

Conclusion

Asthma is a major public health problem, both nationally and in Minnesota. Untreated or inadequately treated, it results in excess hospitalizations, elevated rates of school and work absenteeism, lost productivity, disability, and increased health care costs. Because it is treatable and manageable, successful public health education and prevention efforts could reap large returns in cost savings, productivity gains, and improved quality of life for individuals with asthma and their families. In 2002 the state plan concluded as follows:

“The Commissioner's Asthma Advisory Work Group encourages the Minnesota Department of Health and its partners in asthma to move forward with the recommendations in this plan with a sense of urgency. Implementing and evaluating these recommendations will significantly reduce medical emergencies and enhance the lives of people with asthma. We urge the MDH to seek implementation funding for this plan from the federal government, the state legislature, and private sources in order to implement these recommendations, and we look forward to continuing as active partners in working with the MDH to implement this plan and monitor intervention activities.”

In 2007 we echo these thoughts and again advocate that this revised plan move forward with a sense of urgency. And, once again, we look forward to continuing as active partners in working with the MDH to implement this plan and monitor intervention activities.