



Breathe easy
at home program

BREATHE EASY AT HOME

'Tis Autumn

Breathe Easy at Home receives a national award!

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) honored the Breathe Easy at Home Program for implementing a program that demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need. Breathe Easy at Home is one of 25 local public health programs selected from across the nation to receive NACCHO's Model Practice Award.

A committee of peers selected the Breathe Easy at Home from a group of 118 local health department applications. The Model Practice Awards program honors initiatives - includ-

ing programs, resources, and tools - that demonstrate how local health departments and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health concerns. Breathe Easy at Home will become part of an online, searchable database of successful public health practices in areas ranging from immunization and maternal and child health to infectious diseases and emergency preparedness. The database will allow NACCHO to share information about what is work-

ing across the county in local public health.

Breathe Easy at Home partners, Dion Irish of Boston Inspectional Services Department, Margaret Reid and Amanda LaSane of Boston Public Health Commission and Megan Sandel of Boston Medical Center were able to attend and conduct a panel on Breathe Easy at Home.

Adapted from NACCHO press announcement.

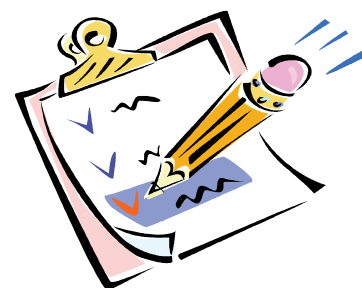


ASTHO-NACCHO
JOINT CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 9-12, 2008 SACRAMENTO, CA
Becoming the Healthiest Nation in a Healthier World

Asthma Patient Check-list!

This fall, when seeing patients with asthma for flu shots, ask about the home environment!

- o Flu shot
- o Asthma Action Plan
- o Home Environment Assessment
- o Healthy Homes Referral
- o Breathe Easy at Home referral



Materials from the **'Kids With Asthma Can' Asthma Management Campaign** including Activity Booklets in English and Spanish, 'Arthur' Asthma Bookmarks and posters like the one shown, are still available. To order materials, email Nathalie Bazil, BPHC Asthma Program at NBazil@bphc.org.

'Kids With Asthma Can' Asthma Management Campaign partners include Boston Children's Museum, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Public Library, Children's Hospital Boston, and the WGBH Educational Foundation.



Who have we reached?



Since 2006...

- BEAH has conducted extensive outreach to health facilities, resulting in increasing number of facilities registered. While nearly all clinics in Boston are registered, outreach will continue to hospitals and social services agencies.

- Neighborhoods with high hospitalization rates for asthma are prioritized for outreach. Referrals are concentrated in Roxbury, Dorchester and the South End, neighborhoods with high asthma rates, many rental properties and large Black and Latino populations.

Neighborhood	Hospitalizations: Children Under 5	Percent	Number of Referrals
Dorchester	10.6	32.38%	91
Roxbury	12.9	21.00%	59
Mattapan	11.6	2.85%	8
South Boston	7.9	8.54%	24
South End	7.4	13.88%	39
East Boston	5	3.91%	11
Roslindale	5.8	2.49%	7
Charlestown	4	3.91%	11
Jamaica Plain	7.8	0.71%	2
Allston/Brighton/Back Bay/West Roxbury	9.9	10.32%	29
TOTAL	82.9	100.00%	281

Heating Resources in Boston

Rental Housing Resource Center 617-RENT (7368)

Elderly Commission 617-635-4366

Inspectional Services Department 617-635-5322

Consumer Affairs 617-635-3834

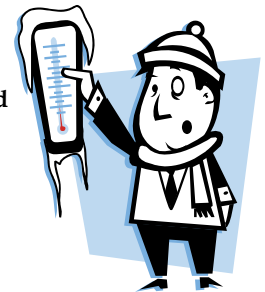
United Way Boston 1-800-231-4377.

The Salvation Army's Good Neighbor Energy Fund
1-800-334-3047

HeatWorks Program 617-635-0338

Citizens Energy 1-877-JOE-4OIL (1-877-563-4645)

24 Hour Services 617 635-4500



Provider Interview

Dorchester has the second highest asthma hospitalization rate for children under age 5 in Boston. Dorchester House Multi-Service Center often makes Breathe Easy referrals. We asked Nurse Practitioner, Case Manager John Hardiman, to speak with us about the program.

Can you describe the health center, your patients and your asthma education programs?

Dorchester House is in Fields Corner serving a varied population, including English, Vietnamese, and Cape Verdean Creole speakers with some Spanish and other languages including Haitian Creole. The asthma education is really between the provider and nursing staff and the patient. For kids with more severe asthma or who have environmental triggers, we utilize the Visiting Nurses of Boston or the Healthy Homes program with the Boston Public Health Commission. We also involve school nurses to reinforce what we do here.

Do you make Breathe Easy referrals and how do referrals fit into your patient care?

Yes, generally, someone identifies what they think is an ISD problem during a patient interview and flags it to me. I help families around medical issues and services.

Does one Breathe Easy case in particular stand out to you?

There was one case that went on for some time and the family had to get the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children through Boston Medical Center involved and required a lot of energy. Part of it was because of bed bugs, for which extermination is expensive. It was nice to have additional but related resources, though. We now view them as a safety net.

