

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF KENTUCKY

PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

ASTHMA

Policy Principle

The American Lung Association of Kentucky strongly supports measures to reduce the incidence of asthma, prevent the exacerbation of asthma, improve treatment of asthma patients and increase their access to appropriate health care. Such measures should eliminate the disparity in asthma morbidity and mortality prevalence for low socioeconomic and minority populations. In addition, the ALA of Kentucky supports developing and implementing a strong, comprehensive public health response to asthma including public education and outreach, research, legislation, regulation and litigation.

Asthma Management in Child Care Facilities

The ALA of Kentucky supports unobstructed access to asthma medication in child care facilities so that child care personnel can assist in the management of their participant's asthma. Children who can self-manage their asthma should have unobstructed access to asthma medication. Child care personnel should receive appropriate training in asthma management.

Asthma Medication in Schools

The ALA of Kentucky supports unobstructed access to asthma medication in schools so students can self-manage their asthma. The ALA of Kentucky recommends that each student with asthma have an asthma management and crisis plan that includes self-management at school. School personnel should receive appropriate training in asthma management. Children, regardless of age, who have been deemed responsible for self administration of their rescue inhalers, should be allowed to carry them on their person at all times.

Healthy People 2010

The ALA of Kentucky supports measures to implement the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2010 goals for asthma:

- Reduce deaths from asthma
- Reduce hospitalization from asthma
- Reduce hospital emergency department visits for asthma
- Reduce activity limitations among persons with asthma
- Reduce the number of school or work days missed by persons with asthma due to asthma
- Increase the proportion of persons with asthma who receive formal patient education, including information about community and self-help resources, as an essential part of management of their condition
- Increase the proportion of persons with asthma who receive appropriate asthma care according to the NAEPP (National Asthma Education and Prevention Program) Guidelines
- Improve quality of life for persons/families affected by asthma as measured by nationally recognized QOL scales

Public Health Programs

The ALA of Kentucky supports funding for state and local asthma public health programs including personnel, surveillance (including data collection, use and dissemination) and public health interventions. The ALA of Kentucky supports the development of a statewide action plan coordinated by the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

School Nurses

The ALA of Kentucky supports healthful school environments and appropriate access to health care professionals in schools. Each school should have at a minimum one school nurse to serve as a resource for students with asthma. The ALA of Kentucky supports the

National Association of School Nurse recommendation of one school health nurse to no more than 750 students in the general school population.

School and Child Care Facility Environments

Schools and child care facilities should be safe and healthful environments. The ALA of Kentucky supports the adoption of protective indoor air quality guidelines for schools and child care facilities. The ALA of Kentucky supports policies that protect students and faculty from elevated levels of outdoor air pollution.