



HISTORY OF THE WEST VIRGINIA ASTHMA EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

The West Virginia Asthma Education and Prevention Program (AEPP) was created by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The WV-AEPP is located within the Bureau for Public Health's Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease (Chronic Disease Section). AEPP works side by side with the other programs of Chronic Disease to incorporate the overlapping issues from each disease and to reach a larger population within West Virginia.

The mission of AEPP is to develop, implement, and evaluate a statewide strategic asthma plan in the ultimate interest of reducing the health and economic consequences attributed to asthma in West Virginia. AEPP strives to help the more than **150,000 West Virginians who have asthma** and aspires to highlight asthma as a priority health concern in order to reduce suffering, disability, death, and economic costs related to asthma.

During the first grant period 2001-2004 the AEPP and its partners:

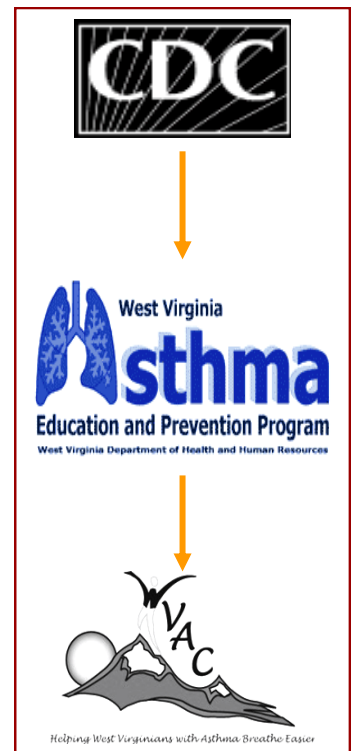
- Initiated an asthma surveillance system.
- Formed the [West Virginia Asthma Coalition \(WVAC\)](#). →
- Developed a strategic plan to address asthma.

Within the second grant period 2004-2007 the goals were to:

- Improve the asthma surveillance system.
- Implement select interventions.
- Complete as many strategic plan activities as possible.

In the current grant period 2007-2009, AEPP and its partners are:

- Continuing asthma surveillance (including pediatric and adults).
- Collaborating with other groups to integrate program activities and facilitate the achievement of mutually beneficial goals.
- Increasing membership in the West Virginia Asthma Coalition.
- Increasing provider education on the NHLBI guidelines for the treatment of asthma and to improve asthma self-management skills among people with asthma.
- Continuing as many strategic plan activities as possible.



West Virginia Asthma Education and Prevention Program

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AEPP FUNDED PARTNERSHIPS

American Lung Association of West Virginia

Through a subcontract with the WV-AEPP: ALA-WV manages the West Virginia Asthma Coalition; works closely with AEPP in the development and facilitation of World Asthma Day, Asthma Awareness Day at the State Capitol, and many other activities.

West Virginia University School of Medicine's - Office of Health Services Research (OHSR)

Through subcontracts with the WV-AEPP: conducts the Clinic-based Asthma Management Program (**C-bAMP**) in community health centers. **C-bAMP** promotes utilization of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's (NHLBI) *Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma*, and empowers health care practitioners to provide the highest quality of care for their patients with asthma. This is possible through a patient registry system called **CDEMS** that OHSR manages and provides technical support for.

The OHSR has been working with the West Virginia Asthma Education and Prevention Program since 2003.

West Virginia Department of Tobacco Prevention

AEPP in partnership with the DTP created two 30-second commercials about Asthma and the effects of Second-Hand Smoke and Cigarette Smoking. The commercials have been part of a pilot intervention and have been broadcast in Wood County, reaching approximately 20% of the West Virginia population along with residents of Ohio. The commercials can be viewed on the WV DTP website: www.wvdtpt.org. Also, the WV-DTP in cooperation with AEPP developed a *Smoking and Your Health* brochure addressing asthma and other health issues in West Virginia. These brochures are available by contacting AEPP or by viewing it at www.wvasthma.org.

West Virginia Asthma Coalition - Committee Activities

The schools and pediatric committee is currently implementing a quality improvement project targeting asthma control by collaborating with school nurses, school-based health centers (SBHCs), parents and providers to strengthen student asthma care. School nurses and SBHCs will conduct an intervention with students who carry inhalers by measuring their asthma control, tracking school absences, providing education and referral to primary care providers based on the NHLBI guidelines. The priority counties included in this project are: Fayette, and Raleigh.



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