



Environmental Home Visits: Their role for families and learners

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**Texas Children's
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- *Acknowledgement: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supports the PEHSU by providing partial funding to ATSDR under Inter-Agency Agreement number DW-75-92301301. Neither EPA nor ATSDR endorse the purchase of any commercial products or services mentioned in PEHSU publications.*

Learning Objectives

- Identify who would benefit from environmental home visits.
- Describe basic elements of an environmental home visit for different clients.
- Explain how learners can participate and learn from an environmental investigation.



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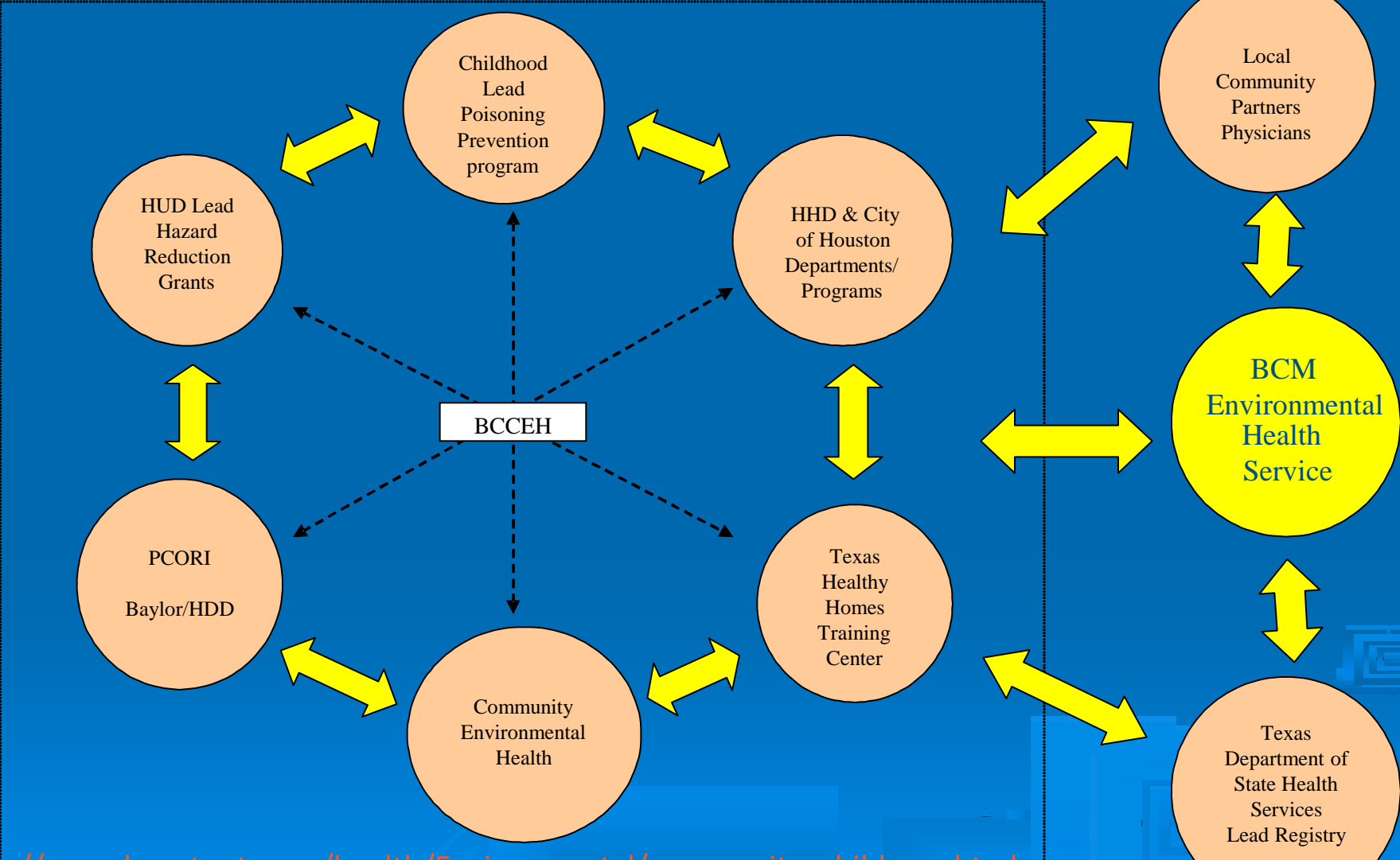
Current HEH Clinical Model

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

- **Two BCM EH clinics**
 - Both in Harris Health System
 - PAHC in Pasadena (pediatric)
 - Tuesdays 8 am–noon (4/2014)
 - Smith Clinic in TMC (adult)
 - Thursdays 8 am–noon (11/2014)
- **PCORI HIIT-BAC Research**
 - 300 African American adults
 - Poorly controlled asthma
 - Randomized clinical trial
 - Enhanced in-clinic visit vs.
Enhanced in-clinic visit plus
year-long home intervention
 - Reinforces clinical paradigm



Houston Bureau of Community & Children's Environmental Health, Baylor College of Medicine Environmental Health Services, & Harris County Health Department Cross Referral Process for Clients



http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Environmental/community_childrens.html

http://www.hcphe.org/divisions_and_offices/environmental_public_health

<https://www.bcm.edu/departments/medicine/sections-divisions-centers/general-internal-medicine/environmental-health-services>

Case I: SG & EG

referred @ 1 & 3yo d/t younger 15.8 @ 12 mos.

Both were < 3 ug/dl @ 6 mos

- Pb Risks:

- Travel to Mexico 1-2 x per year: no bump up post

- Dad wood stainer, new construction; later – old ; never tested

- Mom- level 7ug/dl

- Environment- chemicals and spray/bomb use

- Discussed proper storage & Integrated Pest Management IPM

- Complications: none

First ELI:

Environmental lead investigation

- Ext: LBP + window casing, sash, door jamb & casing, front wall siding

- Interior: LBP +living Room window sill & door casing

- Dust wipes: thresholds, 3 window sills: negative

- Remediation: not eligible d/t structurally unsound



Qualification Form for Pb Remediation



Bureau of Community & Children's Environmental Health
8000 N. Stadium Drive, Houston, TX 77054
Phone: 832-393-5141 Fax: 832-393-5210

Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program Qualification Intake Form

APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Name _____ Social Security No. _____ Age _____ Ethnicity _____ Male Female

2. Name _____ Social Security No. _____ Age _____ Ethnicity _____ Male Female

Property Address _____ City, State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number: Home: _____ Cell: _____ Other: _____

Property Description: Owner Occupied Rent Vacant Section 8: Yes No

Head of Household: Female Male Senior living in the house: Yes No

Household Members Names	Relationship	Age	Sex	Date of Birth
1				

Applicant/Co applicant's Initial: _____

Applicant Financial Information:

1. Monthly Salary _____ Gross Income/Year _____ Source: _____

2. Monthly Salary _____ Gross Income/Year _____ Source: _____

3. Income Limits: Very Low (50%) Extremely low (30%) Low (80%)

No. of Total Rooms: _____ (Excludes Bedrooms, Baths, Closets) No. of Bedrooms: _____

House Special Characteristics (window A/C units, burglar bars etc.): _____

Confirmed no. of household members for relocation: _____ Adults _____ Children

Received EPA booklet: "Renovate Right" Applicant/ Co applicant's Initial's: _____

"I certify under penalty of the law that the information contained in this declaration is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____ Co-Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

BCCEH Community Liaison Signature: _____ Date: _____

BCCEH Final Approval Signature: _____ Date: _____

- Repaired the roof: eligible

- 2nd ELI

- XRF - 46 of 91 elevated or actionable

- Dust wipe: Child BR mini blind : pos;

- toy wood train, truck, push car steering wheel: neg



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Case I: SG & EG- 2nd ELI cont. SOIL

- Soil sample: 120 ug/g,
 - HUD EPA standard
 - Play area: > 400 ug/g
 - Other : > 2,000 ug/g
 - >5,000 ug/g abate by HUD



Case I: Remediation: \$15,000

- Aluminum storm doors, windows and solid doors,

- Energy efficient low E glass number 2

- Vinyl siding & trim entire exterior walls

- Wet scrape & prepare and prime and Paint ext. non siding

- Same for interior

- Contain lead dust and debris using 6 mm plastic sheeting

- Floors, furniture, appliance, ground & open entrances to uncontaminated areas



Case I: Post Remediation

- Dust samples:

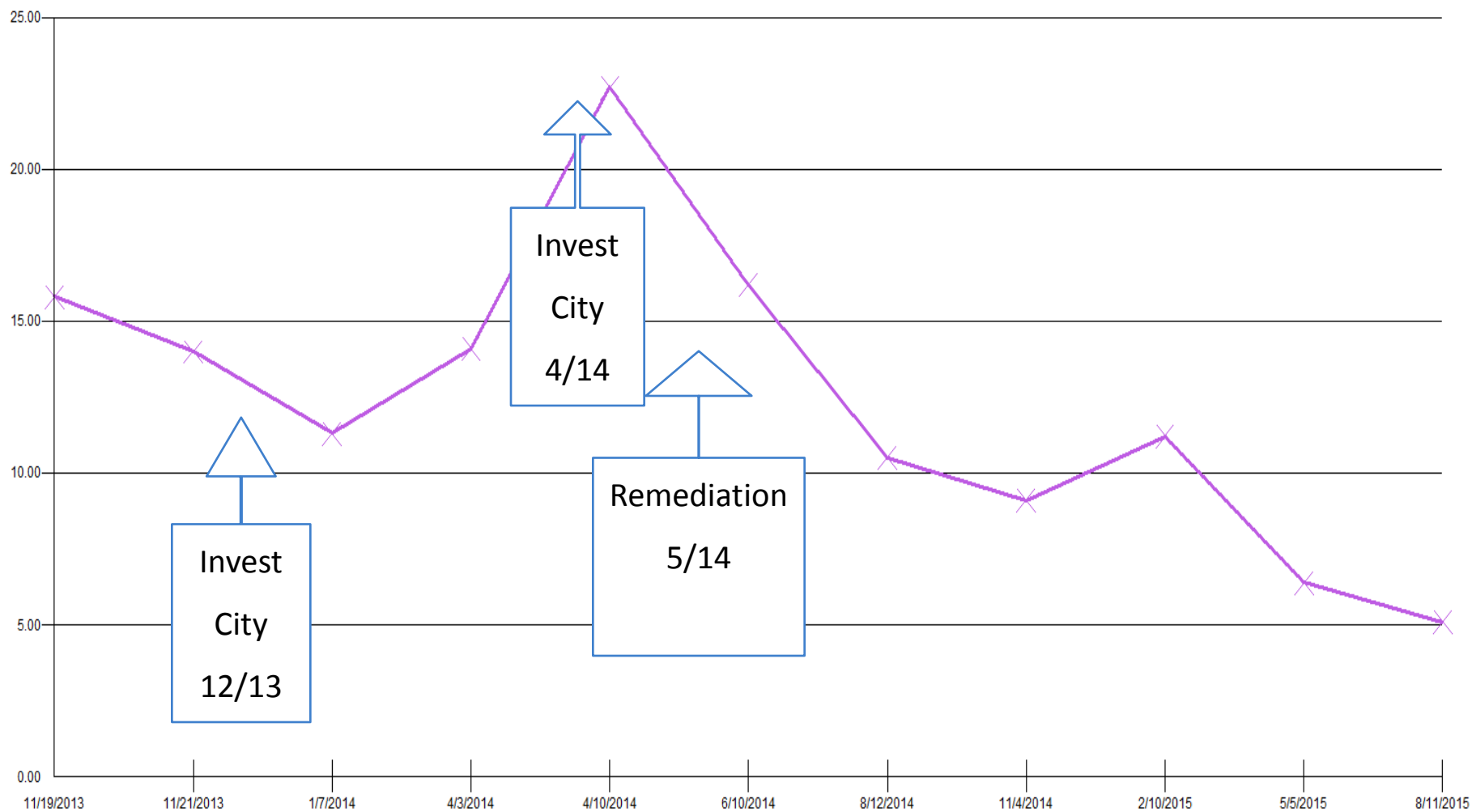
- Front entry floor, kitchen floor, BR floor, LR window sill, Child BR Window sill- all less than 10 ug/ft²

SG lead levels: 11/2013- 8/2015

dob: 11/2012; <3 ug/dl @ 6 mos;

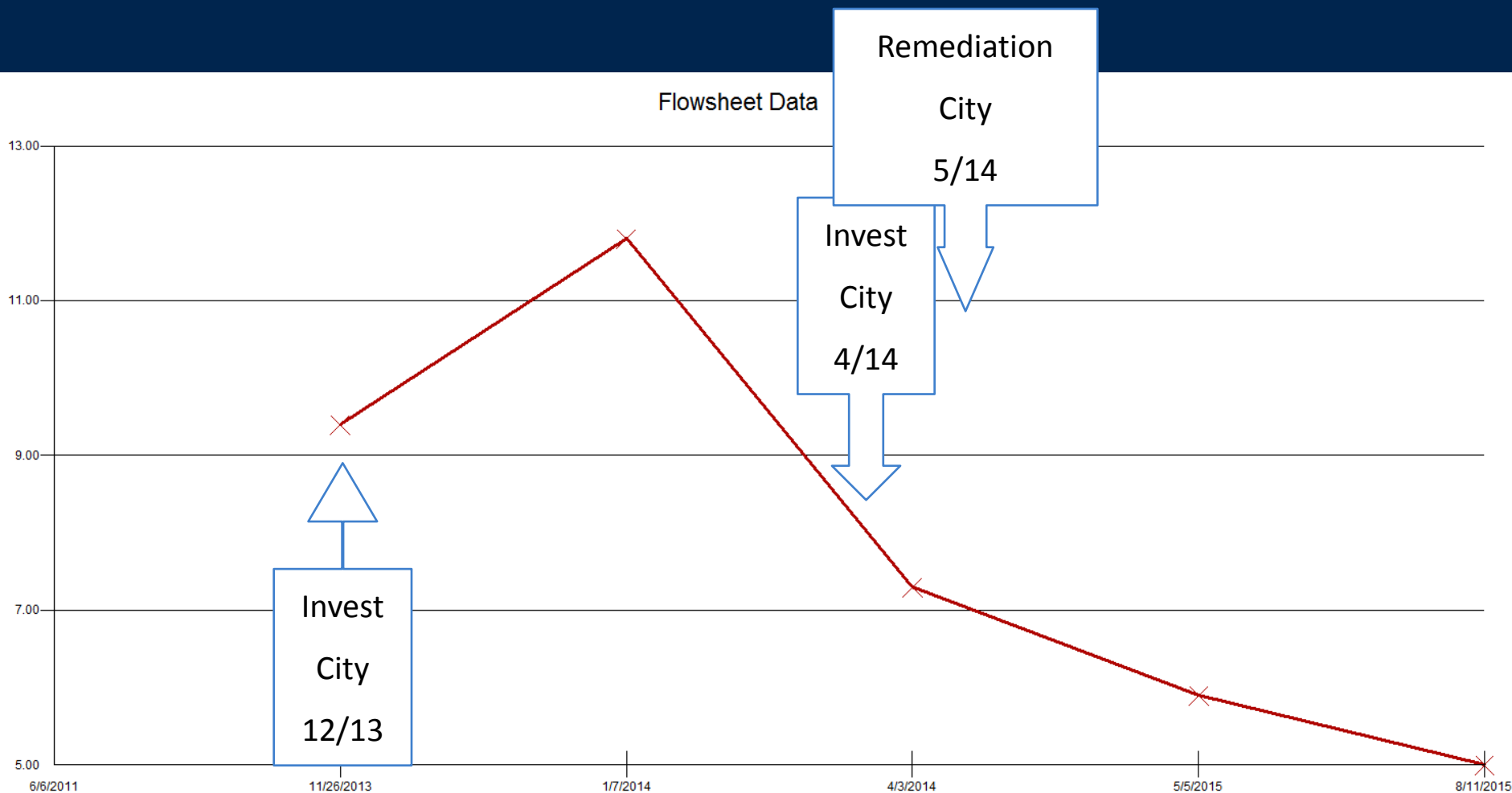
elev: @ 12 mos

Flowsheet Data



EG Lead levels 11/2013- 8/2015

dob: 11/2010; < 3ug/dl @ 6mos; elevated at 3 years



Case: AV 12 y/o poorly controlled severe persistent asthmatic

- s/p anaphylactic reaction => Hypoxic Ischemic event at 8y/o
 - Blind & Mild cerebral palsy: attends boarding school for blind
 - Commutes: weekends and holidays
 - Severe atopic dermatitis and multiple food allergies
 - Topical pimecrolimus & triamcinolone
 - Cetirizine daily and atarax @ night
 - Referred by pulmonologist life threatening asthma clinic
 - Meds: inhaled nasal mometasone & budesonide/formoterol , theophylline

EH Clinic: Office Visit

BCM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

- Clinic visit (NP OV 99204)
 - Consent (optional; for outcome analyses)
 - *Pediatric Exposure History*
 - E.g., housing, pets, pests, proximity to freeways/industry, moisture, school environment, occupational exposures, food, water, pesticides, cleaning chemicals, hobbies...
 - Signs and symptoms of exposure-related concerns (timing, location, etc.)
 - Other: ACT, QOL, HC utilization
 - PFTs, allergy testing and other labs as appropriate

The image shows two forms. The top form is the 'Environmental Health Clinic PEDIATRIC EXPOSURE HISTORY' form, which includes sections for patient information, marital status, country of origin, and a 'General Housing (GH1-GH7)' section with numbered questions about where the child lives, when the home was built, and who owns it. The bottom form is the 'Childhood Asthma Control Test for children 4 to 11 years.' form, which includes instructions on how to take the test, a section for parents to complete questions about their child's asthma control, and a section for the child to complete questions about their own asthma symptoms.

Asthma and its Triggers

B C M E N V I R O N M E N T A L H E A L T H S E R V I C E

Common triggers (generally multifactorial)

- Dust mites
- Pet dander
- Candles
- Roadways
- Mold, pollen
- Perfumes
- Air pollution
- Gas stoves
- Cold weather
- Stress
- And so on....



- **Asthma Management** (NAEPP EPR 3, 2007)
 - Key Recommendations
 - Education (linked with motivation factors)
 - Control of environmental factors
 - Medications
 - Inhaled corticosteroids (e.g., Flovent®)
 - » Anti-inflammatory
 - Cromolyn sodium & nedocromil (e.g., Nasalcrom®)
 - » Mast cell stabilizers
 - Omalizumab (e.g., Xolair®)
 - » Immune modulator (anti-IgE)
 - Leukotriene blockers (e.g., Singular®)
 - Short-acting bronchodilators (e.g., Xopenex®)
 - Longer-acting bronchodilators (e.g., Serevent®)

ASTHMA PAST MEDICAL HISTORY

Recent History:		
	In the last month, how many school days have been missed due to asthma?	27 days missed last year in school
	In the last month, how many work days has the caretaker/parent missed?	27
	Last exacerbation occurred	3 days ago
	In the last month, how many unscheduled visits to the clinic have you had due to asthma?	2
	Effective treatment for exacerbations in the past has included	inhaled albuterol .
Have you ever:		
	Been hospitalized	yes - dec 2014
	Last hospitalization	6months ago
	Been treated in ER for asthma	yes - last month
	Attended Educational classes for asthma	no
	Seen an asthma specialist	yes - in Austin and at TCH
	Seen an allergy specialist	yes - in Austin
	Been tested for allergies	yes - in Austin, Dr. Reddy
In the past 12 months have you ever:		
	Been treated in ER for asthma	yes - ER/intubated December 2014
	# of ER visit in last year	6
	Been hospitalized	yes - 12/2014
	Required oral steroids	yes - see below
	# of PO steroid courses in last year	6

Are you allergic to any of the following:	last year	
	Medicines (e.g. aspirin)	no
	Food	yes - shellfish, peanuts
	Animals	yes - record requested
	Mold	yes - record requested
	Pollen	yes - record requested
	Dust/dustmites	yes - record requested
	Cockroaches	yes - record requested

ASTHMA TRIGGERS

Do any of the following items trigger your asthma (cause you to cough, wheeze, have shortness of breath or chest tightness)?

	Air pollutants	yes -
	Changes in weather	yes - cold and hot
	Exposure to cold air	yes -
	Infections, such as cold or respiratory illness	yes -
	Food additives (e.g., sulfites)	yes - sulfite
	Emotions such as laughing, crying, anger, etc	yes -
	Exercise	yes -
	Tobacco	No/mom smokes
	Aerosol sprays or cleaning products	no
	Mowing the lawn	yes -
	Sweeping or vacuuming house	Not much-
	Animals	yes -
	Menstrual cycle	no

AV- Pediatric Environmental Clinic

- Questionnaires preferably pre clinic if possible

- Pediatric Exposure History :

- Peds QL pediatric quality of life inventory: age specific 8-12

- Health & Activities: 16/32 14 mom

- Feelings: 10/20 10 mom

- Get along with others 6/20 6 mom

- School: 10/20 7 mom

- Asthma Control Test = ACT: 13/25; <20 poor control

Summary of Environmental Exposure Questionnaire:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Positive Exposures</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Health Related Exposure Questions	yes - multiple triggers	
General Housing	Yes- lives in dorm-mon-Friday (carpeting) Lives with mom here in houston weekends	
Indoor Home Environment	Yes- carpeting in dorm	
School Environment	Yes- carpeting in dorm, some symptoms with cleaning wipes in class	
Food & Water	no	Allergic to shellfish and peanuts
Air Pollution/Outdoor Environment	Yes- mom smokes	Outdoors only
Chemical Exposures	Yes- sensitivities to chemicals in wipes at school	

Case AV: Management Plan

-Long Term Goals:

- 1. (*Parent*)- ACT score >19. Control of asthma to prevent recurrent admissions.
- 2. (*Child*)- Overall improvement in health; participation in activities.

-Short Term Goals:

- 1. (*Parent*)- less missed school days.
- 2. (*Child*)-

Case AV: Management Plan

•Motivators:

- 1. (*Parent*)- Overall asthma control.
- 2. (*Child*)- Be able to participate in activities at school; exercise- eg. Swimming.

•Barriers:

- 1. (*Parent*)- commute to out of town school
- 2. (*Child*)- Being away from home; visually impaired.

Case AV: Management Plan

-Asthma: Reviewed

- Asthma action plan, medications, delivery method

-Environment: recommended

- Reduce inhaled allergen exposures: dust mite covers all bedding
- Smoking cessation for Mom:
- Asthma: Environmental Control- Pediatric Advisor
- 7 tips for Keeping a Healthy Home- CDC/HUD

-Scheduled home visit

EH Clinic: Field Assessment

- Healthy Homes-based paper and/or tablet app
 - Environmental hygienist and nurse (continuity)
 - Consent for assessment (scope)
 - *Field Environmental Assessment*
 - Neighborhood/site assessment
 - Building characteristics
 - E.g., year built, roof integrity, type of heat/AC, ventilation
 - Room-by-room assessment
 - E.g., moisture, dust, odors, clutter, unvented heaters, evidence of pests, tobacco odor
 - Measurements (humidity, CO, PM, gases, air flow)

The image shows a screenshot of the 'Field Environmental Assessment' form. The top section includes the Baylor College of Medicine logo and contact information for the Environmental Health Service. The form is titled 'Environmental Health Clinic FIELD ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT'. It contains sections for 'ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS' and 'GUIDELINES FOR INTERVIEWERS'. The main part of the form is a table with columns for 'baseboards', 'radiant floor heat', and 'regular space heat'. The table contains various questions (e.g., 'Ba. If central heating, filters are...', '6. If central natural gas furnace', '7. Cooling (check all that apply)') and checkboxes for different responses (e.g., 'Clean', 'Partially dirty', 'Dirty', 'Don't know', 'Not assessed').

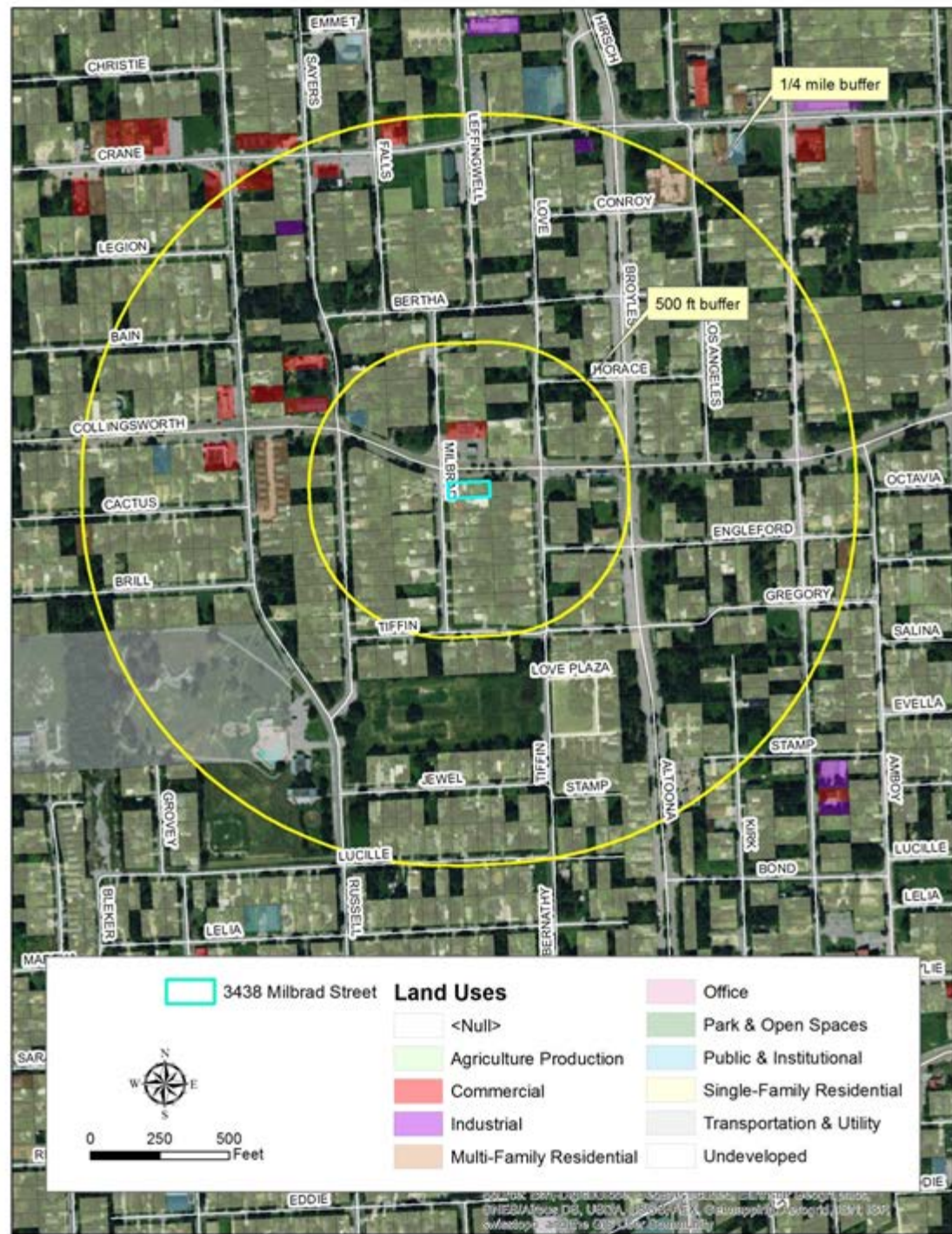
	baseboards	radiant floor heat	regular space heat		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric stove	<input type="checkbox"/> Gas stove	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Ba. If central heating, filters are	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Partially dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed
Bb. If window/wall units, filters are	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Partially dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed
Reported/visible leak?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Exhaust properly attached?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Gas detected from main gas line to appliance?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Exhaust vent flow (dragon puffer)	After 45 sec:	After 60 sec:		<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed
CO monitor $\pm 2^{\circ}\text{F}$ from opening in draft hood	After 45 sec: _____ ppm	After 60 sec: _____ ppm		<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed
7. Cooling (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Operative windows	<input type="checkbox"/> Window or wall AC units	<input type="checkbox"/> Fans	<input type="checkbox"/> Central natural gas AC	<input type="checkbox"/> Central electric AC
Ba. If central AC, filters are	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Partially dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Bb. If window/wall units, filters are	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Partially dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
8. Is there an attached garage?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
9. Basement (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Is there a basement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Cracked	<input type="checkbox"/> Wet or damp area	<input type="checkbox"/> Musty smell	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (SKIP to 10) <input type="checkbox"/> No (SKIP to 10) <input type="checkbox"/> Handrails and lighting on stairs

AV: GSI map

-Apartment Complex:
1979

-multifamily
neighborhood

- 500 ft & ¼ mile buffers



Participant ID _____

Today's date: _____

Building and Construction Characteristics (BC1-BC13)

1. What year was the home built?	Known or estimated year built:					
	Before 1950 <input type="checkbox"/>	1950-1978 <input type="checkbox"/>	1979-2000 <input type="checkbox"/>	After 2000 <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Year of last renovation	Year: _____		Description: _____			
3. What type of building is it?	<input type="checkbox"/> Apartment	<input type="checkbox"/> Single detached house	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplex	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile home	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
4. Exterior observation (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Roof problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Missing siding/brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Cracks in foundation grade	<input type="checkbox"/> Visible source of leaks into home		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Standing water at foundation	<input type="checkbox"/> Vents not screened	<input type="checkbox"/> Debris/garbage	<input type="checkbox"/> Handrails on stairs (if >3 steps)		
Describe vegetation: _____						
5. Heating sources (choose all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural gas space heater	<input type="checkbox"/> Kerosene or propane space heater	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric coil or infrared space heater	<input type="checkbox"/> Central electric heat pump with or without auxiliary heat		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Central natural gas furnace	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric (coil) space heater	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood or coal stove	<input type="checkbox"/> Fireplace (closed) with emission controls		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric baseboards	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric radiant floor heat	<input type="checkbox"/> Fireplace (regular; open)	<input type="checkbox"/> Window/wall heat pump(s) with or without auxiliary heat		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric stove	<input type="checkbox"/> Gas stove	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
5a. If central heating, filters are	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Partially dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
5b. If window/wall units, filters are	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Partially dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
6. If central natural gas furnace	Reported/visible leak?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
	Exhaust properly attached?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
	Gas detected from main gas line to appliance?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
	Exhaust vent flow (dragon puffer)	After 45 sec: _____	After 60 sec: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
	CO monitor ~2-4" from opening in draft hood	After 45 sec: _____ ppm	After 60 sec: _____ ppm	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
7. Cooling (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Operable windows	<input type="checkbox"/> Window or wall AC units	<input type="checkbox"/> Fans	<input type="checkbox"/> Central natural gas AC	<input type="checkbox"/> Central electric AC	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed
8a. If central AC, filters are	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Partially dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed		
8b. If window/wall units, filters are	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Partially dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Dirty	<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed		
8. Is there an attached garage?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
9. Basement (check all that apply)	Is there a basement?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No [SKIP to 10]
	<input type="checkbox"/> Carpeted	<input type="checkbox"/> Wet or damp area	<input type="checkbox"/> Musty smell	<input type="checkbox"/> Handrails and lighting on stairs		

AV: Home Investigation: Inhalants: allergic



- Home for roaches, and dust mites
 - Unsecured food on the kitchen
 - Cardboard boxes, shoes, bags etc. on the floor in the patient's bedroom closet.



AV- Home investigation: Inhalants



- : Moderate dust build up on the air filter and diffuser grille in the HVAC unit.
- Cleaning chemicals under the kitchen sink



AV: Home investigation: Inhalants: irritants?



- Candles, incense sticks, window cleaner spray in the bathroom
- Plug-in air fragrance in the kitchen.



AV- dust mite allergen covers:

Some, not all bedding:

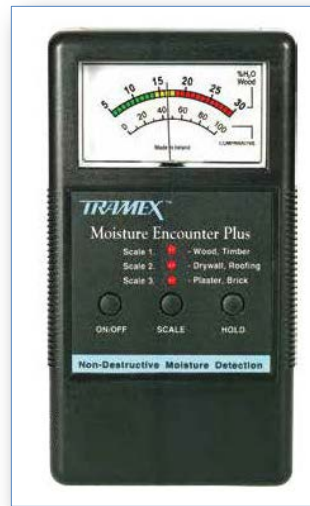


General: Four direct reading handheld factory calibrated instruments:

B C M E N V I R O N M E N T A L H E A L T H S E R V I C E

Core HIIT-BAC Instruments

- Gas Detector (TIF 8800)- leaks near gas appliances
- Moisture Meter (Tramex Moisture Encounter Plus): around visible growth
- IAQ Meter (TSI IAQ-CALC 7545): CO₂, CO, humidity
- Particle Counter (TSI Aerotrak 9303)



- Always take an outside control reading
- Take measurements in core areas of the home:
 - Patient's bedroom
 - Kitchen
 - Bathroom
 - Living area
 - Areas where patient spends significant time
- If time permits, or if home is small, try to take measurements in all rooms.

TSI IAQ-CALC 7545

B C M E N V I R O N M E N T A L H E A L T H S E R V I C E

- **Set to display:**
 - CO₂: <1,000 ppm
 - % RH: 30-60%
 - CO: <5ppm
- **Set to collect:**
 - CO₂
 - % RH
 - CO
 - Temperature:
 - Winter: 68-75
 - Summer: 73-79
 - Low: condensation
 - High: high humidity



AeroTrak PM Counter 9303

- **Counts particles by size**
 - 0.3–1.0 μm : combustion
 - 1.0–5.0 μm :
 - 5.0–25 μm : pollen & mold, dust
- **Middle bin is adjustable.**
- **Different size particles optically**
 - suggest different sources
- **No universal standards for residential particle counts.**
 - General guidelines based on: WHO, ASHRAE, EPA, HUD



- **Carbon Dioxide:** Elevated levels were noted throughout the house ranging from 2,515 to 3,145 parts per million (ppm). Levels vary throughout the day but generally should be 1000 ppm or less.
- **Temperature:** Temperature ranging from 81-83°F was noted throughout the house. ASHRAE recommends the temperature range between 73-79°F in summer.

IAQ MEASUREMENTS

Date	Location	CO ₂ (ppm)	Temp (°F)	RH (%)	Dew Point (F)	Wet Bulb (F)	CO (ppm)
8/13/2015	Outside	934	83.0	88	79	80	0.0
8/13/2015	Living Room	2,515	83	57	66	71	0.4
8/13/2015	Kitchen	3,145	82	58	66	71	1.3
8/13/2015	Patient's Bedroom	3,115	81	55	64	69	1.3
8/13/2015	Patient's Bedroom Bathroom	3,144	81	60	66	70	1.2

Key: ppm – parts per million

°F – degrees Fahrenheit

NOTE 1: CO₂ levels vary throughout the day but generally levels above 1000 ppm indicate a potential fresh air exchange iss

- **Particulate Matter (PM):** Particle counts of size 5.0–25 μm were very high throughout the house whereas particle counts of size 1.0–5.0 μm were noted to be slightly higher in the living room and patient’s bedroom. Ideally PM counts should be less than 100% of the PM counts taken outside.
- **Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):** Potential sources of VOCs such as cleaning chemicals, air fresheners, plug-in air fragrances and candles were observed throughout the house.

PARTICULATE MATTER (PM) COUNTS

Location/Use (see floor plan)	0.3–1.0 μm	% of outside 0.3–1.0 PM	1.0–5.0 μm	% of outside 1.0–5.0 PM	5.0–25 μm	% of outside 5.0–25.0 PM
Outside	121,763,190		1,502,192		34,287	
Living Room	577,730,765	98%	5,550,439	105%	34,424	546%
Kitchen	585,594,616	100%	5,280,498	100%	27,595	438%
Patient’s Bedroom	588,824,150	100%	6,390,980	121%	31,582	501%
Bathroom	584,032,028	99%	5,132,090	97%	12,246	194%

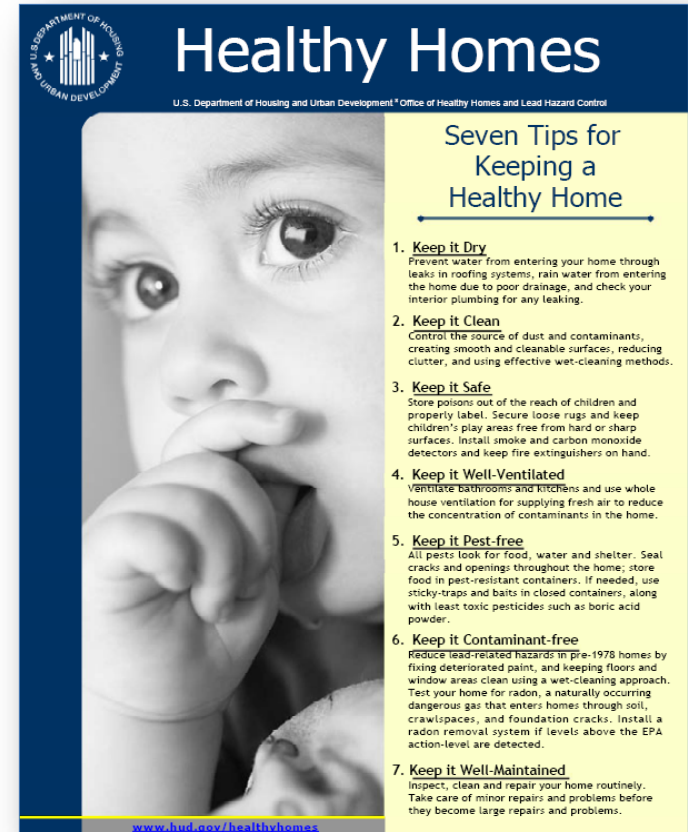
Key: μm – micrometer **PM** – particulate matter **N/A** – not applicable

NOTE: Samples were taken on 8/13/15 between 1:33-1:45 pm. Ideally PM counts should be less than 100% of the PM counts taken outside.

EH Clinic: Field Assessment

B C M E N V I R O N M E N T A L H E A L T H S E R V I C E

- Utilize “enhanced” Healthy Homes approach
- Keep it (7 principles)
 1. Dry
 2. Clean
 3. Safe
 4. Well ventilated
 5. Pest free
 6. Contaminant free
 7. Well maintained
- Our program also
 - Driven by clinical findings
 - Addresses relevant near neighborhood exposures
 - Obtains key measurements (humidity, CO, PM)



EH Clinic: Action Plan

■ *Integrated Action Plan*

– Develop with client

- Motivational Interviewing

– Up to 4 home visits over 1 year

- Implement exposure-reduction

– Protocols:

pest control,
moisture control

- Educate: Asthma self-management

– medical compliance,

– issues interfering with asthma control

» mental health, code violations

- Provide supplies : <\$350

EH# 0 P. 000 Date of Site Visit: Saturday, January 00, 1900

1.0 - Environmental Health Issues and Action Summary

The following issues were identified during the Environmental Health Assessment of your home. The issues described below are followed by some specific actions that are recommended to eliminate or minimize the impact an issue may be having on the indoor environmental health of your home. This action plan is intended to provide you with some specific things you can do to that, when completed, should improve the general health of your home's indoor environment and may improve the overall health of your family.

Mechanical Issues and Recommended Actions to take

Issue: Dirty fiber glass filter in use and visible dust observed on/around the heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system

Action(s):

- 1) Replace flat fiberglass furnace filters with a pleated furnace filter. Replace pleated furnace filter with a Maximum Efficiency Rating Value (MERV) rating of at least an 8. Pleated furnace filters should be replaced every three (3) months or per manufacturer's recommendations. This will help provide clean air within the home and also help filter out smaller particles, which can contribute to respiratory infections.
- 2) Safely clean areas on and around furnace by "damp dusting" or with a High Efficiency Particulate Air Filtered Vacuum (HEPA) to decrease the chances of pulling any unwanted dust or dirt into the system and distributing it throughout the home.

Issue: Incorrect angle of exhaust vent, corrosion/rust on burner cover and active water leak observed from drain valve on the hot water heater located in the basement area of the resident.

Action(s):

To prevent safety hazards, a licensed professional should assess the hot water heater and make necessary repairs to assure that it is functioning properly, the pilot light/burner panel cover is properly secured, gasses are exhausting properly through the vent and drain valve is not leaking.


Issue: List above exhaust

Action(s):

- 1) It is re and effice the home condensat
- 2) It is al to prevent increase

Children's Mercy Hospital

PHOTOS OF ISSUES



PARTICIPANT ACTION PLAN

GOAL (no more than 3):

Barriers:

Actions:

Support:

Rewards for Success

SOAP NOTES: optional

- Subjective
- Objective
- Assessment
- Plan

Referrals made:

• Supplies given: (check all given)

___ medicine box ___ green cleaning kit ___ spacer ___ peak flow meter ___mattress/pillow casings (Size: Circle one: single, double, queen, king) ___vacuum ___ HEPA filter machine

COMMENTS:

Other visit encounter form_122009 3

SUPPLIES BY BCM

up to \$350 per participant



- One (1) green cleaning kit
 - (bucket, 1 pair of latex free gloves spray bottle, vinegar, baking soda, dishing washing liquid, 4 bacterial sponges, micro-fiber dust cloths, etc.).

SUPPLIES AND SERVICES BCM: (2)



- Dust mite pillow cases, mattress covers

- Air filters- dust mite

- HEPA Vacuum: reusable

- Door mats: in & out

- Starter IPM kit: traps & glue boards



Supplies Provided to Patient AV



- Two (2) green cleaning kits
- Two (2) dust mite pillow cases.
- 20 x 16 x 1 Air filter
- HEPA Vac for school

AV: Conclusions & Recommendations

Tailored approach based upon:

Findings & Motivational Interviewing

- 10 point plan and 7 Healthy Homes Principles

- Agreed to 3 :

- remove fragrances & incense

- replace and buy new filters

- Mother will use bathrobe while smoking & leave outside

- Recommendations for school: General & specific

- Remove carpet &/or not have patient vacuum: use HEPA vac

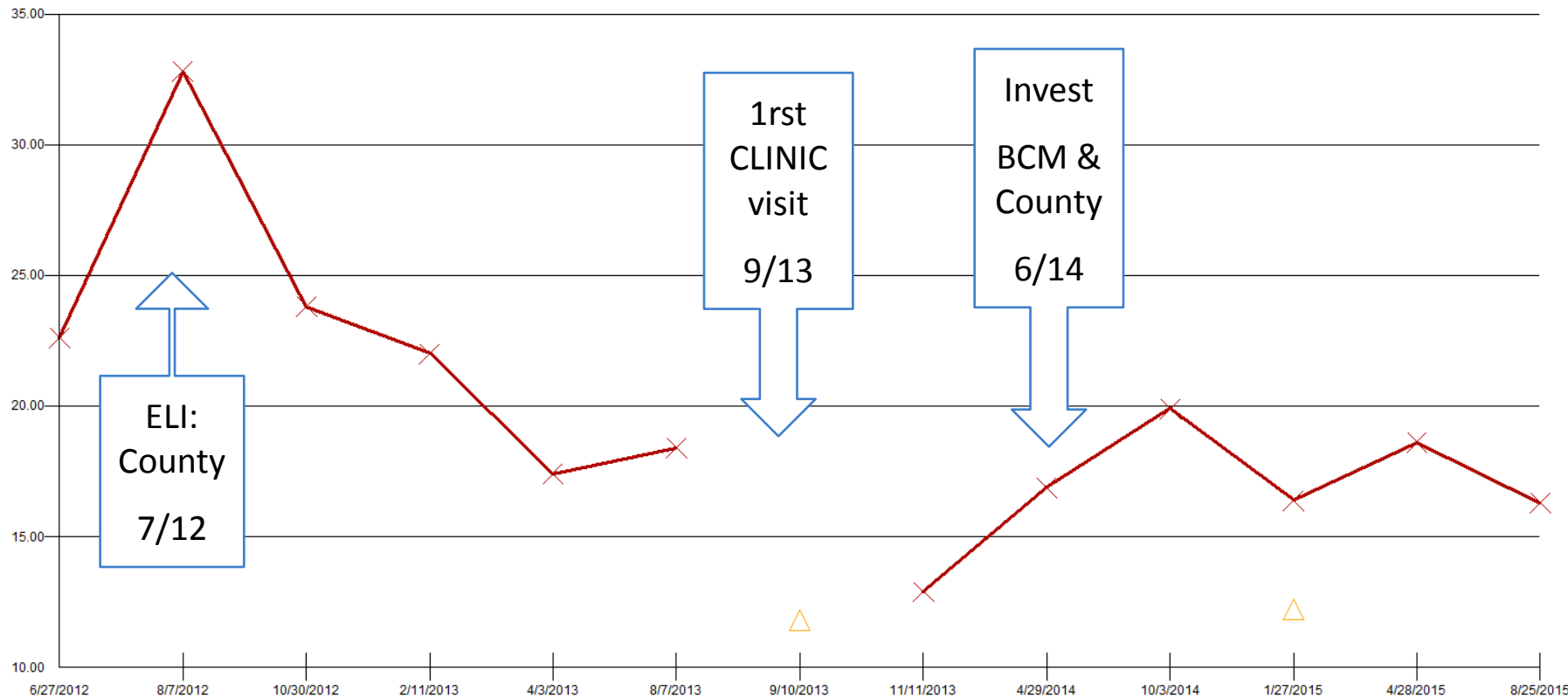
- Dust mite covers for all bedding

M family of 3: JM 6m/o, **PM 31m/o, AM: 4y/o

Persistent Elevated Lead Levels

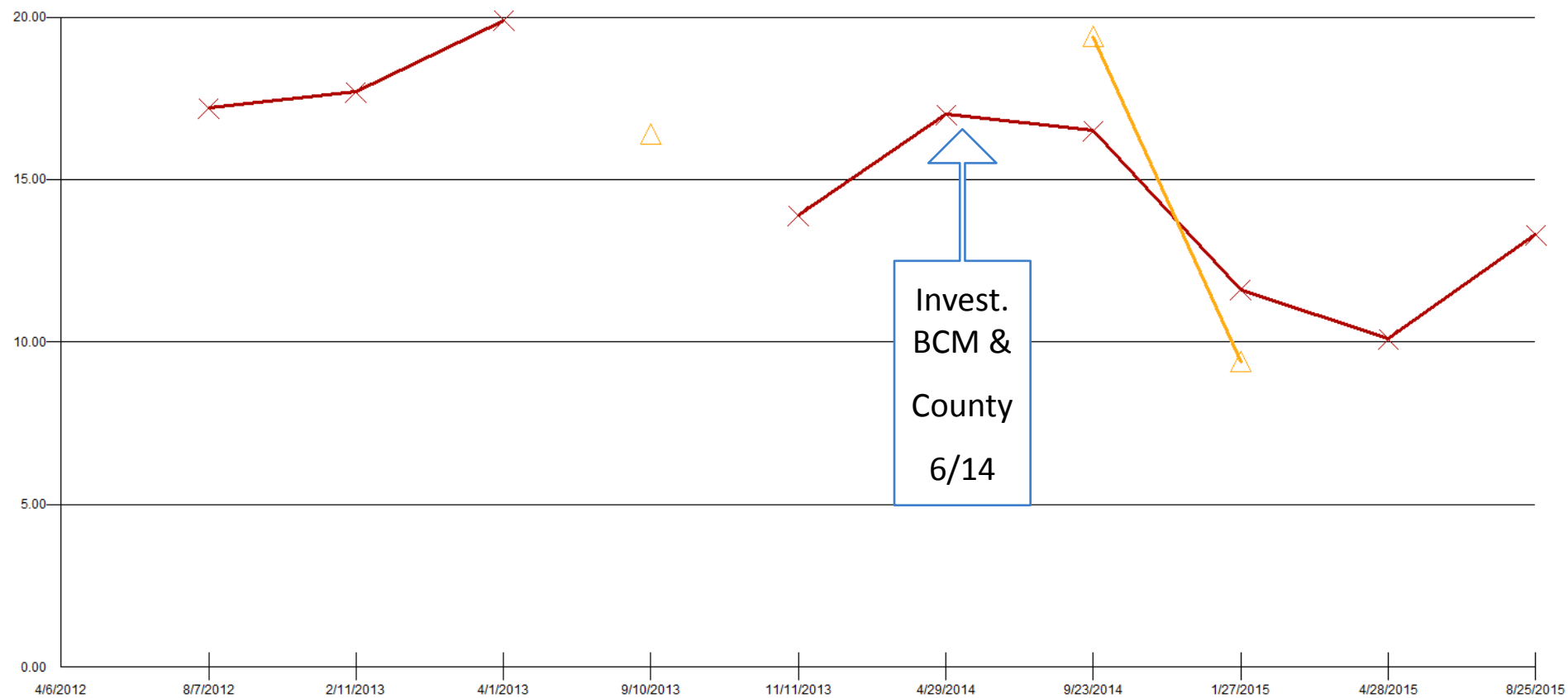
- Index was 31 m/o PM, tested at first wcv
- Lead risks Hx:
 - foreign food and candy from Mexico and locally;
 - Dad initially new home construction; later pipes petro industry, denied lead
- ELI of trailer by County: dust wipe sl. + Master BR floor
 - XRF all negative incl. toys; dust wipes: other negative soil: neg ; vinyl mini blind: not tested
- Environmental risks by Hx:
 - cockroaches, w/o smoke detector, > 2 hr TV

PM persistent elevated lead: INDEX @ 31 mos 1rst check up 6/12-8/15

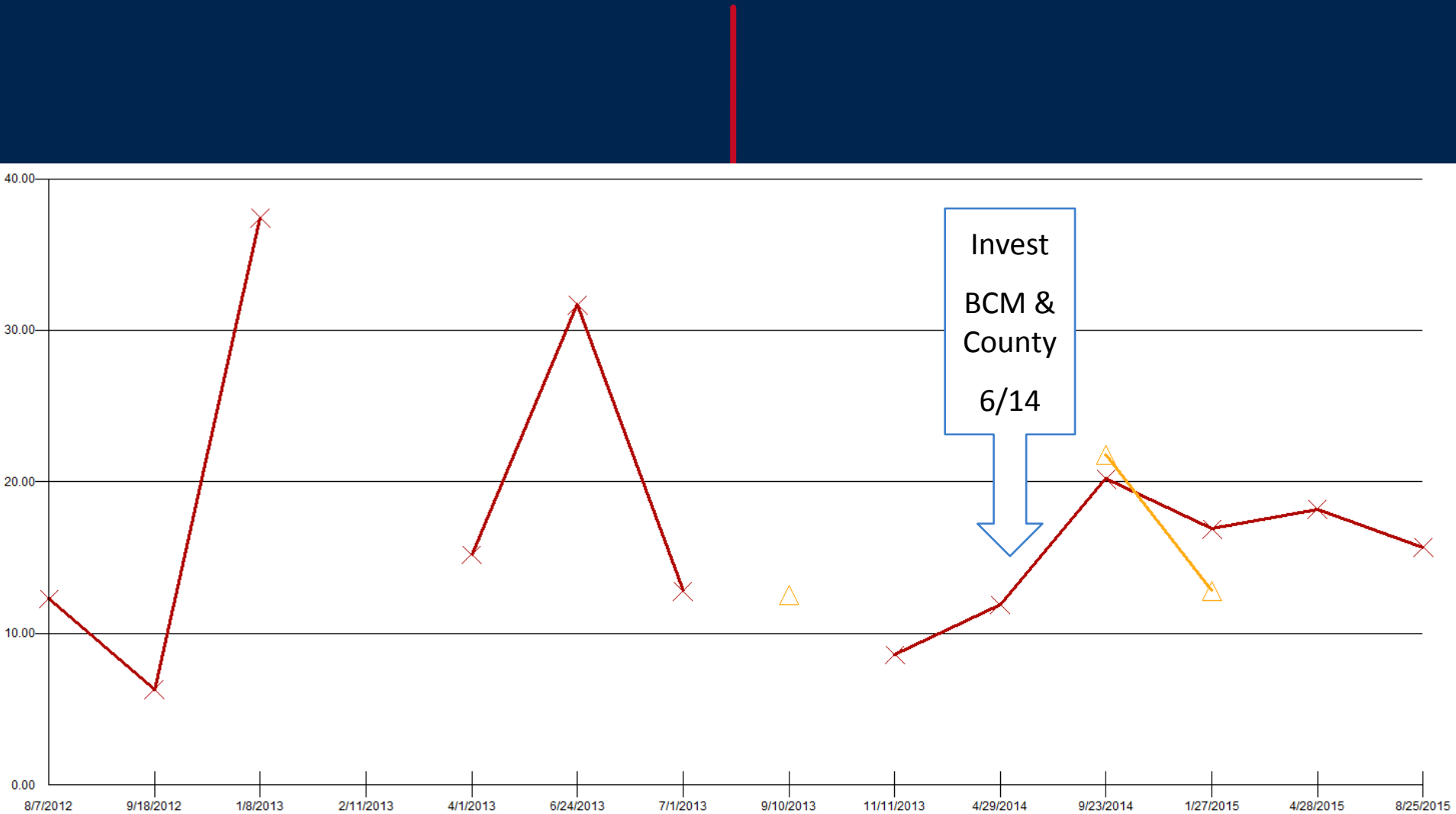


AM: persistent elevated lead: 4/12: < 3ug/dl -8/15

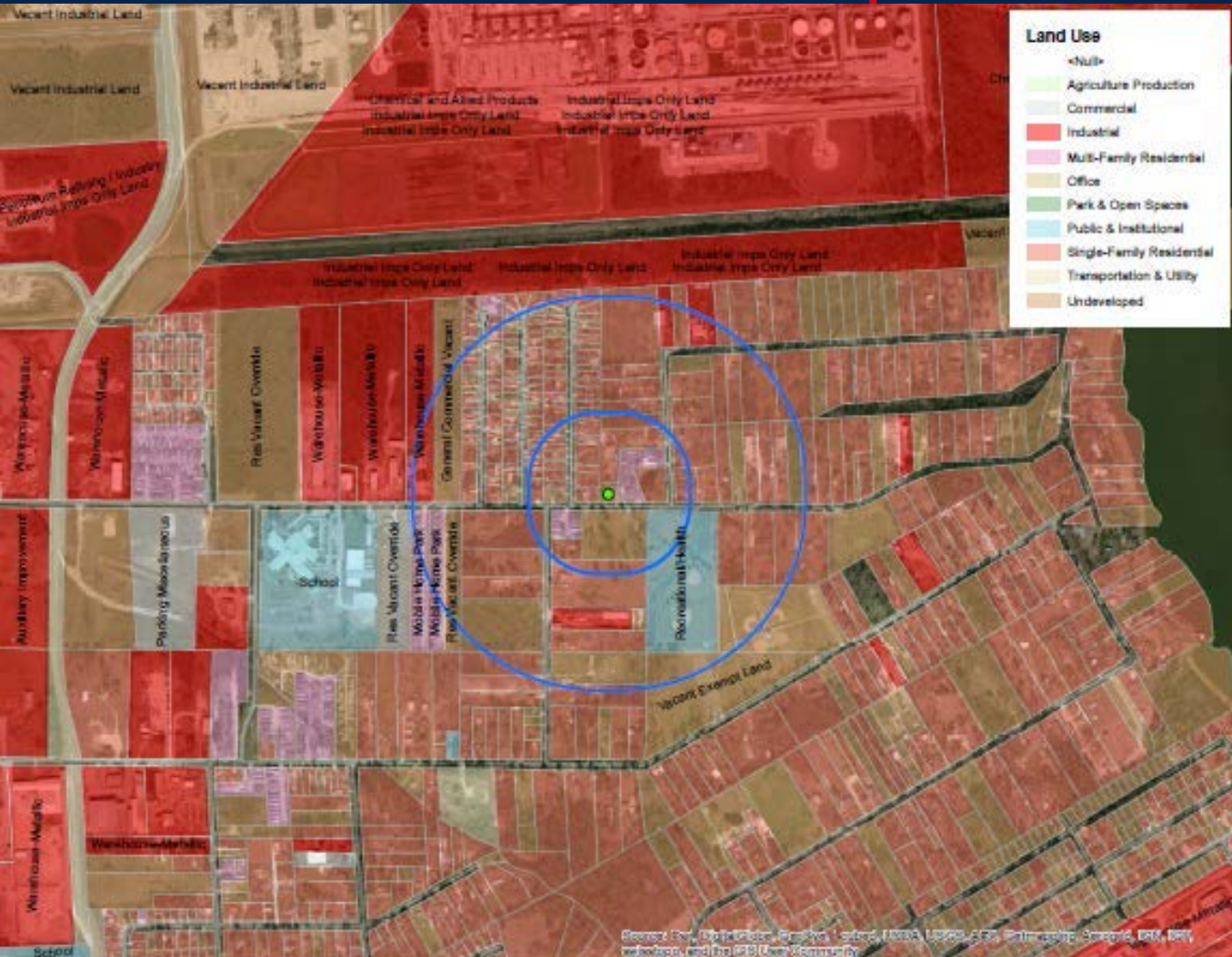
Flowsheet Data

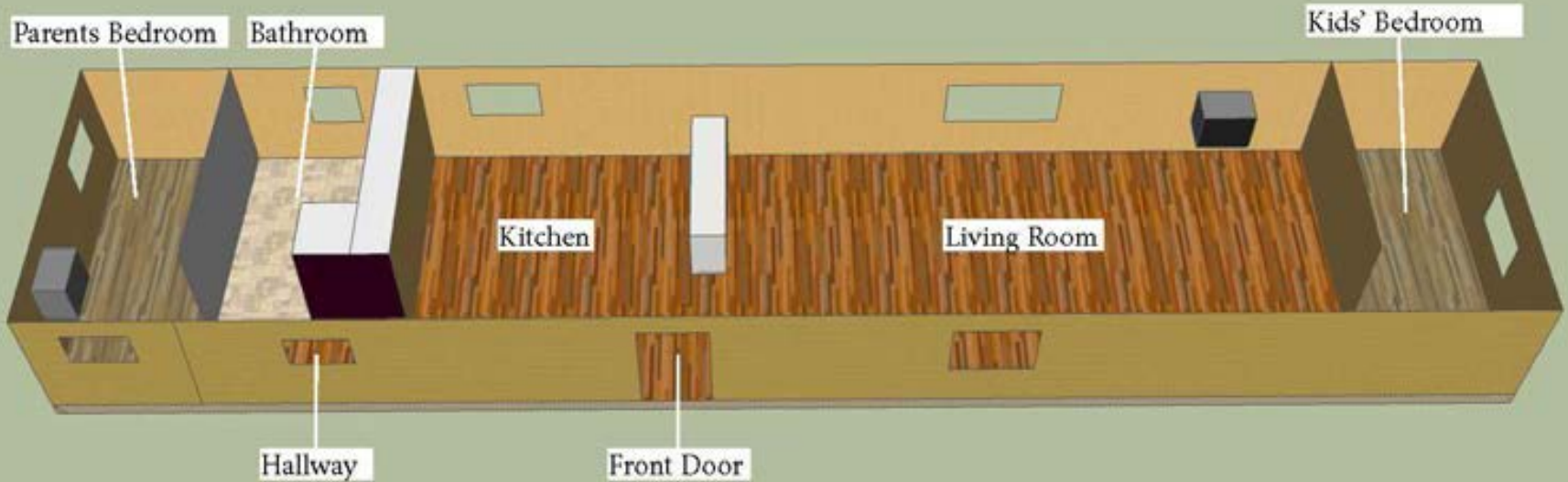


JM Persistent Elevated Lead: 8/12-8/15



M Family: GSI- **multi industrial & chemical sites w/i 2 miles, metal warehouse w/i 1 mile **, *multi* and single family





BCM: Invest.: 6/14; BCM & County: 9/14

•Pb:

- Dad present & describes work in metal industry type unknown
 - Dad: POC Pb: > 50ug/dl; older sibs elevated

•General :

- evidence of rodent & cockroach: IPM
- Increased: CO₂, particles, and humidity: incr. circulation, door mats for dust control; uncovered plugs: covers;

•County & BCM 3 mos. later- Dust wipes:

- living room couch cushion 120 ug/ft², kitchen chair 54ug/ft², master bedroom sheet 88 ug/ft², father automobile seat 120

M Family Plan & Status:

- Dad: seek medical care-
- Father: changes clothes and wash at work
- Father: make anonymous referral to OSHA
 - Work providing PPE and all precautions.
- Father sold his work vehicle

Environmental Home Visits : Pediatric Residents : Objectives

Community Pediatrics Rotation:

- Learn about environmental health & children
- **Learn to take an Environmental History:**
- Participate Home Visit with **environmental public health specialist**
- Become familiar with and provide **resources to the family to address environmental risks**

Resident Environmental training and home visit

All residents receive:

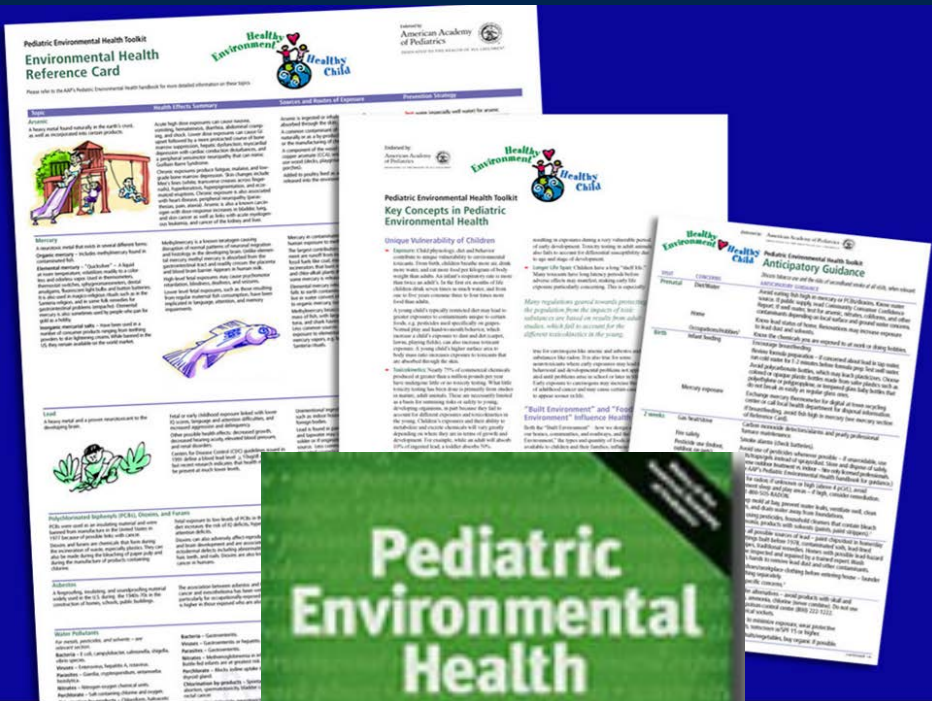
- An electronic orientation with links to all resources

- AAP Green Book

- PSR Environmental Health Tool Kit

- Environ. Reference card-

- Anticipatory guidance card



Take the ATSDR Pediatric Environmental Health Tool Kit Module

Pediatric Environmental Health Toolkit

Training Overview

Disclosure Statement

ATSDR/CDC, our planners, and our presenters wish to disclose they have no financial interests or other relationships with the manufacturers of commercial products, suppliers of commercial services, or commercial supporters.

Presentations will not include any discussion of the unlabeled use of a product or a product under investigational use.

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~ Discloser statement

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<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/emes/training/page9.html>
<http://www.psr.org/resources/pediatric-toolkit.html>

Pediatric Environmental History (0-18 Years of Age)

The Screening Environmental History

For all of the questions below, most are often asked about the child's primary residence. Although some questions may specify certain locations, one should always consider all places where the child spends time, such as daycare centers, schools, and relative's houses.

Where does your child live and spend most of his/her time?	_____
What are the age, condition, and location of your home?	_____
Does anyone in the family smoke?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Do you have a carbon monoxide detector?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Do you have any indoor furry pets?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
What type of heating/air system does your home have?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Radiator <input type="checkbox"/> Forced air <input type="checkbox"/> Gas stove <input type="checkbox"/> Wood stove <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
What is the source of your drinking water?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Well water <input type="checkbox"/> City water <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled water	
Is your child protected from excessive sun exposure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Is your child exposed to any toxic chemicals of which you are aware?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
What are the occupations of all adults in the household?	_____
Have you tested your home for radon?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Does your child watch TV, or use a computer or video game system more than two hours a day?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
How many times a week does your child have unstructured, free play outside for at least 60 minutes?	_____
Do you have any other questions or concerns about your child's home environment or symptoms that may be a result of his or her environment?	_____

Follow up/ Notes

The Screening Environmental History is taken in part from the following sources:

- American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health. Pediatric Environmental Health 2nd ed. Etzel RA, Balk SJ, Eds. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2003. Chapter 4: How to Take an Environmental History.
- Balk SJ. The environmental history: asking the right questions. *Contemp Pediatr*. 1996;13:19-36.
- Frank A, Balk S, Carter W, et al. Case Studies in Environmental Medicine. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Atlanta GA. 1992, rev. 2000. Taking an Exposure History.

This screening environmental history is designed to capture most of the common environmental exposures to children. The screening history can be administered regularly during well-child exams as well as to assess whether an environmental exposure plays a role in a child's symptoms. If a positive response is given to one or more of the screening questions, the primary care provider can consider asking questions on the topic provided in the Additional Categories and Questions to Supplement the Screening Environmental History, accessible at www.neefusa.org/pdf/PEHhistory.pdf.

Call Family: Administer NEEF History

http://www.neefusa.org/pdf/PedEnvHistoryForm_complete.pdf

<http://www.neefusa.org/health/PEH/index.htm>

Introduces you to NEEF's Pediatric Environmental History Initiative

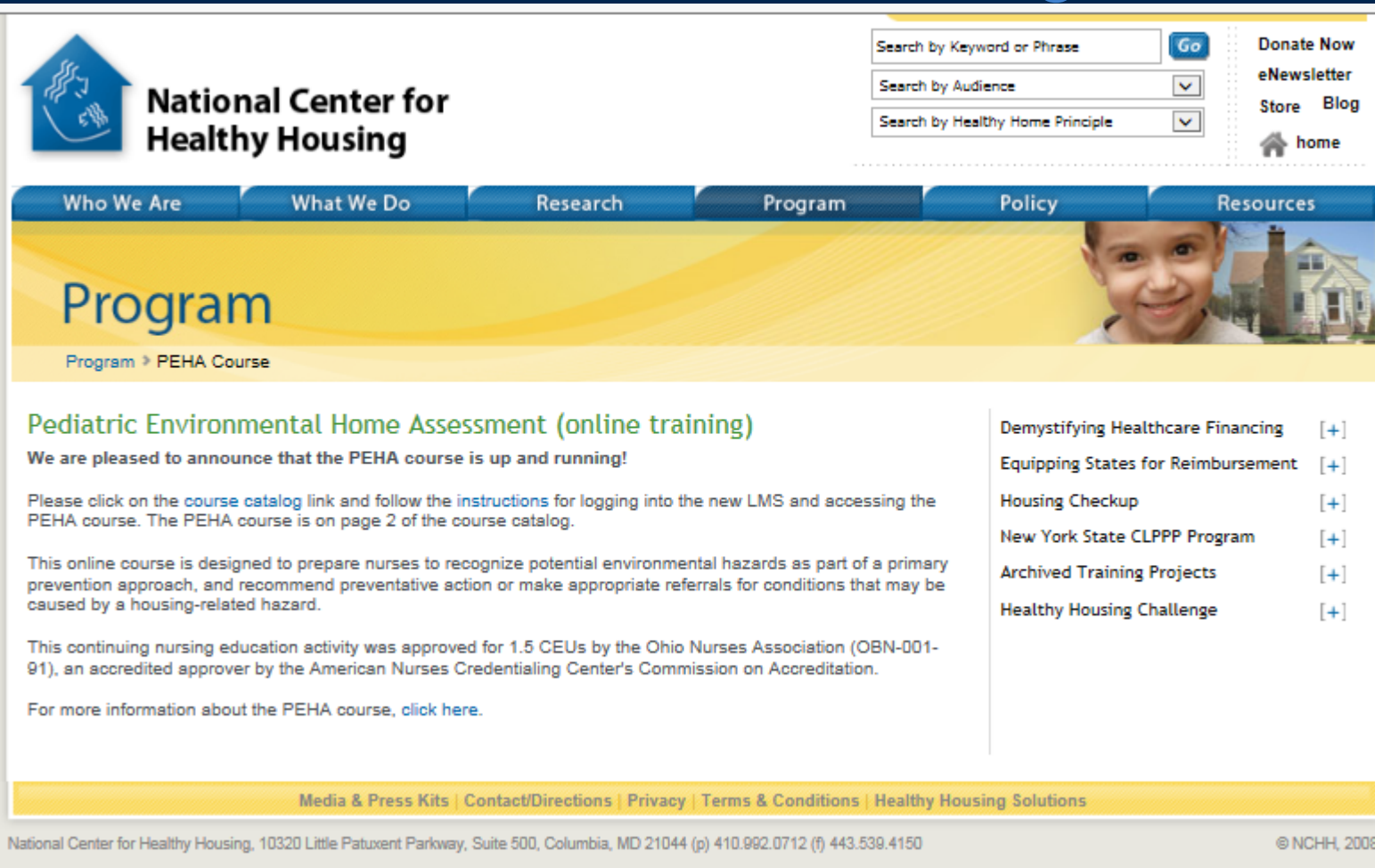


Pediatrics



Baylor
College of
Medicine

Pediatric Environmental Home Assessment : Online training



National Center for Healthy Housing

Search by Keyword or Phrase
Search by Audience
Search by Healthy Home Principle

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eNewsletter
Store Blog
home

Who We Are | What We Do | Research | **Program** | Policy | Resources

Program

Program > PEHA Course

Pediatric Environmental Home Assessment (online training)

We are pleased to announce that the PEHA course is up and running!

Please click on the [course catalog](#) link and follow the [instructions](#) for logging into the new LMS and accessing the PEHA course. The PEHA course is on page 2 of the course catalog.

This online course is designed to prepare nurses to recognize potential environmental hazards as part of a primary prevention approach, and recommend preventative action or make appropriate referrals for conditions that may be caused by a housing-related hazard.

This continuing nursing education activity was approved for 1.5 CEUs by the Ohio Nurses Association (OBN-001-91), an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

For more information about the PEHA course, [click here](#).

- Demystifying Healthcare Financing [+]
- Equipping States for Reimbursement [+]
- Housing Checkup [+]
- New York State CLPPP Program [+]
- Archived Training Projects [+]
- Healthy Housing Challenge [+]

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National Center for Healthy Housing, 10320 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 500, Columbia, MD 21044 (p) 410.992.0712 (f) 443.539.4150 © NCHH, 2008

<http://www.nchh.org/Program/PEHACourse.aspx>

Site Visit:

Pediatric Environmental Home Assessment HOME VISIT EXERCISE ANSWER SHEET

RESIDENT REPORTED INFORMATION

Bolded responses indicate areas of greater concern.

General Housing Characteristics

Type of ownership	<input type="checkbox"/> Own house	<input type="checkbox"/> Market rate rental bsg.	<input type="checkbox"/> Subsidized rental bsg.	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelter	
Age of home	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-1950	<input type="checkbox"/> 1950 -1978	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-1978	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	
Structural foundation	<input type="checkbox"/> Basement	<input type="checkbox"/> Slab on grade	<input type="checkbox"/> Crawlspace	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	
Floors lived in (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Basement	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd or higher	
Heating	Fuel used	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural gas / LPG	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood
	Sources in home	<input type="checkbox"/> Radiators	<input type="checkbox"/> Forced hot air vents	<input type="checkbox"/> Space heater or oven	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
	Filters changed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> No filter
	Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy to control heat	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard to control heat		
Cooling	<input type="checkbox"/> Windows	<input type="checkbox"/> Central/window AC	<input type="checkbox"/> Fans	<input type="checkbox"/> None	
Ventilation (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Opens windows	<input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen & bathroom fans	<input type="checkbox"/> Central ventilation		

NOTES:



Indoor Pollutants

Mold and moisture	<input type="checkbox"/> Uses dehumidifier <input type="checkbox"/> No damage	<input type="checkbox"/> Uses vaporizer or humidifier	<input type="checkbox"/> Musty odor evident	<input type="checkbox"/> Visible water / mold damage	
Pet	Presence	<input type="checkbox"/> No pets	<input type="checkbox"/> Cat # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
	Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Kept strictly outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/> Not allowed in patient's bedroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Full access in home	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping location: _____
Pests	Cockroaches	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Family reports	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence seen	Present in <input type="checkbox"/> kitchen <input type="checkbox"/> bedroom <input type="checkbox"/> other
	Mice	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Family reports	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence seen	Present in <input type="checkbox"/> kitchen <input type="checkbox"/> bedroom <input type="checkbox"/> other
	Rats	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Family reports	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence seen	Present in <input type="checkbox"/> kitchen <input type="checkbox"/> bedroom <input type="checkbox"/> other
	Bedbugs	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Family reports	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence seen	Present in <input type="checkbox"/> bedroom <input type="checkbox"/> other
Lead paint hazards	<input type="checkbox"/> Tested and passed	<input type="checkbox"/> Tested, failed, and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not tested/Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Loose, peeling, or chipping paint	
Asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/> Tested – None present	<input type="checkbox"/> Tested, failed, and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not tested/Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Damaged material	
Radon	<input type="checkbox"/> Tested and passed	<input type="checkbox"/> Tested, failed, and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/> Not tested/Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Failed test but not mitigated	
Health and Safety Alarms	<input type="checkbox"/> Smoke alarm working and well placed	<input type="checkbox"/> CO alarm working and one on each floor	<input type="checkbox"/> CO alarm does not log peak level	<input type="checkbox"/> No smoke alarm <input type="checkbox"/> No CO alarm	
Tobacco smoke exposure	<input type="checkbox"/> No smoking allowed	<input type="checkbox"/> Smoking only allowed outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/> Smoking allowed indoors <input type="checkbox"/> bedroom <input type="checkbox"/> playroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Total # smokers in household: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Mother smokes	
Other irritants	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Air fresheners	<input type="checkbox"/> Potpourri, incense, candles	<input type="checkbox"/> Other strong odors: _____	
Type of cleaning	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard Vacuum (non HEPA)	<input type="checkbox"/> HEPA vacuum	<input type="checkbox"/> Damp mop and damp dusting	<input type="checkbox"/> Sweep or dry mop	
Cleaning products used	<input type="checkbox"/> Labeled non-toxic	<input type="checkbox"/> Bleach	<input type="checkbox"/> Ammonia	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	

- Administer Pediatric Environmental Home Assessment



PEHA_Survey_RE
VISED_Oct_09.doc



Texas Children's
Hospital®

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RESIDENT home visit:

4 children: 3,4,7, 9;

2 with autism

Mom pregnant

What did they find?

Or let's find Waldo!

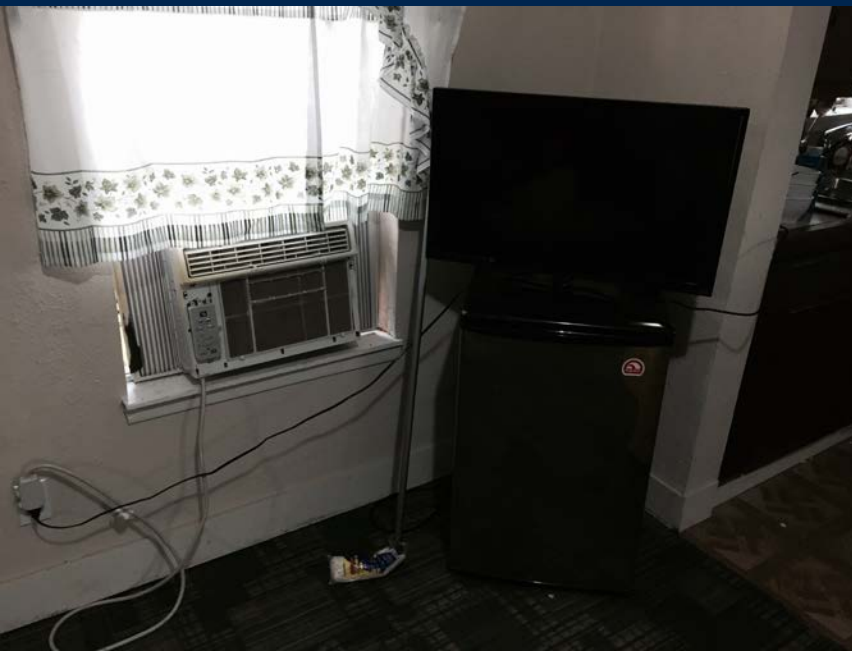


Resident Visit: Debris, trampoline, air conditioner, standing water,



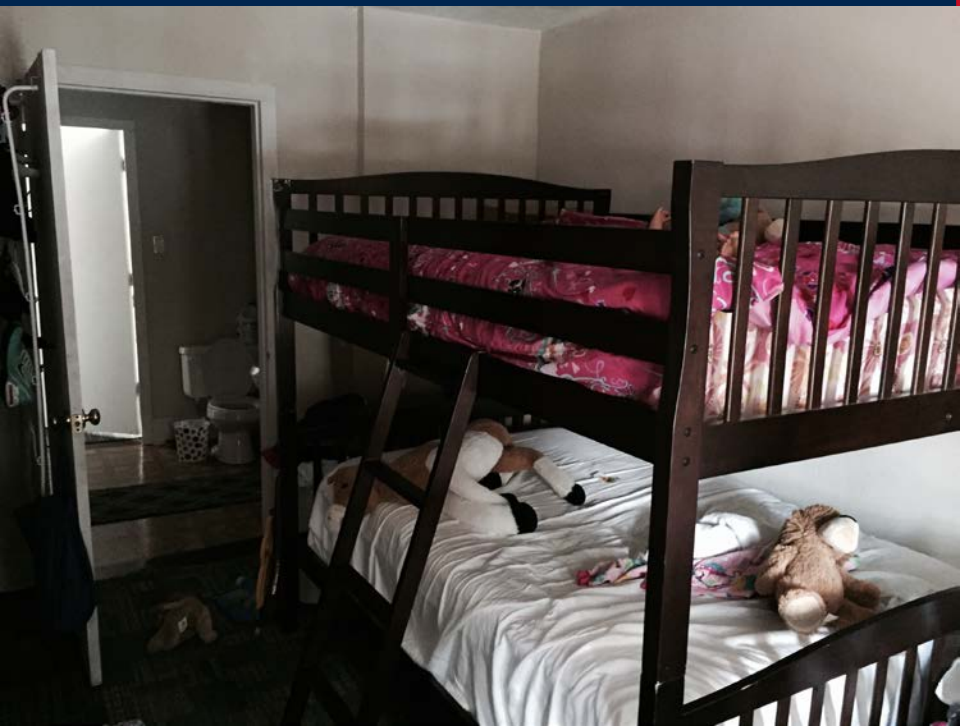
Resident Visit:

- TV unsecure
- Electric Cords
- Burglar bars
- Electric hot plate



Resident Visit:

- Bunk Beds
- Crib with bumper guards



CARE PLAN: With home inspector

Pediatric Environmental Home Assessment Form

NURSING CARE PLAN

After completing the assessment, use this as a guide for patient education and recommending corrective action.

General Housing Characteristics

CONCERN	NURSE TO DO	FAMILY TO DO
Age of home	<input type="checkbox"/> If built before 1978, educate as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Home is likely to have lead paint. ○ Lead hazards can be harmful to young children's health and development. ○ If family has a child less than six years old then it is important to test for lead hazards. <input type="checkbox"/> Get more information about lead testing at www.epa.gov/lead/ and provide to family. <input type="checkbox"/> Review items in "Family To Do" column with family.	<input type="checkbox"/> If your child is less than six years old, contact the childhood lead poisoning prevention program (CLPPP) at your state and local departments of health. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider getting a lead paint inspection or risk assessment to determine whether there are lead hazards in your home. <input type="checkbox"/> If there are hazards, repair them based on state and local regulations and requirements. Consult with state CLPPP.
Heating source - Other: Kerosene heaters, space heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves	<input type="checkbox"/> Counsel family about the dangers of such heating sources in terms of fire safety and indoor air quality. <input type="checkbox"/> Get more information about indoor air quality and combustion sources in the home at http://www.epa.gov/iaq/combust.html and provide to family. <input type="checkbox"/> Review items in "Family To Do" column with family.	<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure kerosene heaters are vented to the outdoors or not used. <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure space heaters are at least 3 feet from anything flammable. <input type="checkbox"/> When necessary, use only 12 or 14 gauge extension cords (the lower the better). <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that there is a good seal on fireplace screen or woodstove doors.
Filters	<input type="checkbox"/> Counsel family to do proper filter maintenance. <input type="checkbox"/> Review items in "Family To Do" column with family.	<input type="checkbox"/> Change filters quarterly. <input type="checkbox"/> Use filters which are rated MERV 10.

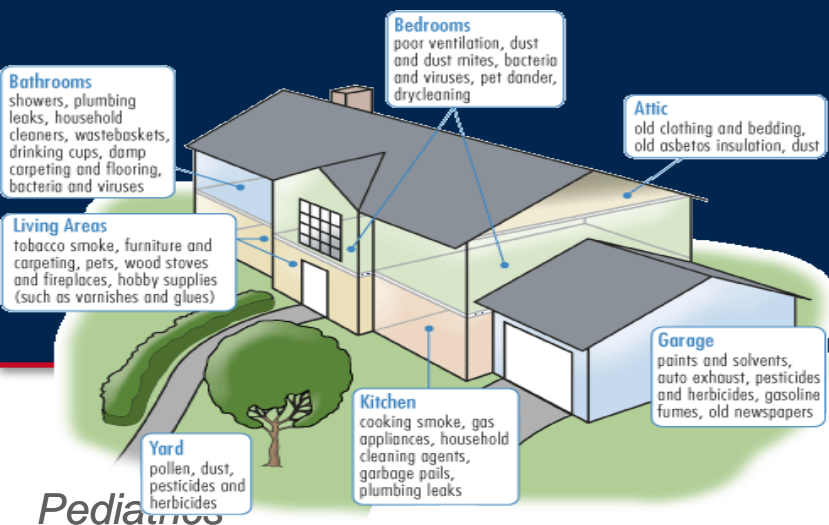
Indoor Pollutants

CONCERN	NURSE TO DO	FAMILY TO DO
Vaporizers/Humidifiers	<input type="checkbox"/> Counsel the family about the importance of proper vaporizer/humidifier maintenance and impact of mold growth on patient health. <input type="checkbox"/> Get more information about humidifier maintenance at http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/humidif.html and provide to family. <input type="checkbox"/> Review items in "Family To Do" column with family.	<input type="checkbox"/> Change the water daily with clean cold water. <input type="checkbox"/> Use distilled or demineralized water. <input type="checkbox"/> Clean humidifier every 3 days. Follow manufacturer's instructions. <input type="checkbox"/> Change filter regularly. Follow manufacturer's instructions. Change more often if dirty. <input type="checkbox"/> Keep surrounding area dry. <input type="checkbox"/> Drain and clean humidifier before storing. <input type="checkbox"/> Only run humidifier a few hours a day to avoid mold growth.
Mold/Musty odor	<input type="checkbox"/> Educate family about the importance of keeping things dry and the impact of mold on family health. <input type="checkbox"/> Get more information at http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldguide.html and provide to family. <input type="checkbox"/> Review items in "Family To Do" column with family.	<input type="checkbox"/> Any mold or musty odor must be investigated for a source of water. Examine plumbing, roofing, or other possible leaks. <input type="checkbox"/> If homeowner, then make necessary repairs. <input type="checkbox"/> If renter, then talk with your landlord about needed repairs. Consider calling the local board of health for possible code violations.

http://www.nchh.org/Portals/0/PEHA_Blank_Nursing_Action_Plan.pdf

Conclusions:

- Identify who benefits from home visits.
- Describe basic elements of home visits per client
- Explain how learners can participate & learn from home visits



THE TEAMS:

•Bureau of Community & Children's Environmental Health

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Mayann Barthelemy:

Jyothi Domakonda.

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- **Winifred Hamilton: Dir.**

- **Rebecca Bruhl: Assoc. Dir.**

- Maggie Abitua: Pt. Serv. Coor.

- Jamie Boles: Admin

- Allison Carr: Recycling & sustainability

- Ronilla Ernest: Environ Hygienist

- LaSondra Hampton: CHW

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- Ashley Ugarte: Res. Coord.

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- Kilian Williams: Clinical Case Manager



**Texas Children's
Hospital**

**Baylor
College of
Medicine**

1. PAHC Environmental Health Clinic
- 2. Evidence Base**
 - Exposure History
 - Intervention (Home-based Exposure Reduction)
 - ROI (Return on Investment)
 - Programs (Programs Elsewhere)
3. Future Plans / Challenges
4. Questions / Comments

“For successful long-term management of asthma, it is essential to identify and reduce exposures to relevant allergens and irritants and to control factors that have been shown to increase asthma symptoms and/or precipitate asthma exacerbations.”

*National Asthma Education and Prevention Program,
Third Expert Panel on the Diagnosis and
Management of Asthma, NHLBI, August 2007
(EPR-3)*

■ Growing awareness of key role of environmental health hazards in disease and susceptibility

– E.g., in asthmatic children...

- Residential NO_2 from gas stoves assoc w inc (Belanger et al, 2013)
 - Asthma severity score (OR 1.37)
 - Wheeze (OR 1.49)
 - Night symptoms (OR 1.52)
 - Rescue medication use (OR 1.78)
- Residential proximity to roadways assoc w inc wheezing, hospitalizations, & inflam biomarkers (Brown et al, 2012)
- Prenatal BPA assoc w development of atopic asthma (Nakajima et al, 2012)



■ Improved outcome associated with

- Patient-centered approaches (Press et al, 2012; Chin et al, 2012)
- Better patient-clinician communication (Schatz et al, 2012, Apter et al, 1998)
- Addressing barriers to environmental control measures (Gergen et al, 1999; Schatz and Zeiger 2012)

JGIM

SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM: INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE



A Roadmap and Best Practices for Organizations to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care

Marshall H. Chin, MD, MPH^{1,2,3}, Amanda R. Clarke, MPH^{1,2}, Robert S. Nocon, MHS^{1,2,3}, Alicia A. Casey, MPH^{1,2}, Anna P. Goddu, MSc^{1,2,3}, Nicole M. Keesecker, MA^{1,2}, and Scott C. Cook, PhD^{1,2}

¹Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change National Program Office, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA; ²Center for Health and the Social Sciences, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA; ³Section of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA.

Over the past decade, researchers have shifted their focus from documenting health care disparities to identifying solutions to close the gap in care. Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is charged with identifying promising interventions to reduce disparities. Based on our work conducting systematic reviews of the literature, evaluating promising practices, and providing technical assistance to health care organizations, we present a roadmap for reducing racial and ethnic disparities in care. The roadmap outlines a dynamic process in which individual interventions are just one part. It highlights that organizations and providers need to take responsibility for reducing disparities, establish a general infrastructure and culture to improve quality, and integrate targeted disparities interventions into quality improvement efforts. Additionally, we summarize the major lessons learned through the Finding Answers program. We share best practices for implementing disparities interventions and synthesize cross-cutting themes from 12 systematic reviews of the literature. Our research shows that promising interventions frequently are culturally tailored to meet patients' needs, employ multidisciplinary teams of care providers, and target multiple leverage points along a patient's pathway of care. Health education that uses interactive techniques to deliver skills training appears to be more effective than traditional didactic approaches. Furthermore, patient navigation and engaging family and community members in the health care process may improve outcomes for minority patients. We anticipate that the roadmap and best practices will be useful for organizations, policymakers, and researchers striving to provide high-quality equitable care.

KEY WORDS: disparities; quality of care; race; intervention; equity.
J Gen Intern Med 2012;92:992-1000
DOI: 10.1007/s11606-012-2082-9
© Society of General Internal Medicine 2012

In 2005, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) created Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change (www.solvingdisparities.org) as part of its portfolio of initiatives to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care.¹ RWJF charged Finding Answers with three major functions: administer grants to evaluate interventions to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in care, perform systematic reviews of the literature to determine what works for reducing disparities, and disseminate these findings nationally. Over the past seven years, Finding Answers has funded 33 research projects and performed 12 systematic literature reviews, including the five papers in this symposium.²⁻⁶ We are now beginning to leverage this research base to provide technical assistance to organizations that are implementing disparities reduction interventions, such as those participating in RWJF's Aligning Forces for Quality program.⁷

This paper summarizes the major lessons learned from the systematic reviews and provides a disparities reduction framework. Building on our prior work,⁸⁻¹⁰ we present a roadmap for organizations seeking to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care. This roadmap may be tailored for use across diverse health care settings, such as private practices, managed care organizations, academic medical centers, public health departments, and federally qualified health centers. Specifically, we outline the following steps:

- 1) Recognize disparities and commit to reducing them
- 2) Implement a basic quality improvement structure and process
- 3) Make equity an integral component of quality improvement efforts

Electronic supplementary material The online version of this article ([doi:10.1007/s11606-012-2082-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-012-2082-9)) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

■ Improved outcome associated with

- Patient-centered approaches (Press et al, 2012; Chin et al, 2012)
- Better patient-clinician communication (Schatz et al, 2012, Apter et al, 1998)
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JGIM

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Marshall H. Chin, MD, MPH^{1,2,3}, Amanda R. Clarke, MPH^{1,2}, Robert S. Nocon, MHS^{1,2,3}, Alicia A. Casey, MPH^{1,2}, Anna P. Goddu, MSc^{1,2,3}, Nicole M. Keesecker, MA^{1,2}, and Scott C. Cook, PhD^{1,2}

¹Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change National Program Office, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA; ²Center for Health and the Social Sciences, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA; ³Section of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA.

Over the past decade, researchers have shifted their focus from documenting health care disparities to identifying solutions to close the gap in care. Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is charged with identifying promising interventions to reduce disparities. Based on our work conducting systematic reviews of the literature, evaluating promising practices, and providing technical assistance to health care organizations, we present a roadmap for reducing racial and ethnic disparities in care. The roadmap outlines a dynamic process in which individual interventions are just one part. It highlights that organizations and providers need to take responsibility for reducing disparities, establish a general infrastructure and culture to improve quality, and integrate targeted disparities interventions into quality improvement efforts. Additionally, we summarize the major lessons learned through the Finding Answers program. We share best practices for implementing disparities interventions and synthesize cross-cutting themes from 12 systematic reviews of the literature. Our research shows that promising interventions frequently are culturally tailored to meet patients' needs, employ multidisciplinary teams of care providers, and target multiple leverage points along a patient's pathway of care. Health education that uses interactive techniques to deliver skills training appears to be more effective than traditional didactic approaches. Furthermore, patient navigation and engaging family and community members in the health care process may improve outcomes for minority patients. We anticipate that the roadmap and best practices will be useful for organizations, policymakers, and researchers striving to provide high-quality equitable care.

KEY WORDS: disparities; quality of care; race; intervention; equity.
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In 2005, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) created Finding Answers: Disparities Research for Change (www.solvingdisparities.org) as part of its portfolio of initiatives to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care.¹ RWJF charged Finding Answers with three major functions: administer grants to evaluate interventions to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in care, perform systematic reviews of the literature to determine what works for reducing disparities, and disseminate these findings nationally. Over the past seven years, Finding Answers has funded 33 research projects and performed 12 systematic literature reviews, including the five papers in this symposium.²⁻⁶ We are now beginning to leverage this research base to provide technical assistance to organizations that are implementing disparities reduction interventions, such as those participating in RWJF's Aligning Forces for Quality program.⁷

This paper summarizes the major lessons learned from the systematic reviews and provides a disparities reduction framework. Building on our prior work,⁸⁻¹⁰ we present a roadmap for organizations seeking to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care. This roadmap may be tailored for use across diverse health care settings, such as private practices, managed care organizations, academic medical centers, public health departments, and federally qualified health centers. Specifically, we outline the following steps:

- 1) Recognize disparities and commit to reducing them
- 2) Implement a basic quality improvement structure and process
- 3) Make equity an integral component of quality improvement efforts

Electronic supplementary material The online version of this article ([doi:10.1007/s11606-012-2082-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-012-2082-9)) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

Evidence Base: Exposure Hx

B C M E N V I R O N M E N T A L H E A L T H S E R V I C E

“Only way to address immense cost of chronic disease [e.g., asthma] in US is to address the “environmental health gap.”

Pew Environmental Health Commission, 2001

- **Key issues perpetuating the EH gap:**
 - Physicians have little/no training in EH
 - Most unable to take an EH Hx, which often leads to misdiagnoses and continuing exposure
 - Prevention underfunded, not profitable
 - Little or no training in EH during medical school
 - 86.1% TMA PCPs received no training in EH Hx taking (Hamilton 2005)
 - Public health requires different expertise/interest



- **CDC Task Force on Community Preventive Services (Crocker et al, 2011)**
 - Based on 23 studies (20 children)
 - Strong evidence of effectiveness of home-based, multi-trigger, multicomponent environmental interventions in
 - Reducing symptom days (21/yr)
 - Improving QOL/symp scores (16.5%)
 - Reducing school days missed (12.3/yr)
 - Benefit-cost ratios: 5.3–14.0

Effectiveness of Home-Based, Multi-Trigger, Multicomponent Interventions with an Environmental Focus for Reducing Asthma Morbidity: A Community Guide Systematic Review

Deidre D. Crocker, MD, Stella Kinyota, MD, MPH, Gema G. Dumitru, MD, MPH, Colin B. Ligon, MD, Elizabeth J. Herman, MD, MPH, Jill M. Ferdinands, PhD, David P. Hopkins, MD, MPH, Briana M. Lawrence, MPH, Theresa A. Sipe, PhD, MPH, Task Force on Community Preventive Services

Context: Asthma exacerbations are commonly triggered by exposure to allergens and irritants within the home. The purpose of this review was to evaluate evidence that interventions that target reducing these triggers through home visits may be beneficial in improving asthma outcomes. The interventions involve home visits by trained personnel to conduct two or more components that address asthma triggers in the home. Intervention components focus on reducing exposures to a range of asthma triggers (allergens and irritants) through environmental assessment, education, and remediation.

Evidence acquisition: Using methods previously developed for the *Guide to Community Preventive Services*, a systematic review was conducted to evaluate the evidence on effectiveness of home-based, multi-trigger, multicomponent interventions with an environmental focus to improve asthma-related morbidity outcomes. The literature search identified over 10,800 citations. Of these, 23 studies met intervention and quality criteria for inclusion in the final analysis.

Evidence synthesis: In the 20 studies targeting children and adolescents, the number of days with asthma symptoms (symptom-days) was reduced by 0.8 days per 2 weeks, which is equivalent to 21.0 symptom-days per year (range of values: reduction of 0.6 to 2.3 days per year); school days missed were reduced by 12.3 days per year (range of values: reduction of 3.4 to 31.2 days per year); and the number of asthma acute care visits were reduced by 0.57 visits per year (interquartile interval: reduction of 0.33 to 1.71 visits per year). Only three studies reported outcomes among adults with asthma, finding inconsistent results.

Conclusions: Home-based, multi-trigger, multicomponent interventions with an environmental focus are effective in improving overall quality of life and productivity in children and adolescents with asthma. The effectiveness of these interventions in adults is inconclusive due to the small number of studies and inconsistent results. Additional studies are needed to (1) evaluate the effectiveness of these interventions in adults and (2) determine the individual contributions of the various intervention components.

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Author affiliation is shown for the time research was conducted.

The names and affiliations of the Task Force members are listed at the front of this supplement and at www.thecommunityguide.org/about/task-force-members.html.
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0749-3792/11/\$0
doi: 10.1016/j.amepre.2011.05.012

Evidence Base: Intervention

▪ Inner City Asthma Study (Morgan et al, 2004)

– 937 5–11yo children with atopic hard-to-control asthma from low-income CTs in 7 US cities

- Randomized 1-yr intervention (444 vs. 425)
- Patient-specific intervention

- Dust mites, smoking, roaches, pets, rodents, mold
- Included caretaker education, allergen avoidance, HEPA air filters, pest control, etc.

– Results

- Fewer days with symptoms
- Decline in Der f1 and Bla g1
 - 50% reduction in allergen levels for 49% of kids with detectable Der f1 and 52% with Bla g1

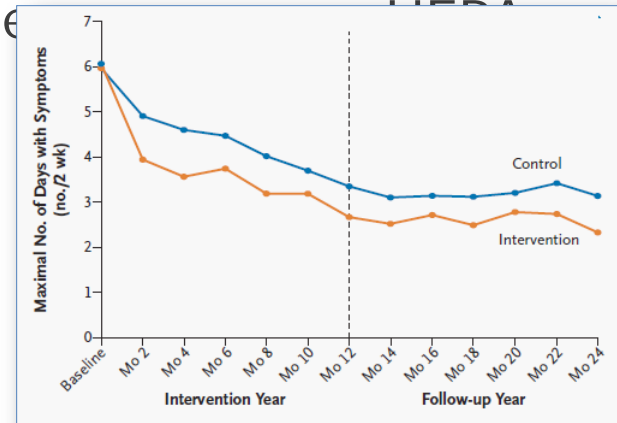


Figure 2. Mean Maximal Number of Days with Symptoms for Every Two-Week Period before a Follow-up Assessment during the Two Years of the Study. The difference between the groups was significant in both the intervention year ($P<0.001$) and the follow-up year ($P<0.001$).

▪ Multnomah County Health Dept, Portland, OR

– Participants 5.1X less likely to use ED after intervention (intervention similar to ours)

– Savings of ~ \$1,389,077 for 100 children

– Program includes

- Multidisciplinary team w nurse and CHW
- Supplies (green cleaning kits, etc.)
- Env education
- Evaluation
- Linkage to community partners

Healthy Home Program Results

Cost Savings ED Utilization for 100 children (80 cases + 20 siblings)

- 1.0 visits reduction per child
- 105 prevented visits
- $\$760 \times 105 = \$79,800$ (2009 dollars)
- Adjusted for Oregon medical inflation rate (8%) for four years = **\$108,567 (2013 dollars)**

Cost Savings Hospitalization

- $(105 \text{ visits} \times 38\%) \times \$8,970$ (2010 hospitalization visit cost) = \$941,850 (2010 dollars)
- Adjusted for medical inflation rate = **\$1,281,377 (2013 dollars)**

Parental Lost Wages

- \$285 per day in lost wages in 2003 dollars with applied inflation at 3.2% = \$390 per day x 2.5 days lost per asthmatic child = **\$976 (2013 dollars)** $976 \times 100 = \$97,600$

*65 visits x \$760 (Center for Financing, Access and Cost Trends, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, 2009.)

**Hospitalization admissions per emergency department referral for children 0-5 with an asthma diagnosis are 38% from Multnomah County discharge data

■ Economic Value of Home-Based, Multi-Trigger, Multicomponent Interventions with an Environmental Focus for Reducing Asthma Morbidity (Nurmagambetov et al, 2011)

– Based on 6 studies

– Benefit-cost ratios: 5.3–14.0

- Cost/symptom-free day: \$12–\$57

- Costs PPPY: \$231–\$14,858

 - Env intervention (mild, mod, major)

 - Type of educational component

 - Professional status of home visitor

 - Frequency of visits

■ BCM EHS: \$2,296 PPPY (inc OV)

Economic Value of Home-Based, Multi-Trigger, Multicomponent Interventions with an Environmental Focus for Reducing Asthma Morbidity A Community Guide Systematic Review

Tursynbek A. Nurmagambetov, PhD, Sarah Beth L. Barnett, MA, Verghese Jacob, PhD, Sajal K. Chattopadhyay, PhD, David P. Hopkins, MD, MPH, Deirdre D. Crocker, MD, Gema G. Dumitru, MD, MPH, Stella Kinyota, MD, MPH, Task Force on Community Preventive Services

Context: A recent systematic review of home-based, multi-trigger, multicomponent interventions with an environmental focus showed their effectiveness in reducing asthma morbidity among children and adolescents. These interventions included home visits by trained personnel to assess the level of and reduce adverse effects of indoor environmental pollutants, and educate households with an asthma client to reduce exposure to asthma triggers. The purpose of the present review is to identify economic values of these interventions and present ranges for the main economic outcomes (e.g., program costs, benefit-cost ratios, and incremental cost-effectiveness ratios).

Evidence acquisition: Using methods previously developed for Guide to Community Preventive Services economic reviews, a systematic review was conducted to evaluate the economic efficiency of home-based, multi-trigger, multicomponent interventions with an environmental focus to improve asthma-related morbidity outcomes. A total of 1511 studies were identified in the search period (1950 to June 2006), and 13 studies were included in this review. Program costs are reported for all included studies; cost-benefit results for three and cost-effectiveness results for another three. Information on program cost was provided with varying degrees of completeness: six of the studies did not provide a list of components included in their program cost description (limited cost information), three studies provided a list of program cost components but not a cost per component (partial cost information), and four studies provided both a list of program cost components and costs per component (satisfactory cost information).

Evidence synthesis: Program costs per participant per year ranged from \$231–\$14,858 (in 2007 U.S.). The major factors affecting program cost, in addition to complications, were the level of intensity of environmental remediation (none, moderate, or major), type of educational component (environmental education or self-management), the professional status of the home visitor, and the frequency of visits by the home visitor. Benefit-cost ratios ranged from 5.3–14.0, implying that for every dollar spent on the intervention, the monetary value of the resulting benefits, such as averted medical costs or averted productivity losses, was \$5.30–\$14.00 (in 2007 U.S.). The range in incremental cost-effectiveness ratios was \$12–\$57 (in 2007 U.S.) per asthma symptom-free day, which means that these interventions achieved each additional symptom-free day for net costs varying from \$12–\$57.

Conclusions: The benefits from home-based, multi-trigger, multicomponent interventions with an environmental focus can match or even exceed their program costs. Based on cost-benefit and

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Evidence Base: ROI

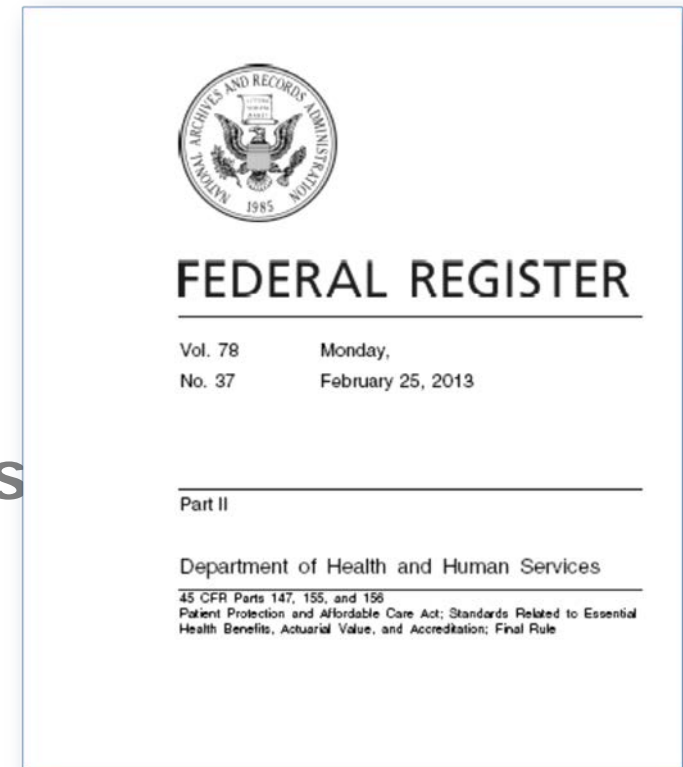
- EHS utilized AHRQ's Asthma ROI Calculator (AHRQ, 2013) and published studies for ROI calculations for our pediatric program
 - Conservative assumptions

SERVICE	PRE \$ PBPM	REFERENCE	POST \$ PBPM	REFERENCE	% DECREASE
Inpatient Stay	\$190	Moore, 2013; AHRQ, 2013	\$51	AHRQ, 2013	73.2%
Emergency Services	\$13	Moore, 2013; AHRQ, 2013	\$9	AHRQ, 2013	30.8%
Prof. Primary Care	\$10	Wang et al, 2005	\$11	3% Inflation rate	-10.0%
Prof. Specialty Care	\$11	Tran, 2013; Moore, 2013	\$4	AHRQ, 2013	63.6%
Laboratory Services	\$3	AHRQ, 2013	\$1	AHRQ, 2013	66.7%
Durable Medical Equipment	\$6	Ireys et al, 1997	\$7	3% Inflation rate	-16.7%
Long-term Care	\$6	Sapra et al, 2005	\$6	3% Inflation rate	0.0%
Ambulance	\$2	Olson, 2010	\$1	AHRQ, 2013	50.0%
Caregiver Productivity	\$15	AHRQ, 2013	\$10	AHRQ, 2013	33.3%
Prescription Drugs	\$177	Szefler et al, 2011	\$151	Szefler et al, 2011	14.7%

Evidence Base: ROI

B C M E N V I R O N M E N T A L H E A L T H S E R V I C E

- Proposed new rules will allow for home environmental assessments by non clinicians professionals
 - Healthy Homes specialists
 - Environmental professionals
- Reimbursement is—or may soon be—available for environmental assessments



*Dept. of Health & Human Services,
Final Rule on Essential Health Benefits,
February 2013*

Evidence Base: Programs

- **Seattle-King County Asthma Program**
 - Developed and evaluated home-visit programs for asthma over 12 years
 - Department of Health-based
 - Immense resource for instruments, training scripts, educational materials, outcomes research
 - Networking with Seattle, Chicago, and NYC on sharing protocols, developing common products

Public Health - Seattle & King County

Home How do I... Services About King County Departments

Asthma facts, guidelines and educational materials

This website serves as a resource for members of the public who are trying to educate themselves about asthma and for health care professionals who are trying to improve the management of their patients with asthma.

Current programs

- **CCO Transitional Grant**
- **HomeBASE** Currently in the intervention phase. No longer enrolling participants.

Past programs

- **Allyes Against Asthma Initiative**
- **Healthy Homes 2**
- **Medical Assisted Program for Children (MAP)**
- **Past partnerships**

Resources

- For patients with asthma
- For health care professionals
- For child care professionals
- For schools and educators
- Tools and documents
- Links
- **Recurso para el asma. Datos, consejos y materiales educativos (in Spanish / Español)**

King County Asthma Program (KGAP) updates

- **Seasonal newsletters**

How to get involved

If you would like to learn more about asthma or meet other families living with asthma, here are some ideas:

- You can join a Neighborhood Asthma Committee to learn more about asthma and meet families living with asthma. [Contact Us](#) for questions about getting started.
- If your child spends time in a childcare, ask your childcare provider to get training.
- Get trained by the American Lung Association of Washington to be a Home-Visit Environmentalist (HVE). Call (206) 441-5100.
- If your child is in grade 1-12 and taking daily asthma medicine, consider sending them to [Asthma Camp](#) - an overnight summer camp.

Marketing and recruitment:

English:

- **KGAP asthma brochure**
- **KGAP flyer**
- **KGAP clinic fax referral form**
- **CCO recruitment letter - Multing**
- **CCO recruitment letter - CSHW**

Spanish:

- **Recruitment letter**
- **Recruitment letter - CSHW**
- **KGAP asthma brochure - Spanish**
- **KGAP flyer - Spanish**

Patient consent forms:

English:

- **Assent/scrapping for children ages 3 through 6**
- **Assent/scrapping for children ages 7 through 17**
- **Authorization and consent for use of disclosures of photography**
- **HFAA authorization**
- **Parent consent form**
- **Parent consent form/Adolescent assent form**

Spanish:

- **Assent/scrapping for children ages 3 through 6 - Spanish**
- **Assent/scrapping for children ages 7 through 17 - Spanish**
- **Authorization and consent for use of disclosures of photography - Spanish**
- **HFAA authorization - Spanish**
- **Parent consent form - Spanish**
- **Parent consent form - Spanish**

Patient education materials:

English:

- **Asthma triggers**
- **Good Questions for Your Health**
- **Stop Germs - Stay Healthy!** handwashing posters in multiple languages
- **Medicine for children and families**
- **Questions about the flu and flu vaccine**
- **Using a Peak-Flow Meter**
- **What is Asthma?**

Spanish:

- **Good Questions for Your Health - Spanish**
- **Stop Germs - Stay Healthy!** handwashing posters in multiple languages
- **Questions about the flu - Spanish**
- **Using a Peak-Flow Meter - Spanish**
- **What is Asthma? - Spanish**

Publications and newsletters:

- **King County Asthma Program (KGAP) seasonal newsletters**

Questionnaires and instruments:

- **Community Health Worker Visit Organizer**
- **Eligibility Phone Screening Questionnaire**
- **Employment Eligibility Identification Group**
- **Home Environmental Checklist**
- **Home Visit Encounter Form**
- **The Randomization Interview**
- **The Visit Phone Screening Reminder**

Better Home Visits for Asthma
Lessons Learned from the Seattle-King County Asthma Program

James W. Krieger, MD, MPH, Miriam L. Philby, MA, Marissa Z. Brooks, MPH

Introduction

Asthma remains a major cause of morbidity and health inequities among children. In response, practitioners and researchers have developed innovative interventions to improve asthma control. One such intervention is home visits to help families reduce exposure to multiple indoor asthma triggers. The Guide to Community Preventive Services (Community Guide) as described in this supplement to the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, recently reviewed the evidence for the effectiveness of home visits and recommended widespread implementation of this approach.^{1,2}

The Seattle-King County Asthma Program has developed and evaluated several home-visit programs over the past 12 years, including the Healthy Homes 2 and 3 (research projects)^{3,4} and the Stop to Health! and Allies Against Asthma⁵ home-visit programs. In the course of this work, we have learned many lessons. Table 1 summarizes these lessons, and we describe the most salient ones in more detail here.

Program Characteristics

Integrating Environmental and Medical Aspects of Asthma Control

The Community Guide review focuses on interventions to reduce exposure to asthma triggers found in homes and apartments, as did our Healthy Homes 2 project. We found that our clients are interested in learning about the full spectrum of activities they can do to control asthma, both environmental and medical. The evidence for offering self-management support for the medical aspects of asthma control is strong.^{6,7} We therefore expanded the scope of our subsequent programs to include proper use of medications and devices, self-monitoring of asthma symptoms (e.g., peak-flow meters), and self-management of asthma symptoms.

Establishing a Base for Home Visits

Our visitors are based at the local health department. Advantages of locating visitors in a single agency include the ability to work with diverse populations of patients of medical care, efficiencies in infrastructure (e.g., support staff, data systems, and quality control) and the availability of staff support. Another common barrier for the report.

Evidence Base: Programs

- **Kansas City Mercy Children's Hospital**
 - Center for Environmental Health
 - Within Dept of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology
 - Began home visits in 1995
 - Stratify patients (3 levels) on risk of exacerbations
 - Determines level of service
 - Baseline is a 5-visit model
 - Teach Healthy Homes courses for NCHH
 - Developed home assessment software
 - [Healthy Homes Manager](#)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Healthy Home Manager (HHM) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Offline, Screens 1, Screens 2, and Pricing. Below the navigation bar is a header section with the title "Healthy Home Manager" and a date "Thursday, May 22, 2014". The main content area is divided into several columns. On the left, there is a section titled "HHM 3.0 New version published" with a sub-section "The Assessment" and "The Application". The middle section features a "Notes and Events" section with a "Shows" section and a "Use your Tablet" section. On the right, there is a "Offline update" section. The bottom of the page features a "The system characteristics" section with a list of bullet points. The footer contains the text "EPM Integrated, LLC © 2012 All Rights Reserved. Privacy Policy".

Healthy Home Manager
Thursday, May 22, 2014

Home Offline Screens 1 Screens 2 Pricing

HHM 3.0
New version published

The Healthy Home Manager (HHM), is a system which allows you to rapidly assess home environmental conditions and help families create and maintain healthier homes. It was published as version 3.0 on February 15, 2014.

It is a powerful, web-based, application that allows you to manage ALL of your home assessment activity at once, and to produce extremely useful and informative assessment reports saving you hours of time.

The web-based healthy home assessment system is being developed using the experience of the Center for Environmental Health at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics of Kansas City. Their experience spans over a decade of hands-on assessment and analysis.

Assessing a home environment can be a never ending adventure for anyone. Where do I start? What do I look at? What did I forget? Did I document my assessment correctly? Eliminate these worries by using the Healthy Home Manager to to produce, document, report and archive your assessment activities.

The Assessment

HHM is based on the home environmental health assessment process developed by Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics through years of experience assessing hundreds of homes.

The application is based on a simple risk assessment protocol that allows the assessor to rate and score home components that have potential to impact the indoor environment. Assessment scores are color coded to immediately guide the assessor and the client to what aspects of a home are in good condition and what home-related issues need action to make a healthier home.

The Application

This comprehensive tool is a user and client specific database for assessments and reports. The tool includes forms for Site, Building, Mechanical, and Individual Room assessments. Also included are forms for Health and Symptoms, Home Maintenance, and Household Product surveys.

The interface is comprehensive and intuitive and uses easy to understand language. Reports are user friendly for families, health providers, and housing and environmental professionals.

Data entry uses secure internet access controlled by Username/Password. Four levels of access provide documentation of all areas assessed and issues identified.

HHM is a dynamic web based tool that allows for effective compliance with the increasing demands of clients, medical professionals, and regulations.

Notes and Events

Shows
Rebuilding Together National Conference. May 27 - 30, 2014

Use your Tablet
Yes, the HHM is fully capable for use on your Android based tablet device. Ask for more info on this topic.

Offline update
The ability to do assessments when you do not have internet access has been added as an exciting new feature of the HHM application. Click on the link in the menu for more information on this topic.

The system characteristics:

- Comprehensive and intuitive assessment process.
- Produces healthy home assessment reports in real-time.
- Represents a solutions-based assessment approach that allows the assessor to identify issues and lay out the solutions or actions.
- Upload and integrate photos, floor plan images, and site plan images into your report.
- Archive using PDF files.
- Use Android-based portable device with internet access and a camera.
- Real-time production.
- Control access by Username/Password.

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Evidence Base: Programs

■ Asthma Network of West Michigan

- Began home-based asthma care in 1996
- St. Mary's Health Care (hospital) provides home, administrative oversight
- Negotiated reimbursement (\$115 traditional; \$85 Medicaid) from 6 MI MCOs
 - Priority Health agreement (1st in U.S.) includes 18 home visits/yr (education focus)

Clinical Outcomes	Cohort Groups N=45			Control Group N=39			Cohort vs. Control
	Pre	Study	P-value	Yr 1	Yr2	P-value	
ED Visits	80	61	0.047	28	43	0.0211	0.0040
Hospitalizations	41	13	<0.0001	23	28	0.1457	<0.0001
Days Hospitalized	114	25	<0.0001	55	67	0.0779	<0.0001

