlights

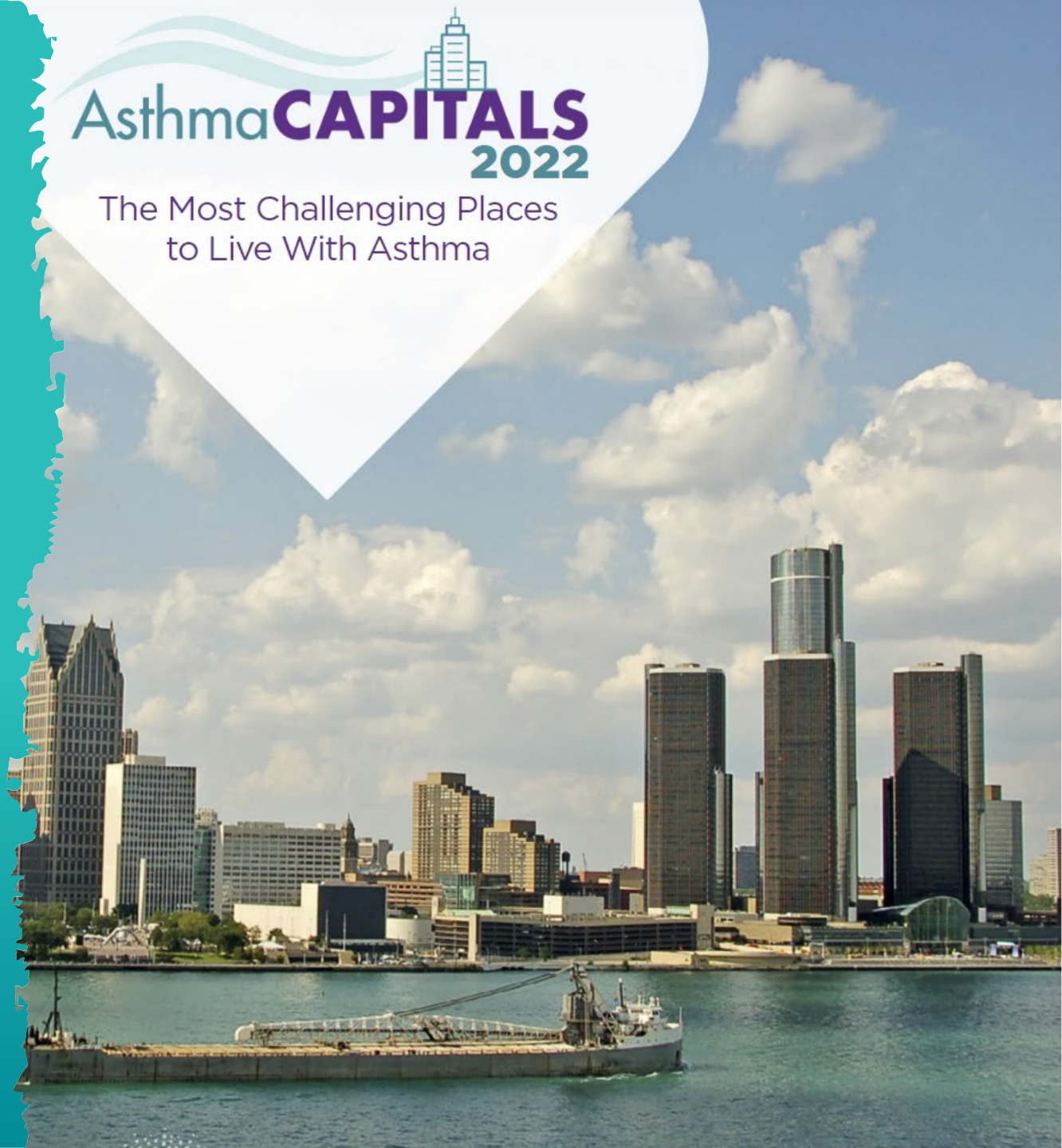




Asthma**CAPITALS**  
2022

The Most Challenging Places  
to Live With Asthma

# Detroit/ SE Michigan



# IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER: AAFA MICHIGAN

- Founded in 1984
- Mission: The mission of AAFA-Michigan chapter is to improve the quality of life for those affected by asthma and allergic diseases through education, training and advocacy.
- Deep roots in the community



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Comprehensive and holistic intervention
- Focus on meeting primary needs and improving overall health
  - nutritionist visit, farmers market boxes YMCA membership
- Will serve **30–50 people/families** in southeast Michigan where asthma prevalence and hospitalization rates are high, where mortality rates are among the highest in the state, and where health disparities persist



# PARTICIPANT STORY



- June: 70-year-old Detroit resident
- She estimates she's taken up to 100 trips to the ER in her lifetime because of her asthma
- Referred to an allergist to help manage her asthma; first time ever being to a specialist
- With new resources, knowledge, and medication her asthma is now better controlled



# St. Louis



# IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER: AAFA ST. LOUIS

- Founded in 1981
- Mission: AAFA-STL serves those affected by asthma and allergies through education, support and resources
- Leading resource for people with asthma and allergies in the St. Louis community



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Recruit older adults into an asthma education home-based visitor program using hybrid in-person/virtual approach
- Program aims to:
  - Better understand the needs of older adults with asthma in the region
  - Identify most effective format and delivery model for intervention
  - Improve outcomes for participants (knowledge, confidence, and health)
  - Continue ongoing relationship with participants and partners
- Will serve **50 (up to 150) older adults (50+)** in greater St. Louis

# PARTNERSHIPS

- Nonprofit organization for older adults that focuses on healthy aging, lifelong learning and volunteer engagement.
- Oasis offers programs proven to enrich the lives of older adults using the arts, history, technology, current events, health, exercise, volunteer engagement, and more.





# Chicago



# IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER: AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

- The American Lung Association in Greater Chicago is part of the Upper Midwest region of the American Lung Association
- Mission: save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease
- ALA and AAFA are members of the Chicago Asthma Consortium



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Environmental Improvements for Adolescents and Adults with Asthma (EIAAA)**
- Program aims to improve asthma management by:
  - Reducing exposure to environmental asthma triggers
  - Ensuring appropriate use of controller and quick relief medications
  - Conducting home assessment intervention
  - Will serve 20–30 **people/families** with uncontrolled asthma in Chicago, Greater Chicago, and other Illinois counties with a high burden of adolescent and adult asthma



# Los Angeles





# IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER: BREATHE SOCAL

- Founded in 1903
- Mission: promote clean air and healthy lungs through education and awareness to some of the most vulnerable populations in Southern California





# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- The **Breathe Easier™ Asthma Management (BEAM)** Project, will address the needs of adults with asthma in underserved communities of Southeast Los Angeles County
- Program aims to:
  - Reduce asthma-related urgent care, emergency department, and hospital utilization through improved asthma self-management
  - Reduce disparities in access to support services among families affected by asthma
- Will serve **80–100 people/families** in underserved communities of Southeast Los Angeles County


# AUDIENCE

- Focus is on areas that bear the heaviest burden of asthma due to systemic racism and its downstream outcomes:
  - Low socioeconomic status
  - Proximity to high-polluting industrial facilities
  - Proximity to major freeways
- Populations planning to serve:
  - Hispanic/Latino (45%), Black/African-American (16%), Asian-American Pacific Islander (16%), White (23%)
  - Households with limited English proficiency
  - Immigrants (including undocumented)
  - Older adults (65+)
  - Veterans

# HEAL – Evaluation

# EVALUATION

- Surveys at baseline, 6 months, 12 months, 24 months
  - \$50 gift card of their choosing after EACH survey with options for vendor and physical/digital
  - Spanish/Chinese translations
- Interviews with program participants

 Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Which language would you like to take the survey in?

¿En qué idioma le gustaría completar la encuesta?

您希望以哪種語言參與問卷調查?

English  
 Spanish/Espa  
 Chinese/中文

0% Complete

Which gift card would you like to receive?

Amazon  
 Target  
 Visa  
 Walmart

Would you like your gift card to be emailed to you or sent through the mail?

Emailed  
 Mailed

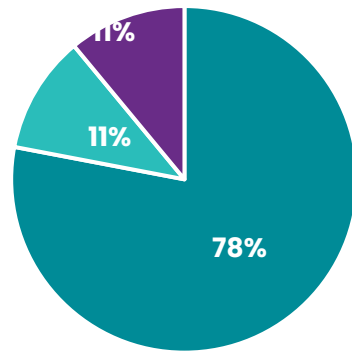
92% Complete



# Demographics

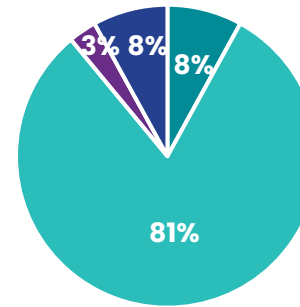
Site

■ Detroit ■ Chicago ■ Los Angeles



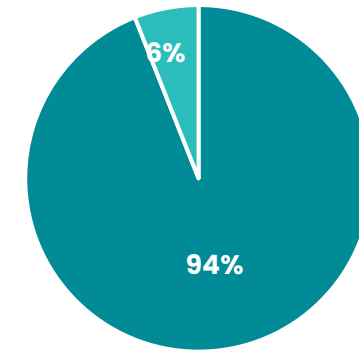
Gender

■ Man ■ Woman  
■ Gender non-conforming ■ Other/Prefer not to answer

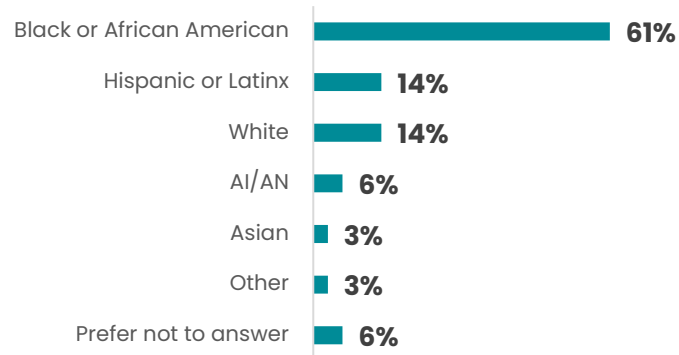


Insured

■ Yes ■ No



Race/Ethnicity



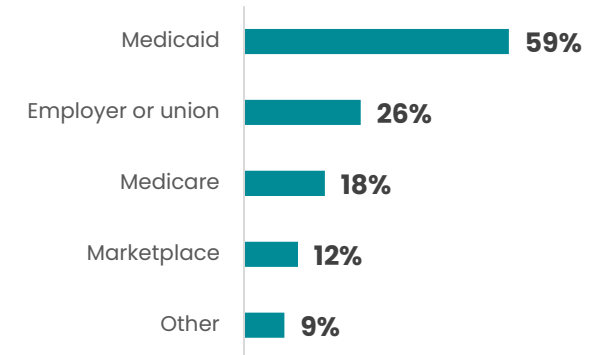
**44**

Average age of participant

**61%**

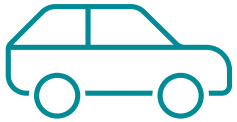
Report an annual combined HHI of under \$25,000

Insurance Source



# SDOH

## Exposure to Outdoor Pollution



**86%** of respondents say they live within 5 miles of an area with heavy traffic



**28%** live within 5 miles of a manufacturing plant



**19%** live within 5 miles of an airport

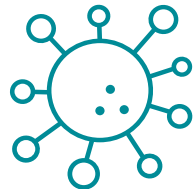
## Exposure to Indoor Pollution



**39%** of respondents are exposed to pests such as mice, ants, or bugs

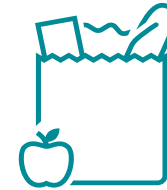


**36%** say they have been exposed to smoking in the home in the past 7 days



**33%** say they are exposed to mold in their homes

## Competing Priorities and Needs



**58%** of respondents say they have worried food would run out in the past 12 months



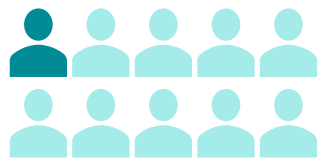
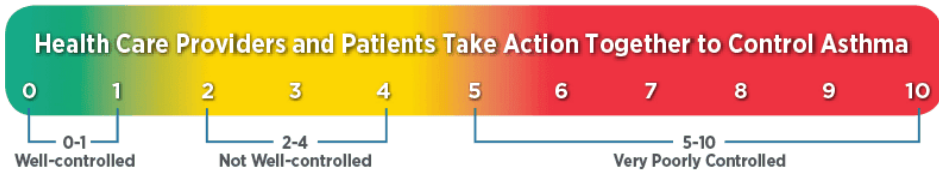
**42%** say their utilities have been threatened to be shut off in the past 12 months



**31%** say lack of reliable transportation has kept them from medical appointments, meetings, work, or from getting necessities

# Asthma Outcomes

**4.7**  
Average  
AIRQ™ Score



When asked to describe their level of asthma control, only **9%** of respondents described their asthma as “not well controlled”

## In the past 2 weeks...



**69%** say asthma symptoms have woken them up from sleep at least once



**53%** say asthma symptoms have caused them to use their rescue inhaler or nebulizer every day

## In the past 12 months...



**44%** have gone to the emergency room for asthma



**17%** have been hospitalized overnight for asthma

# Preliminary Outcomes – Detroit

After 6 months in the program, participants report reduction in:



Nighttime symptoms



Rescue inhaler use



Impacts on exercise



Impacts on school or work

After 6 months in the program, participants report improvement in:



Knowledge of how asthma impacts the lungs



Understanding of how asthma medicines work



Ability to identify asthma triggers



Confidence in asthma management



# Lessons Learned/Confirmed

# Initial Learnings/Confirmation

- Community Health Workers are critical to meeting the health needs of individuals experiencing asthma and other health disparities
- Target population has competing needs that often take priority
  - Example: Safe & affordable housing/ concerns about landlord/repairs retaliation
- Limited understanding of what controlled asthma might look and feel like
- Programs need ample program development & recruitment time
- Nimble funding is essential to make adjusted changes to a pilot
- Creative partnerships needed

# HEAL 2023

# New York



Asthma and Allergy  
Foundation of America



# Implementation partner: AIRnyc

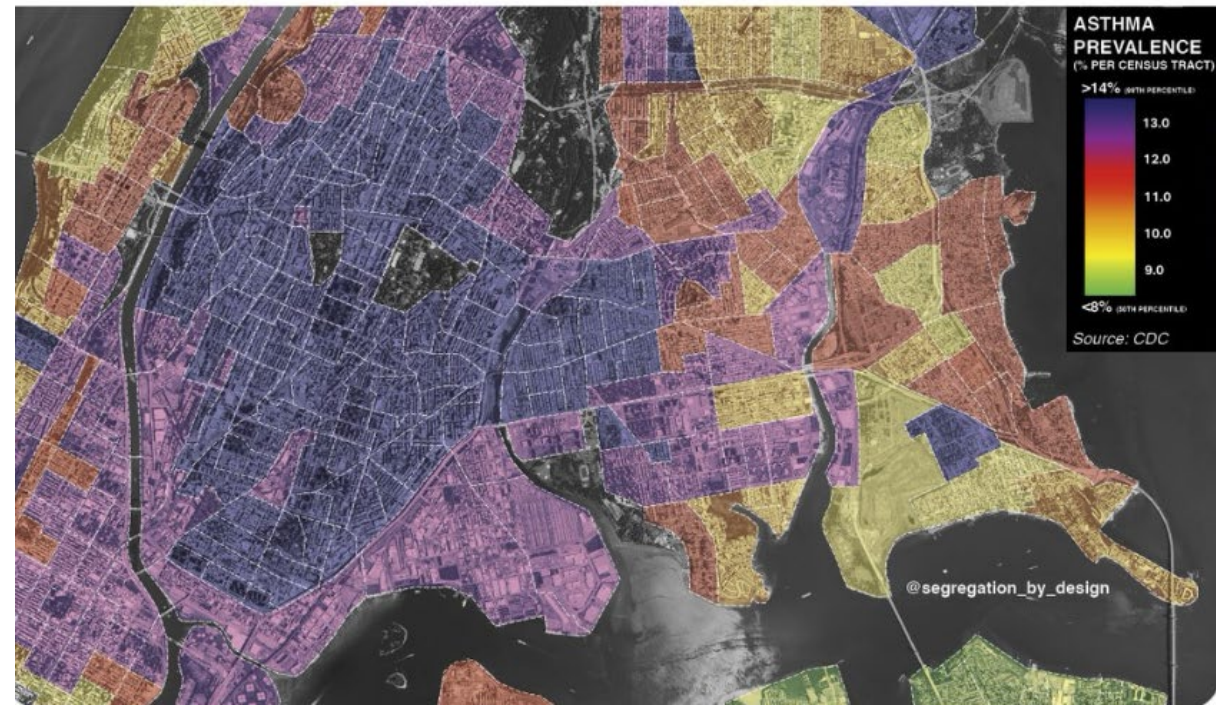
- AIRnyc's mission is to improve equity in healthcare access and social care for underserved people of all ages, races, ethnicities, and faiths who bear the highest burdens of poverty and chronic disease.
- Community Health Workers meet people where they live to improve health, connect families to social care and build health equity at the individual, family, and community level.





# Asthma & NYC

- Hispanic residents comprise the largest racial/ethnic group (63%, and 56.4% of the total Bronx population)
- The South Bronx, one of NYC's highest poverty neighborhoods and known for high air pollution levels, has an asthma rate that is more than 3X that of other neighborhoods in the city and has one of the highest death and disease rates from asthma in the country



# Partnerships





# Alabama



# Implementation partner: Virtual Young Teen Asthma & Wellness Camp

- Founded in 2020 by an interdisciplinary team (including nursing, pharmacy, social work, respiratory therapy, kinesiology/physical therapy, nutrition, and medicine) to provide virtual asthma self-management education and wellness activities for adolescents.
- VYTAW staff also leads the Alabama Asthma Coalition



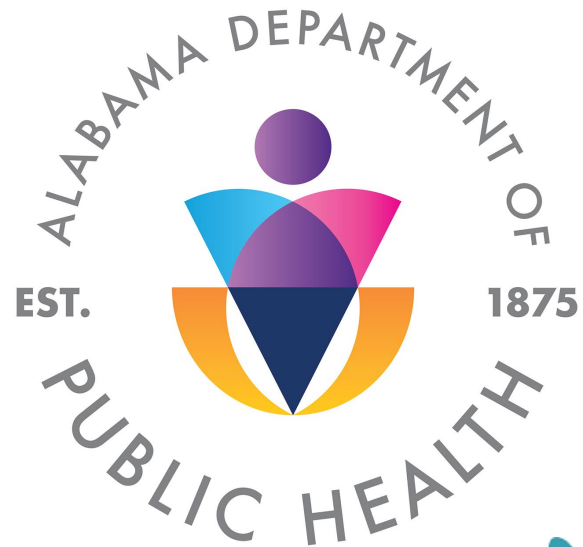


# Program Overview

- The program will work to address the rural health disparity needs through collaborations with schools, local and state departments of health, and other state-based organizations and partners
- Target youth ages 11-15 years (middle to early high school youth) & their families
- Developing a CHW home visiting program for children with asthma
- Partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health; State School Nurse Association
- Expand ASME to the entire state of AL, which currently isn't offered



# Partnerships



**We Teach  
Alabama**

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

# Advocacy

# Policy and Advocacy at AAFA

- AAFA works with key stakeholders to help shape legislation and regulation that impacts people with asthma and allergies.
- AAFA regularly engages with Congress and key agencies like the Food and Drug Administration, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health and Human Services, and others.
- These efforts are bolstered by grassroots advocacy from AAFA's active patient community who are members of AAFA's [Action Network](#).



# AAFA's Advocacy Action Network

- [Join AAFA's Action Network to become an AAFA Advocate](#)
- Visit your representative at their district office
- Write to the editor of your local paper about asthma and allergies
- Email [Advocacy@aaafa.org](mailto:Advocacy@aaafa.org) for more information

## Advocacy Action Day for People With Asthma and Allergies

 AAFA COMMUNITY SERVICES ○ 5/6/21 @ 11:00 AM



<https://www.aaafa.org/become-an-advocate-for-asthma-allergy/>



# 2023 Legislative & Funding Priorities

## National Asthma Control Program

- \$40 Million Appropriation in FY24 for the National Asthma Control Program (NACP)
- Administered by CDC, the NACP is a program that awards competitive grants to states, territories and municipalities.
- The goals of NACP include reducing the number of deaths, hospitalizations, emergency department visits, school days, or workdays missed, and reducing limitations on activity due to asthma.

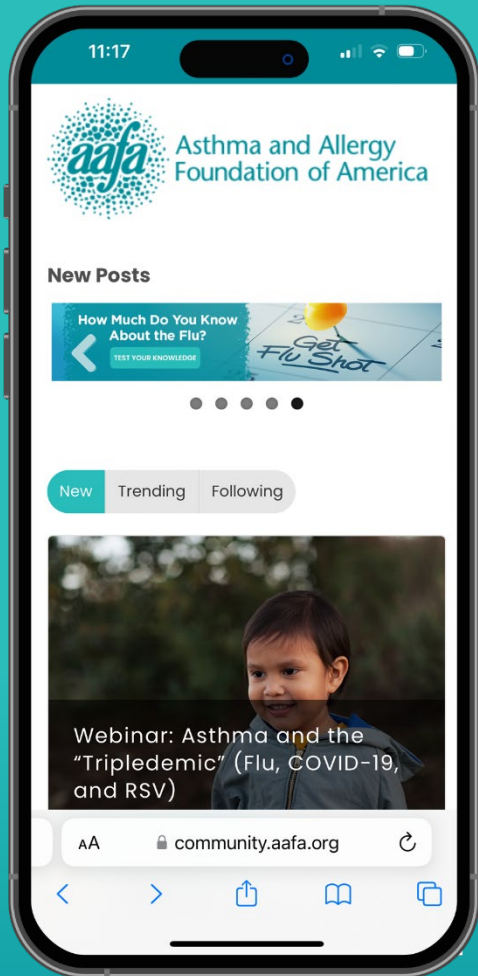
## Indoor Air Quality in Schools

- \$100 million in FY24 for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation to protect school children and personnel from unhealthy environments in schools and childcare facilities
- \$10 million for EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection to stimulate research and provide environmental public health expert consultations on children's health to state and local agencies.

## Elijah E. Cummings Family Asthma Act

- Bipartisan reintroduction expected in September
- The bill authorizes NACP to serve all 50 states.
- Requires the development of state plans to address asthma, particularly for disproportionately affected communities, and requires the collection and coordination of data on the impact of asthma.

# AAFA Resources



# AAFA Resources:

- **AAFA Store:** [aafa.org/store](https://aafa.org/store)
- **Support Center:** [aafa.org/contact-us](https://aafa.org/contact-us)
  - 1-800-7-ASTHMA (1-800-727-8462)
- **Online Communities:**
  - Asthma: [aafa.org/join](https://aafa.org/join)
  - Food Allergies: [kidswithfoodallergies.org/join](https://kidswithfoodallergies.org/join)
- **Learning Catalog:** [aafa.org/learn](https://aafa.org/learn)
- **Ask the Allergist:** [aafa.org/asktheallergist](https://aafa.org/asktheallergist)
- **Certified Program:** [aafa.org/certified](https://aafa.org/certified)

# Online support community-subgroup



**Are you active military or a veteran with asthma?**

**Asthma is easier to manage with support! Join the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's (AAFA) private, online support group for members of the military, their families, and veterans managing asthma.**

Learn about asthma, including the causes, symptoms, treatments, and triggers. Share and get support for:

- Asthma-related issues during active or reserve military service
- Disability for asthma caused by exposure during service (i.e., burn pits)
- Managing care and treatment when transferring to a new post
- Choosing the right Tricare insurance level to make sure you have access to specialists
- Accessing VA benefits

**Join at: [aafa.org/military](https://aafa.org/military)**



 Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America



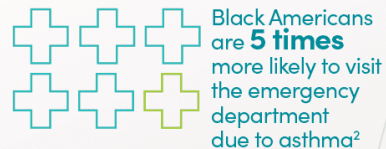
# Black Women with Asthma-advisors

## ASTHMA AND ALLERGY DISPARITIES: AT A GLANCE

### Compared to white Americans:



When sex is factored in, **BLACK WOMEN** have the highest rates of death due to asthma<sup>3</sup>



### Compared to white children:

Black children are **more likely** to die from food-induced anaphylaxis<sup>4</sup>



Black children are **7% more likely** to have food allergies<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey (2018)

<sup>2</sup> CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (2017)

<sup>3</sup> CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System: Mortality (2018)

<sup>4</sup> Jerschow, E., Lin, R. Y., Scaperotti, M. M., & McGinn, A. P. (2014). Fatal anaphylaxis in the United States 1999–2010: temporal patterns and demographic associations. *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 134(6), 1318–1328.e7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci.2014.08.018>

<sup>5</sup> Bilaver, L. A., et al. (2021). Prevalence and Correlates of Food Allergy Among Medicaid-Enrolled United States Children. *Academic Pediatrics*, 21(1), 84–92. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acap.2020.03.005>





**THANK YOU!**  
**[lbosma@aafa.org](mailto:lbosma@aafa.org)**

