



EPI Monthly Report

Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County

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Introduction to the Asthma Home-Visit Collaborative Project Emily Moore, MPH

Introduction

Asthma is a chronic respiratory illness which affects people of every age, but it has a particular effect on young children and their families. Every year in the United States, 5 million children are subject to school absenteeism, emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and preventable deaths due to asthma-related issues.^{1,2} Parents of children with asthma miss more work days than their colleagues, and the financial strain of asthma-related medical bills often becomes a burden for many families with asthmatic children. In Miami-Dade County, the rate of hospitalizations due to asthma among children is higher than the state as a whole: 18.80 per 10,000 as opposed to the state rate of 16.45 per 10,000 in 2012.³

The Need for Asthma-Friendly Homes

Children ages 7-10 are more likely to experience an asthma episode due to controllable environmental factors than due to a viral respiratory infection.⁴ It is therefore important to create an environment where these children can avoid the factors that may trigger an asthma attack where they live, play, and sleep. The Asthma Home-Visit Collaborative Project, a partnership of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (DOH-Miami-Dade) and Nicklaus Children's Hospital, aims to assist families in identifying and eliminating harmful environmental

triggers from their homes. By eliminating these triggers and through culturally-competent asthma education, this project aims to help reduce the number of asthma-related emergency room visits and missed school and work days for families, and to improve the overall health of the children with asthma in Miami-Dade County.

Description of the Project

The Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (HHLPP) and the Applied Epidemiology & Research Program from DOH -Miami-Dade have joined with the Research Institute at Nicklaus Children's Hospital to bring this pilot project to fruition. Ten families that are eligible to participate in the project will be identified by Nicklaus Children's Hospital. Eligible participants will be families of children aged 7-10 from Miami-Dade County who frequently visit the emergency room or urgent care facilities at Nicklaus Children's Hospital for asthma-related issues, generating a medical cost greater than \$50,000 USD in the previous fiscal year, and who are from zip codes that show the highest cases of asthma. Special consideration will be given to those who belong to low-income families and underrepresented groups at higher risk for asthma-related emergency room visits.

Once the eligible families have been identified and consented, the children will have an appointment with a Nicklaus Children's Hospital clinician to complete

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asthma-related tests. The families will then have three visits at home with an environmental specialist and a health educator from DOH-Miami-Dade. The first home visit will assess the environmental triggers that are present in the families' homes and the families' current knowledge of asthma and asthma-related triggers. At each home visit with the family, education will be provided on three major subjects: Asthma pathophysiology to understand what asthma is and the symptoms related to an attack; Asthma related triggers and ways to reduce them; and asthma medication and the importance of proper use and compliance.

Six months after the completion of the home visits, families will meet with the Nicklaus Children's Hospital clinician to once more complete the asthma-related tests. Soon after, the environmental specialist from the HHLPP at DOH-Miami-Dade will contact the families by phone to complete a comprehensive asthma knowledge assessment and a survey regarding recent asthma-related problems and emergency department visits.

Project Purpose

By educating families and by assessing and eliminating environmental factors that may trigger asthma in the home, this project hopes to reduce the number of emergency department visits and miss school or work due to asthma each year. The goals of this project are to help families better understand asthma, to make the environment in which the child lives more "asthma-friendly," and to

teach and encourage asthma medication compliance. The education which families receive during their home visits will give them the tools they need to control and treat their child's asthma with confidence, and will connect them with further resources should they have any further questions concerning asthma, the home environment, and medications. In addition, completing this pilot project will provide clues on how to better treat and serve those families in Miami-Dade County who have children with asthma.

Conclusion & Contact

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County and Nicklaus Children's Hospital are poised to begin this important pilot project soon. Those who would like to hear more information on the Asthma Home-Visit Collaborative Project may call Keren Joseph at 305-499-2065 or Emily Moore at 305-470-6918.

References:

1. Lara, M., Nicholas, W., Morton, S.C., Vaiana, M.E., Genovese, B, and Rachelefsky, G.(2001) Improving Childhood Asthma Outcomes in the United States: A Blueprint for Policy Action. *Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.* http://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1330. Also available in print form.
2. Florida Asthma Coalition. Asthma Data and Statistics. *The Florida Department of Health's Asthma Program.* <http://floridaasthmacoalition.com/about-asthma/>. Last Updated: July 18, 2013. Web. Accessed: 12/05/2013
3. Guide to Community Preventive Services. Asthma control. www.thecommunityguide.org/asthma/index.html. Last updated: 09/27/2013. Web. Accessed: 12/05/2013.
4. Forrest, J. and Dudley, J. (2013). Burden of Asthma in Florida. *Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention, Florida Asthma Program.*

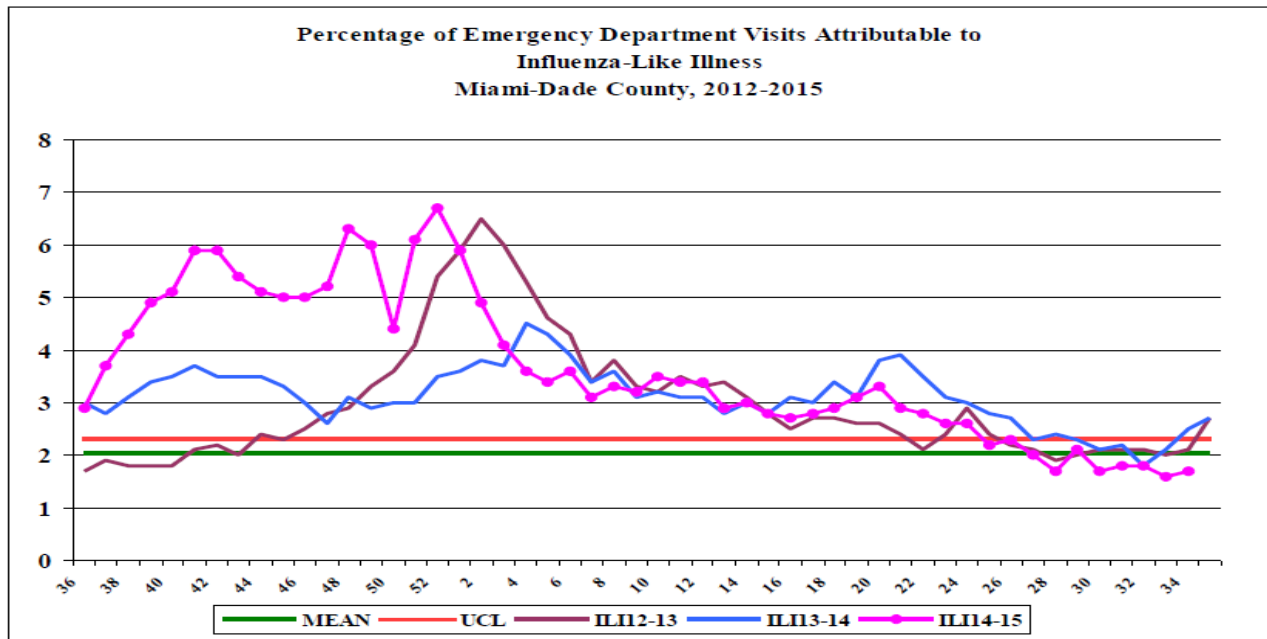


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Influenza-Like-Illness, All Age



During this period, there were 20,576 ED visits; among them 339 (1.7%) were ILI. At the same week of last year, 2.5% of ED visits were ILI.

PARTICIPATE IN INFLUENZA SENTINEL PROVIDER SURVEILLANCE

Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County **NEEDS Influenza Sentinel Providers!**

TO REPORT ANY DISEASE AND FOR INFORMATION CALL:
Epidemiology, Disease Control & Immunization Services

Sentinel providers are key to the success of the Florida Department of Health's Influenza Surveillance System. Data reported by sentinel providers gives a picture of the influenza virus and ILI activity in the U.S. and Florida which can be used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care.

- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program305-470-6877
- Hepatitis305-470-5536
- Immunizations or outbreaks305-470-5660
- HIV/AIDS Program305-623-7420
- STD Program305-575-5430
- Tuberculosis Program305- 575-5415
- Immunization Service305-470-5660
- To make an appointment.....786-845-0550

- Providers of any specialty, in any type of practice, are eligible to be sentinel providers.
- Most providers report that it takes **less than 30 minutes a week** to compile and report data on the total number of patients seen and the number of patients seen with influenza-like illness.
- Sentinel providers can submit specimens from a subset of patients to the state laboratory for virus isolation **free of charge**.

For more information, please contact

Lakisha Thomas at 305-470-5660.

About the Epi Monthly Report

The Epi Monthly Report is a publication of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County: Epidemiology, Disease Control & Immunization Services. The publication serves a primary audience of physicians, nurses, and public health professionals. Articles published in the Epi Monthly Report may focus on quantitative research and analysis, program updates, field investigations, or provider education. For more information or to submit an article, please contact Emily Moore at (305) 470-6918.



Miami-Dade County Monthly Report Select Reportable Disease/Conditions July 2015

Diseases/Conditions	2015 Current Month	2015 Year to Date	2014 Year to Date	2013 Year to Date
HIV/AIDS				
AIDS*	61	294	340	448
HIV	139	916	809	819
STD				
Infectious Syphilis*	23	175	207	204
Chlamydia*	764	5689	5646	5962
Gonorrhea*	174	1077	1182	1407
TB				
Tuberculosis**	14	63	80	71
Epidemiology, Disease Control & Immunization Services				
Epidemiology				
Campylobacteriosis	45	227	232	206
Chikungunya Fever	2	12	16	0
Ciguatera Poisoning	4	9	9	9
Cryptosporidiosis	4	11	15	13
Cyclosporiasis	2	2	1	2
Dengue Fever	2	7	14	16
Escherichia coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	1	1	12	4
Encephalitis, West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis, Acute	21	105	127	152
Influenza Novel Strain	0	0	0	0
Influenza, Pediatric Death	0	0	1	1
Legionellosis	1	13	8	17
Leptospirosis	0	1	0	0
Listeriosis	2	2	2	1
Lyme disease	2	5	3	1
Malaria	3	4	3	5
Meningitis (except aseptic)	2	4	12	23
Meningococcal Disease	1	5	6	11
Salmonella serotype Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	2	1	1
Salmonellosis	71	331	326	305
Shigellosis	16	74	584	26
Streptococcus pneumoniae, Drug Resistant	0	0	35	61
Toxoplasmosis	0	0	0	0
Vibriosis	2	12	5	9
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0
Inmunization Preventable Diseases				
Measles	0	0	0	0
Mumps	0	3	0	0
Pertussis	6	17	19	31
Rubella	0	0	0	0
Tetanus	0	0	0	0
Varicella	1	26	29	47
Hepatitis				
Hepatitis A	7	24	21	15
Hepatitis B (Acute)	0	8	6	10
Lead				
Lead Poisoning	17	45	35	57

*Data is provisional at the county level and is subject to edit checks by state and federal agencies.

** Data on tuberculosis are provisional at the county level.