

# Navigating Statutes for Students with Asthma

## Presenters

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# Navigating Statutes for Students with Asthma Presentation Overview

- Asthma's impact on youth
- National policies and Illinois' performance
- School Code: Self-administration and self-carry of asthma medication
- Suggested strategies for schools
- Future asthma policy agenda
- Questions, comments and resources

# Asthma's National Impact on Youth

Asthma is **common**.



**1** in **11** children have asthma

Asthma is **deadly**.



**1** in **5**

children with asthma  
went to an **emergency department**  
for asthma-related care in 2009.

# Asthma's National Impact on Youth

Asthma keeps children out of school

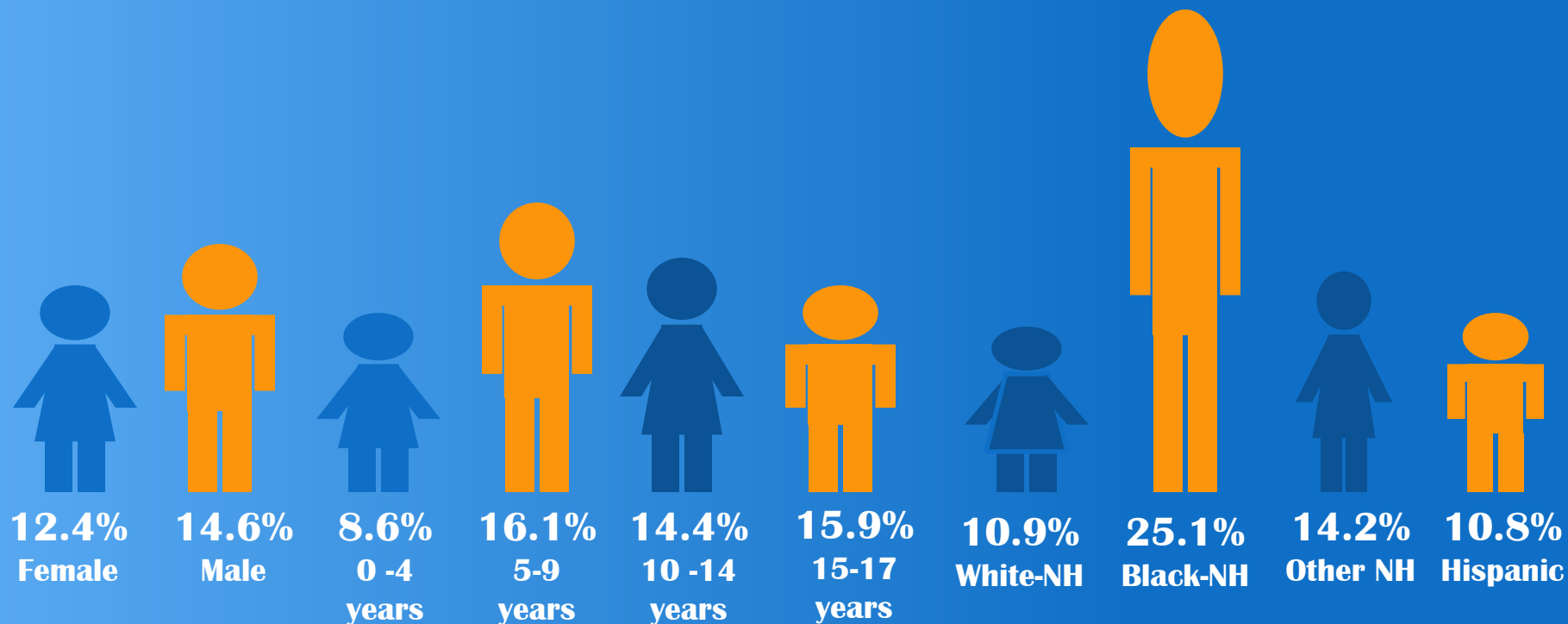
- In 2008, asthma caused 10.5 million missed days of school
- Nearly 1 in 2 children miss at least 1 day of school each year because of their asthma.

Asthma's Impact on the Nation, Data from the CDC Asthma Control Program

# Youth with Ever Asthma in Illinois

# 13.6%

The following groups of children in Illinois ever been told they have asthma:



# Asthma's Impact on Youth in Illinois

**54.7%** (1 in 2)

children with asthma missed at least

**1 DAY OF SCHOOL**

in the past 12 months due to their asthma.



**76.5%** of children do not have their **asthma** under control.

CDC and ICHS BRFSS Asthma Call-back Survey, 2007-2009 children.

# Asthma's Impact On School Performance

Poorly controlled asthma has a negative impact on school performance in both academic achievement and physical education



# How does asthma that is not well controlled impact student learning?

- Fatigue – students up at night with coughing, wheezing and other symptoms are tired in the morning
- Absenteeism related to asthma episodes, health care appointments, and hospitalization
- Missed class time due to frequent school health office visits



# What to expect from effective asthma management in school settings

- A supportive learning environment for students with asthma
- Reduced absences
- Reduced disruption in the classroom
- Appropriate emergency care
- Full student participation in physical activities

Managing Asthma: A Guide for Schools from the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program

# Illinois School Code

## 105 ILCS 5/22-30

### Defining the policy

- Self-administration means a pupil's discretionary use of his/her prescribed asthma medication
- Self-carry means allowing the student to carry their quick relief medication

# Illinois School Code

## 105 ILCS 5/22-30

Who needs to comply with the School Code?

- All schools in Illinois, public and private, fall under this state policy
- There are no age restrictions to the policy
- Permission is effective for the school year for which it is granted
- Permission needs to be renewed annually

# Illinois School Code

## 105 ILCS 5/22-30

The policy covers school age children:

- While in school
- While at a school-sponsored activity
- While under the supervision of school personnel
- Before or after normal school activities, such as while in before-school or after-school care on school-operated property

# Illinois School Code

## 105 ILCS 5/22-30

- Physician signature is no longer required and cannot be required on the forms
- Parent/guardian must provide the school written authorization for self-administration and/or self-carry - and -
  - Parent must provide the school with the following:
    - Prescription label with name of medication;
    - Prescribed dosage and;
    - The times and circumstances under which the medication is to be given

# Why 504 Plans?

Why are 504 plans important for students with asthma?

- It is important to document all students with chronic disease
- Until we define the need it will not be recognized
- Simple accommodations may help these students succeed

# Recommended 504 Accommodations

- Nursing consultation time
- Second set of books
- Homework buddy system
- Individual lockers
- No fur bearing pets in classroom
- Written Asthma Action Plan

# National Policy Standards

## Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's (AAFA) State Honor Roll

- Annual research project
- Identifies states with most comprehensive policies supporting students with asthma (and allergy) in schools



# Why Policy?

By collaborating on policy development and implementation, we can:

- Uniformly protect students with chronic illness across the state, and
- Save lives

# Why Policy?

Example:

- A policy of stocking epi-pens in Chicago Public Schools leads to 38 doses within a 1-year period
- Possibly life-saving doses
- 55% of these reactions were 1<sup>st</sup> time incidents

# Emergency Management Protocol

- This is one of AAFA's policy standards mentioned earlier in the presentation
- Illinois does not have one currently
- We are exploring this for Illinois
- Would clearly outline what school staff can and should do for an asthma emergency
- Would essentially provide and Asthma Action Plan for students that don't have one

# Asthma FIRST AID

## Steps to Manage an Asthma Episode

### SIGNS OF AN ASTHMA EPISODE:

- + Shortness of Breath
- + Rapid Breathing
- + Coughing
- + Wheezing *(whistling sound)*
- + Chest Tightness  
*(Child may complain of a stomach ache)*

## 1 Remain Calm

- Speak calmly at all times
- Have person stop all activities
- Help person remain calm and in an upright position
- Stay with the person at all times



## 2 Use Inhaler

- Have person use his or her quick relief asthma medication
- If no medication is available, call 911



## 3 Alert Staff

- Notify emergency/medical staff of situation
- Keep a close watch to make sure symptoms are not getting worse



## When to Call 911

If you are unsure whether emergency help is needed, call 911 immediately

- Breathing is so difficult that the person has trouble walking or talking
- Lips or nails look pale, blue, or gray
- Breathing does not improve within 15 minutes of the first dose/puff of medication or becomes worse
- No quick relief medication is available



For more information contact Chicago Asthma Consortium  
[773] 769-6060 | [www.chicagoasthma.org](http://www.chicagoasthma.org)

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# Asthma

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# Questions and Comments

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# Additional Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - links to resources for school personnel planning or maintaining an asthma management program

<http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/schools.html>

# Power Point Presentation

This Power Point presentation will be posted on the Chicago Asthma Consortium website at [www.chicagoasthma.org](http://www.chicagoasthma.org)