



The West Virginia Asthma Coalition (WVAC) is a diverse group of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the growing burden of asthma in our state. By organizing our collective efforts, adopting best practices for quality management, and utilizing the expertise of leaders in asthma care, WVAC works to positively impact the lives of people affected by the disease. WVAC has continued to advocate for improving health including the successful campaign for West Virginia legislation that allows children with asthma to carry their rescue inhalers with them while in school.

The Coalition meets four times a year in various locations throughout the state. We currently have more than 80 individual members who represent several organizations, including major hospitals in the state, Marshall University, West Virginia University, the American Lung Association in West Virginia, the Department of Health and Human Resources, the Asthma and Allergy Center, West Virginia Health Care Authority, West Virginia Hospital Association, West Virginia Primary Care Association, West Virginia School-based Health Assembly, and several local health departments.

Members join one of four committees including: Clinical Asthma Management, Community Outreach and Education, Environmental Action, and Schools & Pediatrics. Through the committees, members work on projects to implement strategies contained in the ***A Strategic Plan for Addressing Asthma in West Virginia 2010-2014***. For example, the Coalition worked to create and distribute the ***takeACTION! Addressing Asthma and Diabetes in West Virginia Schools*** an interactive CD-ROM and web-based education to all West Virginia school personnel. In efforts to improve air quality for those with asthma, the WVAC was an advocate in the West Virginia Department of Education's policy on "anti-idling" and limiting the amount of time a school bus can idle at school pickup/drop-off areas.

The West Virginia Asthma Coalition was formed by the West Virginia Asthma Education and Prevention Program (WV-AEPP) and is facilitated by the American Lung Association in West Virginia. WV-AEPP is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and provides support for WVAC meetings and activities.

If you are interested in learning more about the Coalition or in joining, please contact Lindsay Elkins at 342-6600 or by email at [lclkins@lunginfo.org](mailto:lclkins@lunginfo.org). You can also learn more about the Coalition at [www.wvasthma.org](http://www.wvasthma.org).