

Addressing Asthma Triggers in Housing: A Health Plan's Perspective

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NETWORK HEALTH

Network Health

- Is a Medicaid Managed Care Organization
- Strives to improve the health and well-being of our members and their diverse communities
 - Covers more than 155,000 members through our ***Network Health Together***TM (MassHealth) and ***Network Health Forward***TM (Commonwealth Care) plans
- Provides access to high-quality health care
 - Partners with more than 18,000 primary care providers, specialists, hospitals, and community organizations
 - Serves members in more than 300 cities and towns



Asthma Triggers and Care

- Collaborate with Asthma Regional Council on White Paper
 - Potential correlation between living environment and asthma attacks
 - Literature suggests correlation between cockroach allergen and asthma attacks
- Review local trends in environment improvements
 - Improve air quality



Extent of the Problem

- Asthma
 - Chronic illness
 - Utilization outlier by diagnosis
 - Asthma prevalence among enrollees in identified region
 - 24.8 percent compared with 14.3 percent across Network Health network
 - Hospitalization age adjusted discharge rate for asthma is 257.1
 - 97 percent higher than statewide rate of 130.8



Center for Health Care Strategies: Health Plan Innovation

- Best Clinical and Administrative Practice (BCAP) Project
 - Center for Health Care Strategies
 - Two-year Robert Wood Johnson grant
 - Health Disparities
 - 14 participating teams nationwide
 - Correlation between asthma outlier and identified region with significant racial diversity



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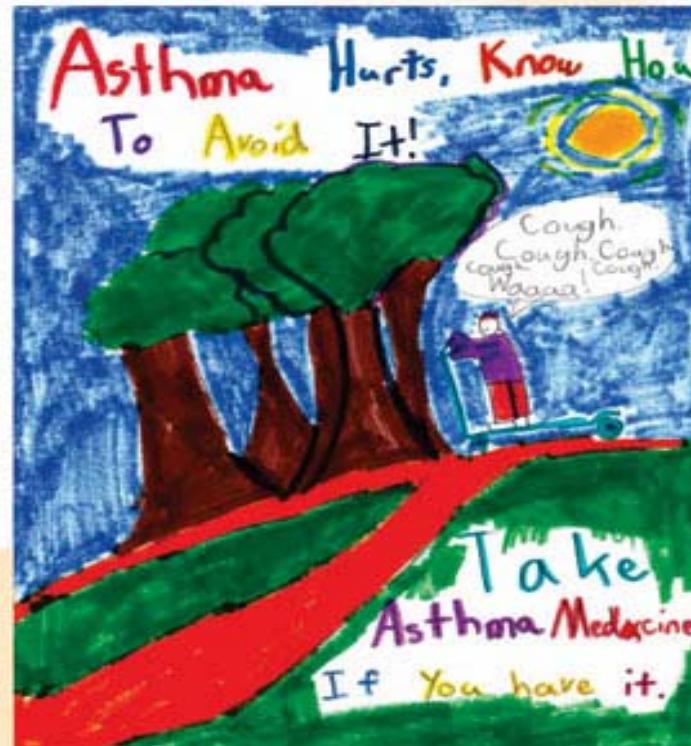
Center for Health Care Strategies: Clinical and Administrative Practice

- **Asthma Health Disparity Project**
 - Goal of identifying and addressing barriers to care for asthmatic Hispanic-American enrollees in identified region
 - Multifaceted approach
 - Results



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Asthma can be managed. Contact your doctor.
El asma puede tratarse. Contate a su médico.



Poster design by Lukas D. Germann, age 10, winner of Network Health's "Breathe Easy" poster contest, 2006.

Or call Network Health at 888-257-1985 to find out more.
O llame a Network Health al 888-257-1985 para mayor información.



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888-257-1985
www.network-health.org

The last line
about 40 of Network Health's
health care services by
calling the Network
Customer Service Center
at 888-257-1985
Monday - Friday,
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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Addressing Asthma Triggers in the Home: Health Plan Innovation

- Innovative asthma care pilot program
 - Collaborate with Cambridge-Somerville Healthy Homes on Addressing Asthma Triggers in the Home pilot program
 - Improve asthma outcomes by enhancing and expanding the home-visiting program to pediatric members with high asthma utilization.
 - Coordinate with Network Health asthma care management program and primary care provider(s).
 - Program structure



Addressing Asthma Triggers in the Home: Background

- 2007 pilot program
 - One-year program referral agreement
 - Referrals from providers and Cambridge-Somerville Healthy Homes
 - Spanned four urban communities
- Participants
 - 64 participants, age 18 and under

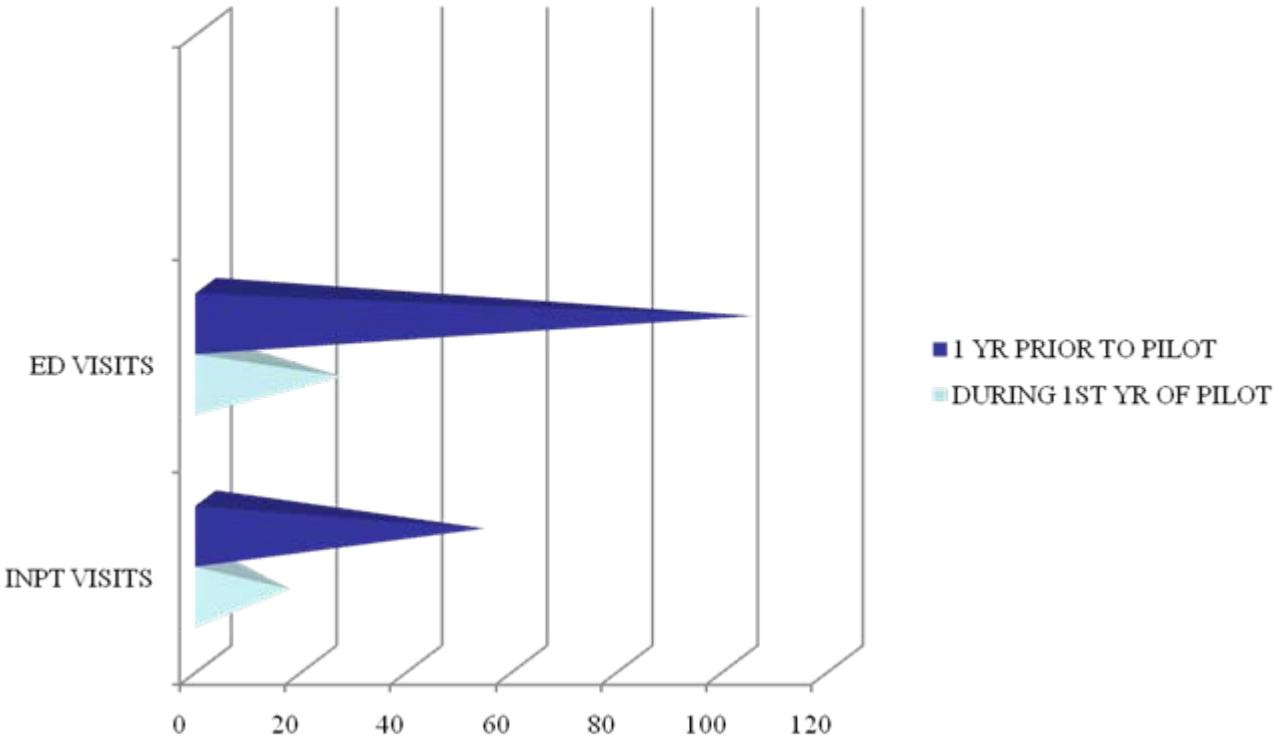


Addressing Asthma Triggers in the Home: Clinical and Administrative Practice

- Targeted intensive in-home program
 - Intensive asthma-trigger education
 - Formal home-environment assessment
 - Barrier-type supplies to remediate identified triggers
 - Participant assessment
 - Medication use
 - Advocacy
- Tracking



Addressing Asthma Triggers in the Home: Results



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What Did We Learn?

- Use existing opportunities
- Improve quality of life
- Reduce health care utilization
 - Emergency care
 - Inpatient care
- Facilitate primary care provider's influence
 - Beyond the office and into patients' homes
- Address asthma triggers in the home environment



Next Steps

- Network Health's asthma care management program
 - July 1, 2009 launch
- Model
 - Home visits
 - Medication compliance
 - Advocacy and health education
 - Home assessment for all enrollees with uncontrolled asthma
 - High-quality care commitment
 - Tracking



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