SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY REPORT

Florida School Health Survey:

Current Asthma Prevention and Control Practices

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Introduction

The underlying goal of the survey was to research current asthma management and control practices of school districts in the state of Florida. In addition, use survey results to make recommendations as to how current efforts could be enhanced in the future, using the capacity and resources available within the state program and statewide partnerships.

This summary focuses on results related to asthma management and control practices in school districts obtained through a survey which was sent out via email. The online survey was sent to School Health Coordinators from all sixty-seven counties in Florida. The purpose of this survey was to assist the Florida Asthma Prevention and Control Program (FLAPCP) staff and stakeholders in understanding the need and capacity for implementing evidence based interventions in school districts throughout Florida. Prior to intervention implementation, it was essential for the FLAPCP to assess current asthma control practices in school districts.

Survey Description

The online survey on current asthma management and control practices in schools was developed by the asthma program evaluator. After an internal review by both the Florida Asthma Prevention and Control Program and the Department of Health School Health Program and Department of Education, the online survey was disseminated to 67 school health coordinators using the online survey creation tool, www.surveymonkey.com on August 2, 2010. Coordinators were given a deadline of August 20, 2010 to complete the survey. At that time, forty-five counties had responded to questions on the survey. The FLAPCP attempted to secure additional responses by contacting unresponsive counties directly to further explain how survey information will be used programmatically. This attempt yielded an additional twelve responses before the end of the program fiscal year, a total of 57.

The survey (see Appendix I) contained an initial question on the respondent’s knowledge of Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR3): Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma¹ and a number of more specific questions on asthma management procedures in the school district.

Survey Response Summary

The survey was emailed to all sixty-seven school health coordinators (Table 1). A total of 57 (85%) surveys were completed and analyzed. Respondents answered each survey question and also had the opportunity to write general comments regarding major asthma-related concerns in their school district. Majority of survey questions were

¹ The EPR 3 Guidelines on Asthma was developed by an expert panel commissioned by the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) Coordinating Committee (CC), coordinated by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health. Using the 1997 EPR 2 guidelines and the 2004 update of EPR 2 as the framework, the expert panel organized the literature review and final guidelines report around four essential components of asthma care, namely: assessment and monitoring, patient education, control of factors contributing to asthma severity, and pharmacologic treatment. Subtopics were developed for each of these four broad categories.
multiple choice and allowed more than one response. Questions regarding asthma-related concerns in the school district required a more detailed response; therefore responders were able to write paragraphs explaining concerns and needs. The survey can be found on page 13.

County Representation

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<th>Table 1: Counties Represented by Completed Surveys</th>
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<td>• Lafayette</td>
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</table>
Survey Results

**Question #2:** Are you familiar with the Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR3): Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma?

*Figure 1*

*Includes only those who responded to the question, N = 56*

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**Question #3:** Typically, who usually provides health-related assistance for students with asthma in your county school district? (Check all that apply)

*Figure 2*

*Includes only those who responded to the question, N = 57*
Position titles indicated as *other* included:
- Physical education staff
- Teachers
- Health assistants

**Question #4:** Which of the following sources of school health information does your county school district use to identify students diagnosed with asthma? (Check all that apply)

![Figure 3](image)

*Includes only those who responded to the question, N = 31

Information sources indicated as *other* included:
- Health information sheet
- Teachers
- Health assistants
**Question #5**: In your county school district, which of the following information is used to identify students with poorly controlled asthma? (Check all that apply)

![Identification of Students with Poorly Controlled Asthma](image)

*Includes only those who responded to the question, N = 57*

**Question #6**: Does your county school district provide the following services for students with poorly controlled asthma? (Mark yes or no for each service)

![Services Provided for Students](image)

*Includes only those who responded to the question, N = 57*
Question #7: Does your county school district have a process to do the following in school buildings? Check all that apply. (Asthma triggers: i.e. mold, cockroaches, aerosol spray, etc.)

![Environmental Processes for Inside School Buildings](chart)

*Respondents were allowed to select more than one answer

Question #8: Does your county school district have a process to do the following outside on school grounds? Check all that apply. (Asthma triggers: i.e. smoke, pesticide spray, fertilizer, etc.)

![Environmental Processes for Outside on School Grounds](chart)

*Respondents were allowed to select more than one answer
Question #9: Does your county school district have a procedure to inform each of the following groups about your school's policy permitting students to carry and self-administer asthma medications? (Mark yes or no for each group)

![Procedure to Inform Students and Parents](image)

*Includes only those who responded to the question, N = 51

Question #10: How often are school staff members receiving general training on recognizing and responding to severe asthma symptoms? (Check one response)

![General Staff Training on Asthma](image)

*Includes only those who responded to the question, N = 51
**Question #11:** What asthma-related programs are you utilizing in your county school district? Check all that apply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currently Utilized Asthma Programs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Not currently utilizing an asthma-related program</td>
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*Includes only those who responded to the question, N = 31

Asthma-related programs indicated as *other* included:
- Power Breathing
- Wee Wheezers
- National Asthma Education Program
- Asthma Training 2006 PPC At The University of Florida
- School Health Nursing Guidelines
- Kickin’ Asthma
- Step-wise

**Question #12:** What are your major asthma-related concerns in your county school district?

- Children with documented Asthma whose parents do not supply rescue meds for school. Usually get them after the student has an asthma event at school. Also providers issue medication but do not provide information on or provide other tools for asthma management such as peak flow meters.
- Students not having inhalers at school due to lack of parent responsibility.
- Many children do you have medication for an asthma attack on hand due to lack of finances for medication.
- Have no information on what each individual school is doing to reduce asthma triggers outside of the school setting. School specific information is not shared with the county health department. In previous years one CHD school nurse facilitated the Open Airways program. This has not been an option due to lack of nursing staff and
demands placed on teachers during the instructional day.
• Western community/Belle Glade/Pahokee-burning of sugar cane
• Missed school days due to asthma related illness
• Not staffed with a school nurse per school to provide health education to students with asthma. Work with schools to decrease asthma triggers, work with parents to educate on asthma issues or even provide one on one counseling/education for students in need.
• High rates of asthma, Limited pediatric providers, No insurance
• Old buildings, mold, students and staff that wear strong perfumes/scents, kids that do not use their asthma meds appropriately (prevent vs. rescue), and kids that do not have current medications- due to cost.
• Absence from school, proper care and management of students.
• Proper education for students, staff and parents.
• Health care providers for our children with no financial means or insurance.
• Economic unable to fix sick buildings parents without jobs being able to supply school with rescue inhalers.
• Not having asthma care plans on students because parents don't bring them back on their child. The school nurse identifies the need but the parent doesn't get the necessary documentation from the provider. Not enough nurses in each school to identify all of the needs.
• Student who have asthma and the parent or guardian do not disclose information. Students with Asthma and there is no rescue inhaler on campus. Asthma education to school district staff.
• Trying to balance the needs of the students with limited staffing.
• Lack of parent education and second hand smoke from parents.
• Not enough health personnel to review and contact parents in regards to asthma identification
• Lack of funding to employ registered nurses to identify and work with schools and families.
• Students not being identified with a diagnosis of asthma. Physicians not properly treating students with asthma. Lack of education and adequate health coverage for students and families with asthma. Stigma attached to the diagnosis of asthma in different cultures. Unfriendly schools relating to asthma.
• Training for all parents and staff.
• Being able to provide routine curriculum-based asthma education.
• Limited use of peak flow meters for prevention and control. Physicians do not seem to be ordering the use of peak flow meters and students don't use them.
• Would like to be able to do general asthma in-service for all school personnel.
• Numbers are increasing.
• Decreased funding leading to a decrease in janitorial staff etc.
• Non-medical staff being asked to deal with asthma and other health-related conditions on top of their workload.


**Discussion**

Based upon the findings of this survey, the following recommendations are provided to the Asthma Prevention and Control Program:

1. Provide technical assistance to counties not utilizing an asthma education program in the district. Doing so will build capacity and infrastructure in other districts throughout the state.

2. Cross-reference interventions state in the CDC grant application with those being implemented in the school districts, then conduct a follow-up survey via Survey Monkey or telephone to inquire if the asthma education program is available at all schools. If not, the asthma program could collaborate with the school health coordinator to provide the program at additional schools, assisting the program in reaching program objectives.

3. Develop a standard training module for school staff to ensure everyone is receiving the same information.

4. Conduct an additional round of surveys to elicit responses from school health coordinators not included in these results. Analysis will provide a clear picture of asthma management and control practices in Florida schools.

5. Responses to question four indicate the need for a standard form to collect necessary information on students with asthma.

6. Utilize qualitative responses to question twelve in conjunction with surveillance data to identify activities for the statewide coalition and state asthma program.

The purpose of this report was to summarize survey findings and offer recommendations drawn from the information gathered. Overall, the survey of school health coordinators yielded useful information for the Asthma Prevention and Control Program. Responses to the survey questions indicate a need for asthma education among children, parents, and school personnel.

The responses to this survey suggest the need for and benefit of assistance from the FLAPCP. Qualitative responses show major asthma concerns among school health coordinators, ranging from education to environmental factors. This survey is essential for the FLAPCP in identifying asthma issues in the state in order to begin developing strategies to reduce them.
School Asthma Survey - Tier 1

1. General Information

The Florida Department of Health, Asthma Prevention and Control Program is conducting a 2-tiered survey to assess current asthma control practices in schools. The results of the survey will provide information to guide state and local efforts to improve the quality of asthma care and management in your school. Your cooperation is essential to making the results of this survey comprehensive, accurate, and timely. For the purposes of this survey, Asthma refers to Reactive Airway Disease. Your responses will be kept confidential.

1. Please provide the following information.
   - Position Title: 
   - School District County: 

   - Yes
   - No

3. Typically, who usually provides health-related assistance for students with asthma in your county school district? (Check all that apply)
   - School nurse
   - Health aide
   - Unlicensed professional
   - Office staff
   - Other
School Asthma Survey - Tier 1

4. Which of the following sources of school health information does your county school district use to identify students diagnosed with asthma? (Check all that apply)

- Student emergency cards
- Medication records
- Health room visit information
- Emergency care plans
- Physical exam records
- Notes from parents
- Other

2. Poorly Controlled Asthma

5. In your county school district, which of the following information is used to identify students with poorly controlled asthma? (Check all that apply.)

- This school does not identify students with poorly controlled asthma.
- Frequent absences from school
- Frequent visits to the school health office due to asthma
- Frequent asthma symptoms at school
- Frequent non-participation in physical education class due to asthma
- Students sent home early due to asthma
- Call from school to 911, or other local emergency numbers, due to asthma
6. Does your county school district provide the following services for students with poorly controlled asthma? (Mark yes or no for each service.)

   a. Providing referrals to primary healthcare clinicians  Yes  No
   b. Providing referrals to child health insurance programs  Yes  No
   c. Ensuring an appropriate written asthma action plan is obtained  Yes  No
   d. Ensuring access to and appropriate use of asthma medications, spacers, and peak flow meters at school  Yes  No
   e. Offering asthma education for the student with asthma and his/her family  Yes  No
   f. Minimizing asthma triggers in the school environment  Yes  No
   g. Addressing social and emotional issues related to asthma  Yes  No
   h. Providing additional support services as needed  Yes  No
   i. Ensuring access to safe, enjoyable physical education and activity opportunities  Yes  No
   j. Team coaches ensure access to preventive medications before physical activity  Yes  No

   Other (please specify)

3. Asthma Management

7. Does your county school district have a process to do the following in school buildings? Check all that apply. (Asthma triggers: i.e. mold, cockroaches, aerosol spray, etc.)

   [ ] Identify common asthma triggers inside school buildings
   [ ] Reduce common asthma triggers inside school buildings
   [ ] Document common asthma triggers inside school buildings
School Asthma Survey - Tier 1

8. Does your county school district have a process to do the following outside on school grounds? Check all that apply. (Asthma triggers: i.e. smoke, pesticide spray, fertilizer, etc.)

- [ ] Identify common asthma triggers outside on school grounds
- [ ] Reduce common asthma triggers outside on school grounds
- [ ] Document common asthma triggers outside on school grounds

9. Does your county school district have a procedure to inform each of the following groups about your school's policy permitting students to carry and self-administer asthma medications? (Mark yes or no for each group.)

Students: [ ] Yes [ ] No
Parents/families: [ ] Yes [ ] No

10. How often are school staff members receiving general training on recognizing and responding to severe asthma symptoms? (Check one response.)

- [ ] More than once per year
- [ ] Once per year
- [ ] Less than once per year
- [ ] No training provided

11. What asthma-related programs are you utilizing in your county school district? Check all that apply.

- [ ] Not currently utilizing an asthma-related program.
- [ ] EPA - IAQ Tools for Schools program
- [ ] ALA - Open Airways
- [ ] CDC - Initiating Change: Creating an Asthma-Friendly School
- [ ] ALA - Asthma-Friendly Schools Initiative
- [ ] School-based influenza clinic(s)
- [ ] Other (please name):

  [ ]
12. What are your major asthma-related concerns in your county school district?

13. Please provide contact information (name and email address) for each school health nurse in your county to participate in a follow-up survey.

14. Additional Comments