# **Asthma**

### **The problem**

* **26 million people** in the United States have asthma.[[1]](#endnote-1), [[2]](#endnote-2)
* **1 in 11 children** and **1 in 12 adults** have asthma.
* Asthma is a leading chronic disease among children in the U.S.[[3]](#endnote-3)
* Wide disparities exist among asthma sufferers[[4]](#endnote-4):
* The rates of hospitalizations and deaths due to asthma are both three times higher among African Americans than among whites.
* Children have two times the rate of emergency department visits and hospitalizations for asthma as adults.
* Asthma is frequently triggered by hazards in the home, such as rodents, cockroaches, mold, and poor indoor air quality.

### **The COST**

* Asthma costs the U.S. **$56 billion annually.**[[5]](#endnote-5)
  + - Direct medical expenditures from hospitalizations and emergency department visits alone are estimated at just over $50 billion, or **$3,300 per person** with asthma each year.

### **The solution**

* Research shows that **home visiting programs targeting asthma can reduce asthma by 70%**[[6]](#endnote-6) and that home-based asthma interventions are effective in reducing asthma symptom days and trips to the emergency room.[[7]](#endnote-7)
* **CDC-funded home visiting programs and HUD healthy homes programs:** 
  + Improve asthma control,
* Reduce asthma-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits,
* Reduce the number of school days lost due to asthma, and
* Improve overall quality of life for patients and caregivers.

### **Return on Investment**

* Home visiting programs that include education and remediation of triggers show a return of $5.30 to $14.00 for every dollar invested.[[8]](#endnote-8)
* CDC’s National Asthma Control Program (NACP) estimates an ROI of $71.00 in asthma-related expenditures for every NACP dollar spent on national and state-level programs.[[9]](#endnote-9)

### **Needed Actions**

Funding in FY 2016 should be:

* **CDC’s Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program = $29,257,000**
* **CDC’s National Asthma Control Program = $30,596,000**
* **HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes = $120,000,000**

1. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Asthma Control Program. (2013). *An investment in America’s health*. Retrieved February 25, 2015, from [www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/investment\_americas\_health.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/investment_americas_health.pdf) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
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3. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013, February 19). Adolescent and school health: Asthma and schools. Retrieved February 25, 2015, from <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/asthma/> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. (2012, December). National Asthma Control Initiative: Reducing asthma disparities. Retrieved February 25, 2015, from <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-pro/resources/lung/naci/discover/disparities.htm> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
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6. Breysse, J., Dixon, S., Gregory, J., Philby, M., Jacobs, D. E., & Krieger, J. (2014, January). Weatherization combined with community health worker in-home education improves asthma. *American Journal of Public Health, 104*(1), e57-e64. <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2013.301402> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Krieger, J., Jacobs, D. E., Ashley, P. J., Baeder, A., Chew, G. L., Dearborn, D., et al. (2010, September/October). Housing interventions and control of asthma-related indoor biologic agents: A review of the evidence. *Journal of Public Health Management Practice, 16*(5), S11-S20. Retrieved February 25, 2015, from <http://journals.lww.com/jphmp/Fulltext/2010/09001/Housing_Interventions_and_Control_of.4.aspx> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. The Guide to Community Preventive Services (The Community Guide). (2013, September 27). Asthma control. Retrieved February 25, 2015, from <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/asthma/multicomponent.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Asthma Control Program. (2013). *An investment in America’s health*. Retrieved February 25, 2015, from [www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/investment\_americas\_health.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/investment_americas_health.pdf) [↑](#endnote-ref-9)