Childhood Asthma: Thinking Upstream

Michelle Ficus, MD FAAP
Deputy Medical Director, Division of Family Health & Wellness
May 9, 2018

Lifetime and Current Asthma Prevalence in Children Nationwide and for Tennessee

Tennessee had a lower current asthma prevalence rate (5.9 percent) than the national rate of 8.4 percent.

Prevalence of Asthma in Tennessee by Age

**“The Most Challenging Places to Live with Asthma”**

Despite…
Lifetime and Current Asthma Prevalence in Children, by Race and Hispanic Ethnicity, Tennessee

Children's asthma prevalence was higher among Other non-Hispanics than among white non-Hispanics or black non-Hispanics in 2016.


Emergency Department Visit Rate for Primary Asthma, 1-17 Year Olds, Tennessee, 2007-2016

There was a 4.3 percent decrease in the emergency department visit rate for asthma from 984 per 100,000 children in 2007 to 942 per 100,000 children in 2016.


Inpatient Hospitalization Rate for Primary Asthma, 1-17 Year Olds, Tennessee, 2007-2016

There was a 58.8 percent decrease in the inpatient hospitalization rate from 153 per 100,000 children in 2007 to 63 per 100,000 children in 2016.


Inflation-Adjusted Per Visit Charges for Inpatient Hospitalizations for Primary Asthma, 1-17 Year Olds, Tennessee, 2007-2016

Per visit inpatient hospitalization charges averaged $12,007 between 2007 and 2016.

Childhood Asthma & Tobacco Exposure

- Tobacco smoke exposure is the world’s leading cause of preventable morbidity and premature mortality
- Tennessee ranks 43rd for tobacco use
- 24.8% of children in TN live with someone who smokes
- Tobacco-free legislation is associated with substantial health benefits to children:
  - Reduced rate of preterm birth
  - Reduced rate of asthma hospitalizations
  - Possible reduction in still birth and neonatal mortality


Tennessee & Tobacco

- One of 14 states with preemption of smoke-free air laws
- Tobacco tax is $0.62/pk (ranks 43rd)
  - TN Quitline investment per smoker = $0.43
  - Median in U.S. is $2.30
- Minimum age of purchase is 18yo
- Minimal insurance coverage for cessation counseling
- State funding for tobacco prevention cut from FY2018-19 budget
  - Funding has been $4.5M/yr since 2014
  - TN MSA funding of ~$140M/yr is used by the general fund

TNSTRONG!

https://2018tnstrong.eventbrite.com

Michelle Fiscus, MD FAAP
michelle.fiscus@tn.gov
615-532-6944