

**Association of Asthma Educators 2019  
Asthma Education Program Abstract Submission Page (NO DATA)**

**Title:** ASTHMA – IT’S NOT JUST MEDS ANYMORE

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**Significance or Background:** Asthma is the number one chronic illness in childhood. There has been so much done about asthma over the years – medications, education, spacers. But the number of child with asthma continues to grow – more disproportionately in the Black child.

Health care providers have standardized guidelines to follow. There is more information about asthma available on the web than before. Health care providers are being certified as asthma educators. There are asthma coalitions galore. But what is everyone missing? What is causing the rise in asthma?

It is right under our noses. It’s where we live. It’s where the children go to school. The environment has finally been notice. For years we knew about allergies triggering asthma – ie dust, animals, pollen. But nothing was really ever done about it before. Families were told to get rid of the pet, take your medicine when the pollen count is high. Keep your house clean. All good ideas.

But no was looking at the big picture. Housing, school buildings, neighborhoods. Where the children are living and playing.

Government agencies are working on educating the public about this. Health care providers are realizing the importance of the environment and its role in asthma.

By treating the environment the child’s asthma is being treated. Studies have shown that by treating the environment where the child with asthma lives improved the life of the child and their family. ED visits and hospitalizations go down. School attendance goes up.

But not everyone is aware of this yet. Health care providers need to be educated about this. Asthma must be treated medically and environmentally. It’s not just meds anymore.

**Program Audience and Size:** Health care providers (physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants), nurses, community health workers, teachers, school staff, coaches, parents. Anyone who is interacting with a child with asthma.

**Education Tools:** Asthma educational handouts, green cleaning recipes, supplies such as medication boxes, dust mite pillow covers, green cleaning supplies. Low literacy materials depending on where the HCP is practicing.