



THE CENTER
FOR MANAGING
CHRONIC DISEASE

Putting People at the Center of Solutions

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Policy Change as a Result of Community Coalitions

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APHA Annual Meeting

Disclosure statement

Allies Against Asthma is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson and the W. K. Kellogg Foundations

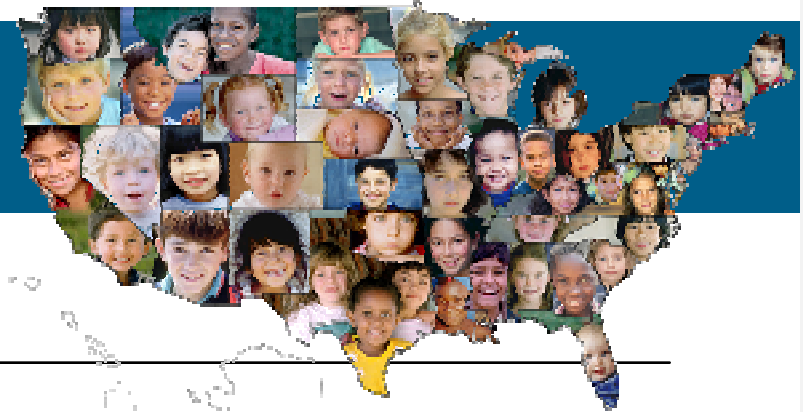
Allies Against Asthma

A program to support community-based coalitions to develop, implement and sustain comprehensive pediatric asthma management in their communities. Support to 7 coalitions was provided from 2000 to 2006.



Photo Provided by FAM Allies

Target Population



- Children under the age of 18
- From low SES, urban and minority communities
- High prevalence of asthma

King County
Asthma Forum
(KCAF)

ALLIES AGAINST ASTHMA Coalition Grantees

Fight Asthma Milwaukee
(FAM Allies)

Philadelphia Allies
Against Asthma (PAAA)

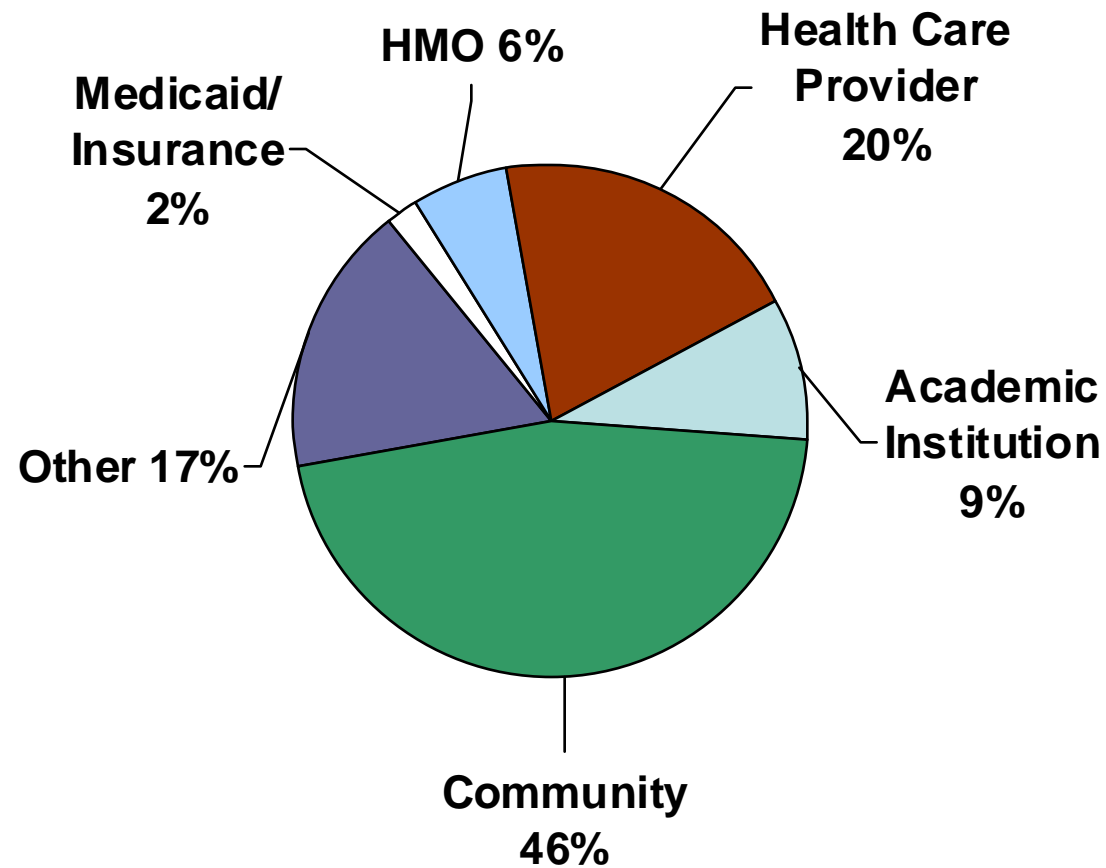
The DC
Asthma
Coalition
(DCAC)

Consortium for
Infant & Child
Health (CINCH)

Long Beach
Alliance for
Children
with Asthma
(LBACA)

Alianza Contra el
Asma Pediátrica
en Puerto Rico
(ALIANZA)

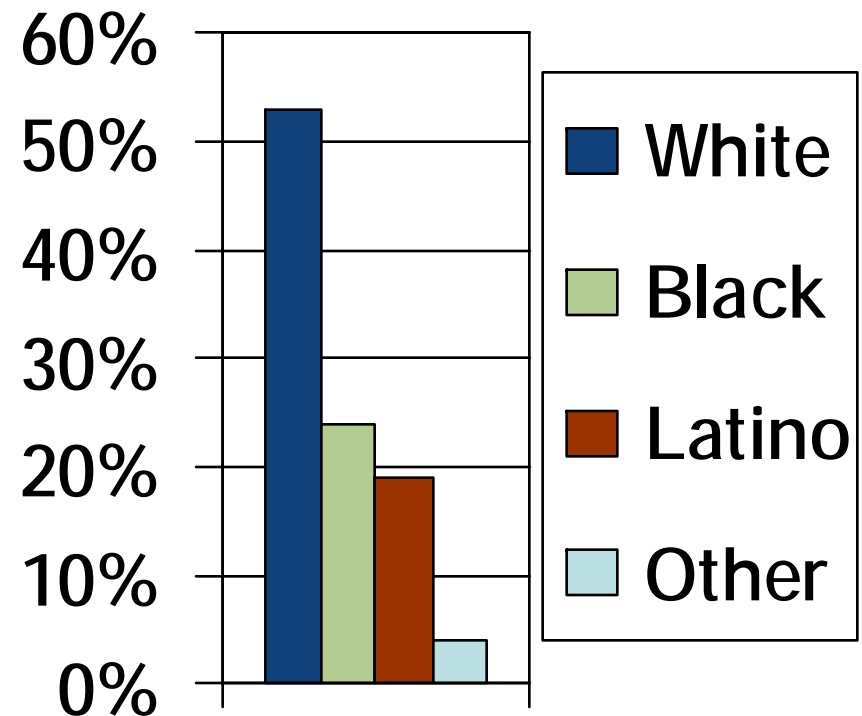
Coalition Member Composition (n=232)



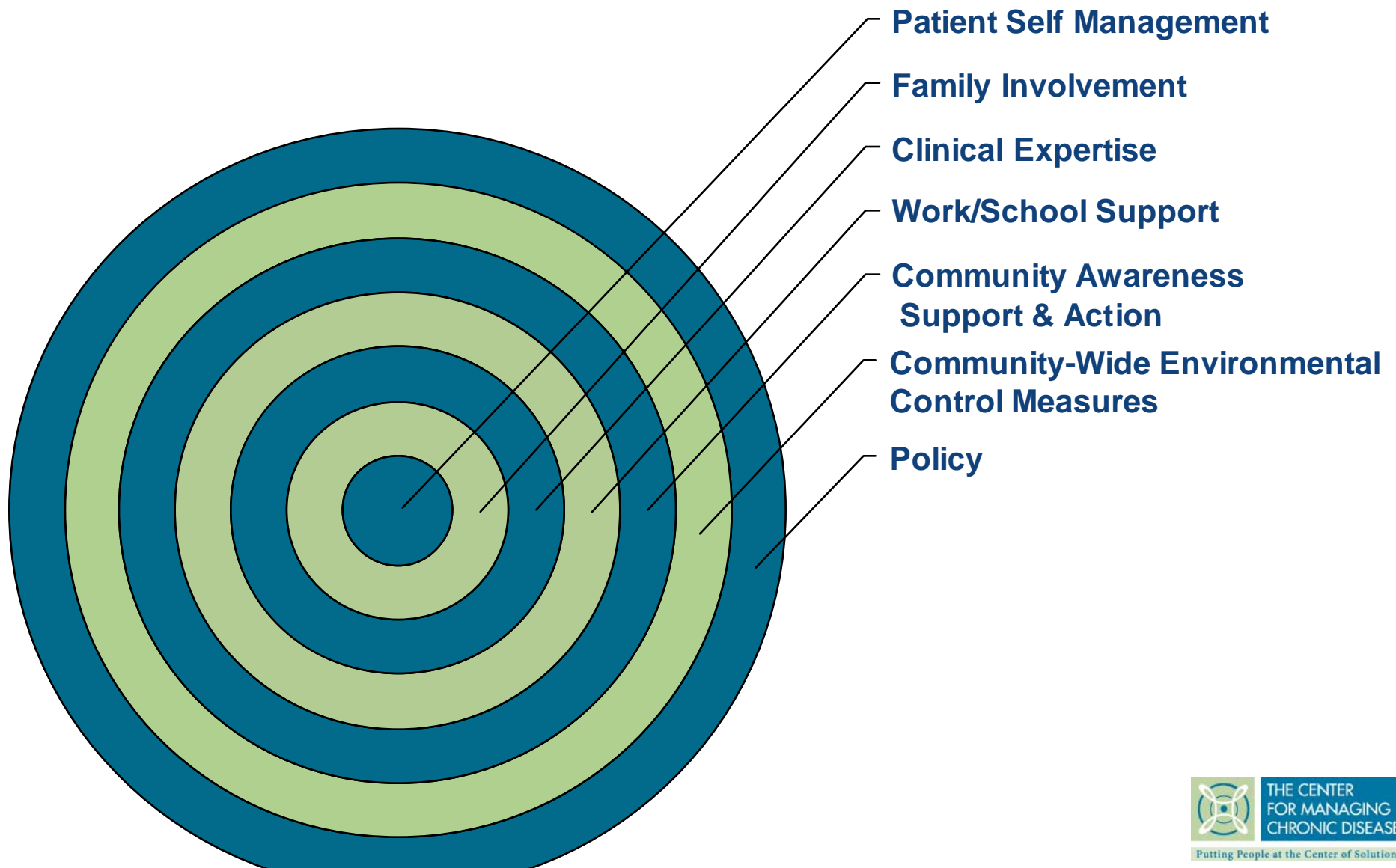
CSAS 2nd Follow-up 2004

Characteristics of Coalition Members (n=232)

- Mean age 43 years
- 56% completed graduate school
- Coalition members for average of 33 months



Why are community wide approaches needed for Disease Control?



Coalition Activities



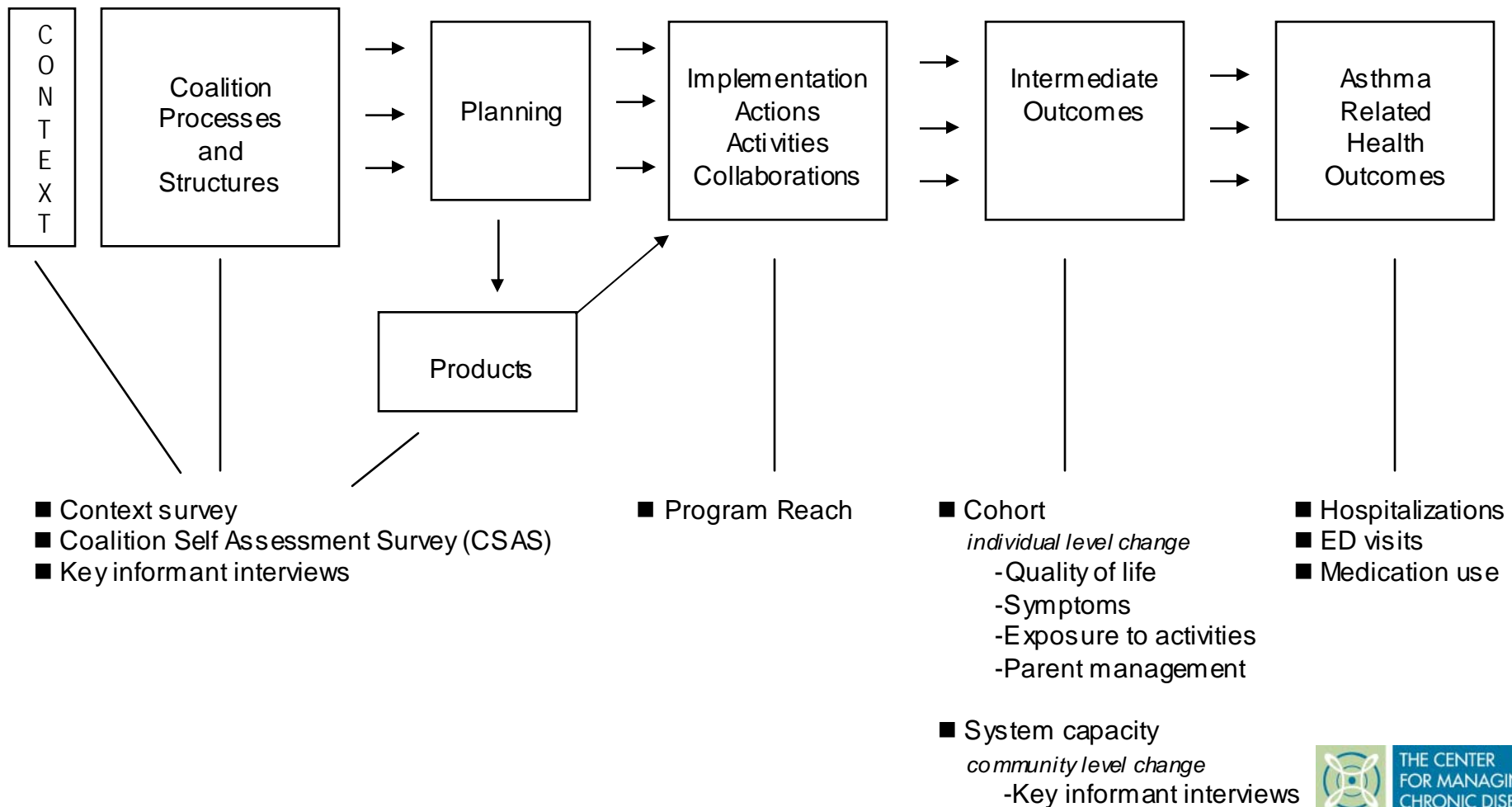
Photo Provided by CINCH

- Advocacy for institutional and community wide system and policy change
- Child and family education and support
- Clinical education and practice improvements
- School and child care education
- Community awareness and action
- Coordination and linkage across institutions and agencies

Evaluation Goals

- Link the work of coalitions to health-related outcomes
- Examine characteristics of coalitions associated with favorable outcomes
- Describe how asthma coalitions function
- Describe the overall impact of AAA by noting outcomes in common

Cross Site Evaluation



Changes in policy, systems, custom and practice

In total, 32 of changes were documented in 6 categories of change:

- **Intra-institutional coordination (All sites)** e.g.
 - Asthma coordinator in hospitals to link providers
 - Quality improvement teams promote best practices in care coordination in clinics
- **Community-wide patient registries (FAM, PAAA)** e.g.
 - Establishment of a tracking system and registry for children visiting EDs for asthma
- **Care coordination (FAM, PAAA)** e.g.
 - Centralized system that links clinicians, schools, community workers, and environmental specialists

Changes in policy, systems, custom and practice (cont.)

- **Integration of services (LBACA, FAM, KC, DCAC)** e.g.
 - Integration of community health workers into the clinical team
 - Hospital and health care plan implement a protocol and referral process for children seen in the ER for asthma
- **Environmental policy change (LBACA, KCAF)** e.g.
 - Legislation created to keep trucks from idling in residential areas
 - Advocacy to minimize exposure to pollution in low income neighborhoods in highway expansion planning
- **Standardization across institutions (DC, CINCH, PAAA)** e.g.
 - Standard asthma action plans used across community organizations and institutions

Lessons Learned

- **Chronic disease management (e.g., asthma) is more complex than preventing disease or accessing services**
- **Partnership strategies are more creative & achievable than any single group or institution could have done alone**
- **Coalitions worked because they mobilized communities around asthma, responded to their needs & developed integrated, comprehensive strategies**

Lessons Learned (cont.)

- **Sharing ideas & strategies w/other coalitions is helpful**
- **As coalitions mature, they often shift from providing services to policy & advocacy activities**
- **Sustainability & responding to changing conditions is more difficult than forming original coalitions**

Allies Accomplishments

- Changes in local health related policy and practice
- A more capable health workforce
- Community leaders with the capacity to bring about change
- Better health outcomes, e.g. reductions in asthma symptoms for children

Ultimate Successes

