

A Tale of Two Surveys: Baseline Compliance with NAEPP Asthma Guidelines

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Abstract: In 2007 the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program updated the Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. The DOH Asthma program has been working with asthma partners to design interventions targeting healthcare provider awareness of the guidelines.

To provide baseline data related to adherence to asthma guidelines and document areas where improvements are needed, we analyzed information from two 2006 Washington surveys. About 2300 adults with asthma participated in the BRFSS Adult Asthma call-back which included questions about their interactions with healthcare providers. A total of 558 primary physicians and 328 physician assistants participated in the Healthcare Provider Survey which included questions related to their asthma care practices. Some guideline areas we analyzed included: frequency of asthma checkups, identification of asthma triggers, flu vaccinations, written asthma action plans and patients' ability to administer their own medication. Several areas of needed improvement were identified as well as areas where there was significant difference between reports from healthcare providers versus adults with asthma regarding asthma management practices. We will use future surveys to evaluate progress of interventions in increasing healthcare provider compliance with NAEPP guidelines.