



Thomas Newton, MPP, REHS
Director

Chester J. Culver
Governor

Patty Judge
Lt. Governor

IDPH News Release

For More Information:
Don McCormick, Public Information Officer
Office: 515-281-6692
dmccormi@idph.state.ia.us

For Immediate Release:
May 07, 2008

Asthma Management Saves Iowans \$9.2 Million Per Year

Reduced hospitalizations show strategies help improve quality of life

According to data collected by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), hospitalization rates for asthma complications have fallen significantly among nearly all age groups in recent years. While the number of Iowans with asthma has remained stable since 1999, IDPH estimates that better management of the condition has contributed to an annual savings of \$9.2 million in hospitalization costs in Iowa.

The reduction in hospitalizations indicates that asthma management strategies are having an impact in Iowa, especially for children 0-4 years of age. In 1995, the hospitalization rate for this age group was 30.7 per 10,000 children. In 2006, that rate dropped almost 60 percent to 13.5. For all age groups, there were 3,100 asthma-related hospitalizations in Iowa in 1995 at a cost of \$27.8 million, adjusted for inflation. In 2006 there were 1,000 fewer hospitalizations, costing \$18.6 million.

The findings come as Iowa and other states observe May as National Asthma Awareness Month. "This is a great example of how managing chronic disease can result not only in cost savings, but also an improved quality of life," said IDPH Director Tom Newton. "By reaching out to child care providers and schools, the Department and our partners are helping children with asthma lead happy and productive lives."

Since 2003, an important component of the IDPH Asthma Control Program has been the "Young and the Breathless" trainings and asthma management sessions. Held across the state with Visiting Nurse Services consultants, the Young and the Breathless trainings have been provided to more than 1,000 child care providers and about 200 licensed child care centers across Iowa. Additionally, train-the-trainer sessions have been provided to nearly 175 nurses and nursing students in 88 counties.

For more information about the IDPH Asthma Control Program, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/asthma.asp. To learn more about Asthma Awareness Month, visit www.epa.gov/asthma/awm/index.html.

###