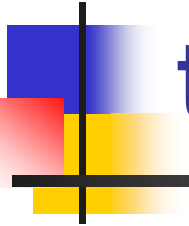


Assessment of treatment awareness and compliance in management of asthma in the rural family.





Data

- All data is currently pending completion of project



Purpose

- According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, There were 10.4 million asthma-related outpatient visits in 2000
- 4.6 million of these involving children under 18
- There were 1.8 million asthma related visits to emergency departments in 2000, with over 728,000 of these involving children under 18



Purpose

- With the rising costs of health care, prevention of asthma and proper treatment adherence in the presence of asthma has become essential
- My project will attempt to evaluate how much parents of children with asthma know about their children's disease and proper treatment, and whether or not such treatment is being applied



Methods

- The research will be conducted through the Parent Teacher Organizations of Sycamore, IL schools
- A survey will distributed to attendees of PTO meetings prior to a presentation I will give on asthma pathophysiology, treatment, and prevention
- Surveys will also be offered to patients of Dr Peter Baum, an allergist in DeKalb, IL



Preliminary Findings

- 4 million children have had an asthma attack in the past year
- Approximately 14 million school days are missed every year because of asthma
- 214,000 children hospitalized in 2000 for asthma related issues
- Around 40% of children with asthmatic parents will become asthmatic themselves



Expected Findings

- I expect to find that children who have been hospitalized for asthma will tend to have more frequent reported use of their albuterol inhaler
- Also, number of school days missed for asthma should be reflected by the child's medical management
- I expect to see more school days missed in children who are not adequately managed based on frequency of albuterol use



Expected Findings

- Parents will likely be able to identify their children's asthma triggers, though they may not be able to identify specific allergens
- Asthma is known to run in families, so it is expected that a significant number of parents with asthmatic children will report being asthmatic themselves
- According to the University of Utah Health Sciences Center, many children with asthma have more severe exacerbations in the presence of second hand tobacco smoke. If this is true, then children in households with smokers should be more likely to have hospitalizations



Hopeful outcomes

- I will be presenting to PTO organizations to hopefully better educate parents on the disease of asthma as a whole
- At the end of the presentation, attendees will understand what happens during an asthma attack
- Attendees will also be shown the proper technique for using a peak flow meter as a tool to predict an asthma attack



Hopeful outcomes

- Parents with asthmatic children will hopefully realize the importance of maintenance medication, while parents in attendance without asthmatic children will know what symptoms to be aware of
- Strategies for prevention of attacks will be discussed
- The various medication classes used for asthma maintenance will be explained, as well as mechanism of action and common side effects



References

- American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology. <http://www.aaaai.org>
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- Lieberman, Phil MD and Anderson, John A. MD (1997). Allergic Diseases Diagnosis and Treatment. Totowa, NJ: Humana Press Inc.