

BACKGROUND AND AIM

One in ten (118,700) children in Cook Children's eight-county service area has asthma. Of these children, **eight percent** visited an emergency room in the past year because of asthma symptoms.¹



The Healthy Homes Asthma Program (HHAP) within Cook Children's Center for Community Health was developed to reduce emergency department visits for respiratory distress by patients with a government payer.

The program enlists Community Health Workers (CHW) to identify and remediate triggers in the home environment that may be exacerbating the child's asthma symptoms.

METHODS

Program eligibility: Cook Children's patients with government payers and Health Plan members who have two or more ED visits or three or more UCC visits in the past 12 months for asthma.

Program services: Three months of free one-on-one support by a CHW, to include identification of home environmental triggers, trigger remediation supplies and services, and referrals to social and medical supports.

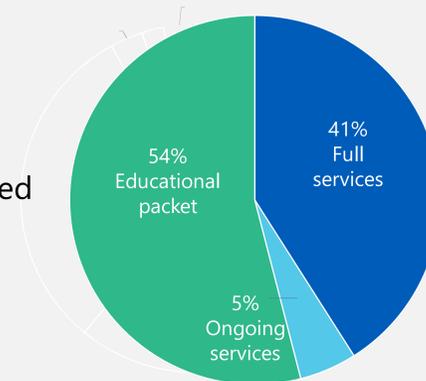
Program evaluation: All program services are documented and a satisfaction survey is administered to caregivers. Data from Epic and Health Plan claims are used to conduct a pre/post analysis of ED and UCC utilization, comparing the number of visits and charges in the 12 months prior to HHAP enrollment to the 12 months post enrollment.

RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Total children served in FY2024²

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024

- 158** children received full services
- 21** children received ongoing or abbreviated services
- 210** children received an educational packet



Ongoing outreach and support activities provided to families in FY2024²



Made **3,262 outreach contacts** to families (in-person visits, phone calls, and text messages).



Distributed over **4,500 education and trigger remediation supplies** valued at over **\$68,500** (educational booklets, vacuum cleaners, air purifiers, asthma-friendly cleaning supplies, etc.).

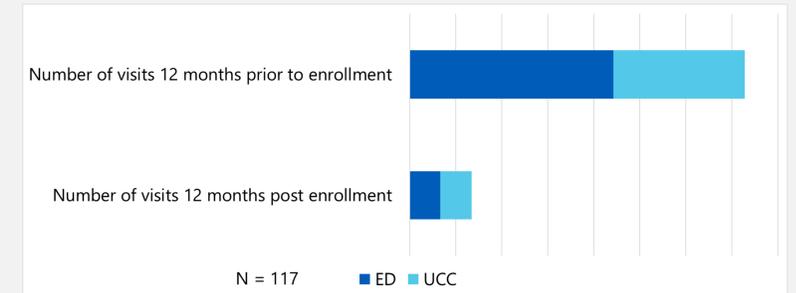


Arranged **68 contract services** for pest control, air duct, and carpet cleaning at no cost to family, at a value of **\$19,269**.



Referred families to **467 social service and medical supports** for food, rent and utility assistance, mental health resources, specialty care, and more.

Emergency Department and Urgent Care Clinic utilization of HHAP participants³



A pre/post analysis compared ED and UCC utilization of 117 program participants from the 12 months prior to HHAP enrollment to the 12 months post enrollment:

- ED volumes declined by 85%**; total charges decreased by 83%.
- UCC volumes declined by 76%**; total charges decreased by 74%.



"[CHW] was a blessing. My son hasn't been to the hospital with asthma related issues since [CHW] has provided me with the resources to help him. Thank you so much."

-- Healthy Homes participant caregiver²

DISCUSSION AND FUTURE EFFORTS

One-on-one support by CHWs and multi-layered trigger remediation strategies are effective in reducing ED and UCC utilization in the year following program enrollment.

Further study on sustainability of decreased utilization and comparison to non-asthmatic populations is needed.

In FY2025, the HHAP team will further support high-risk asthma patients within CCHCS and in the community.

