

VALUE OF ASTHMA EDUCATION IN CHILDCARE SETTINGS

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Background: Asthma, a chronic inflammatory disease with no cure has shown an increased prevalence nationwide. In Georgia, children (0-17yrs.) had an overall prevalence of asthma around 9.0%. The overall prevalence of asthma in children 0-4 years of age is currently 5.7 %, but the hospitalization rate among those 0-4 years of age is 208/100,000. Children 0-4 years of age also have the highest number of emergency room visits. **Methods:** Utilizing a standardized curriculum the *American Lung Associations* (ASTHMA 101) and pre and post testing we wanted to see if there was an increase in asthma awareness after providing childcare workers asthma education and awareness training. We provided ALA Asthma 101 training to 12 different Headstart child care centers in the East-Central Health District (ECHD). This study involved 428 Headstart staff members to include teachers, administrators, drivers and office staff. A pretest was taken, and then the Asthma 101 program was presented followed by a post test. **Results:** We found an average of a 10% increase in post test scores overall after this program. **Conclusion:** Children 0-4 years of age are some of the hardest to diagnose with asthma, yet they have the highest hospitalization and emergency room usage rates. Will better education and awareness about asthma through the use of standardized curriculum lead to decreases in hospitalization and emergency room usage by this age group?

