The Asthma Management Academy (AsMA) trains community health workers (CHWs) and other health educators how to deliver evidence-based asthma education to individuals and families with asthma. The training incorporates hands-on activities about:

- Scope of asthma
- Asthma triggers, such as mold, pests, and smoking
- Asthma medications and delivery devices
- Guidelines-based assessment and monitoring tools, such as the Asthma Action Plan (AAP) and Asthma Control Test (ACT)
- Best practices for asthma home visits

What is the Asthma Management Academy (AsMA)?

Since 2018, the AsMA has trained over 600 CHWs and other health educators from 88 organizations including:

- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Community-Based Organizations
- Medi-Cal Health Plans
- Local Health Departments
- Hospitals

AsMA Partner Organizations and Participants

CHW Knowledge and Skills

AsMA participants increased their asthma knowledge and skills. On average, participants scored 98% on a competency test covering:

- The scope of asthma
- Asthma triggers, such as mold, pests, and smoking
- Using asthma assessment and monitoring tools, such as the ACT, AAP

Impact on Individuals with Asthma

Among individuals with poorly controlled asthma who completed at least one asthma education session taught by AsMA-trained CHWs and health educators:

- 83% had reduced emergency department visits and hospitalizations
- 70% had fewer missed work or school days
- 63% had improved asthma control

California Breathing | Environmental Health Investigations Branch
California Department of Public Health
Contact us at California.Breathing@cdph.ca.gov

May 2023