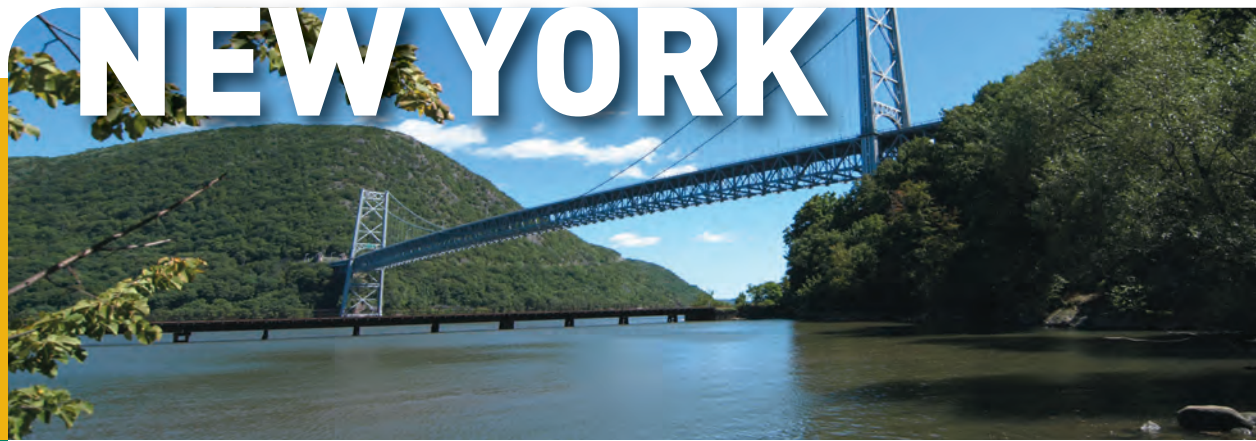


BREATHING EASIER *in*

# NEW YORK



SUCCESS STORIES FROM  
THE NEW YORK STATE  
ASTHMA PROGRAM



“We know there is a gap in the asthma care that’s recommended and the care that’s being provided. An optimized health care system is dependent upon establishing linkages with the community and public health systems. Our program would not be able to leverage further resources without our base infrastructure, which is funded by CDC funds.”

## JENNIFER MANE

program coordinator

NEW YORK STATE

ASTHMA PROGRAM

All information and data provided  
by the New York State Department  
of Health Asthma Program

## THE PROBLEMS:

- As of 2010, about 1.5 million adults and 428,000 children in New York were living with asthma.
- From 2008 to 2010, there was an average of 163,000 emergency department visits and more than 39,000 hospitalizations due to asthma annually.
- Asthma-related hospitalizations totaled \$618 million in 2010.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO ASTHMA:

New York’s Asthma Program and its partners focus on communities with the greatest need. They increase asthma awareness, educate people on how to avoid environmental asthma triggers, partner with community stakeholders, and help residents to manage their own health. And their efforts are paying off.

- With funding from CDC, New York’s Asthma Program partners with regional asthma coalitions to find local problems and implement solutions. Each year, 11 asthma improvement teams representing local health care systems are trained in quality asthma care and taught how to identify evidence-based changes they can make within their systems of care. As of March 2012, 55 improvement teams had been trained. One coalition worked with primary care providers across the community to change systems and policies to improve asthma outcomes for children. The strategy eventually expanded to 11 health care sites; regional data now show a decrease in emergency department utilization rates.
- In Buffalo, more than 130 Medicaid Managed Care enrollees with poorly controlled asthma completed a program that includes a visit with a community health worker, who provides tips on asthma management and how to reduce asthma triggers in the patients’ environments. The effort resulted in better use of asthma medication and fewer missed days of school and work. Policymakers are taking note of the success too: results from the Buffalo program are informing efforts to change Medicaid policy to expand coverage for asthma interventions.
- Thanks to the Asthma Program, health care providers across New York are being trained in effective asthma care. The program has distributed thousands of toolkits, which include a decision-support tool based on national guidelines and a companion DVD training guide. Also, 400 health care providers have completed an online education course. All of the materials are aimed at producing better health outcomes and helping providers empower patients to manage their asthma.
- In New York, 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.



## CDC’s National Asthma Control Program

New York 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](http://www.cdc.gov/asthma).

