PROPER INHALED CORTICOSTEROID USED IN UNDERSERVED CHILDREN
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Low socioeconomic status (SES), especially ethnic minorities, and decreased education can play
major factors in increased asthma morbidity and mortality of children younger than eighteen. Non-
Hispanic minority children, of low SES, living in disadvantageous geographic regions are around
time four times more likely to visit an emergency room for asthma, and mortality is almost eight times
more likely. Many factors may lead to, or be associated with, poor asthma outcomes, adherence,
and increased asthma morbidity, including low SES, lack of family support, parental
psychological state, and caregiver education. Many minority children, especially in lower SES,
have increased days in bed due to asthma, are more likely to use the emergency room for asthma
care, are less likely to have an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS), and have increased morbidity and
mortality due to asthma. Approximately three million pediatric visits are due to asthma each year,
and there is strong evidence of minority and low SES children not receiving proper prescriptions,
such as an ICS for persistent asthma. Individuals living in geographic isolation, lower SES regions,
poverty, and demographic minorities are at increased risks for being poorly diagnosed and treated
improperly for persistent asthma. There is strong evidence few providers are educated on the
national guidelines for asthma and therefore are unfamiliar with asthma classification, but for
various reasons, even when familiar, do not properly treat minority patients or those in low SES
with an ICS. Future goals should be decreasing emergency room visits, hospitalizations,
increasing medication adherence, and proper prescriptions based on severity. Through the help of
community health workers, certified asthma educators, and nurse practitioners, we can help
decrease this large disparity in asthma.

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Abstract Major Area (check one)
_X_ Asthma Diagnosis and/or Care
___ Asthma Education Program or Program Evaluation ___ Device and Technique Evaluation
___ Drug Clinical Trial

Data (check one) ___ Abstract with data _X_ Abstract without data