

Environmental Health Disparity Programs

Wisconsin Asthma Coalition. DHFS both participates on and supports the Wisconsin Asthma Coalition in partnership with the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin and other community members. The Coalition developed the Wisconsin Asthma Plan in 2003 and is now working to implement the Plan's goals and objectives. Implementing the Plan will help expand and improve the quality of asthma education, prevention, management and services, and eliminate the disproportionate burden of asthma in racial/ethnic minority and low-income populations.

In addition to the work with the Coalition, DHFS asthma surveillance efforts have identified two counties (Milwaukee and Menominee) that bear a disproportionate asthma burden. These two counties have racial/ethnic populations that are at increased risk of asthma: African Americans in Milwaukee County and American Indians in Menominee County. To address this burden, the DHFS is funding asthma interventions in these two counties by working with Fight Asthma Milwaukee Allies and the Menominee Tribal Clinic.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Elimination Plan. While the rates of lead poisoning in Wisconsin remain significantly higher than national estimates, significant progress has been made to decrease the burden among minority populations. Lead poisoning is entirely preventable, so it offers an attractive opportunity for prevention.

The Department has developed a plan to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by the year 2010. To meet this challenge, the Department and state/local agency partners will increase efforts to screen high-risk children and create and maintain lead-safe housing for all families, while continuing to respond to individual lead-poisoned children.