

Kate Lorenzen¹, Jessica Peters¹, Azibuike Akaba¹, Dana Hughes², Lindsay Docto²

1. Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP), Oakland, CA, USA 2. University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA

RAMP BACKGROUND

Asthma is a serious public health problem throughout the world and the most common chronic disease among children. It is an inflammatory disorder of the airways that affects 6.8 million children nationwide.

- In California alone, 1 in 6 children (1.5 million children) has been diagnosed with asthma.
- The hospitalization and emergency room visit rates for asthma are more than three times higher for African-American children than for white children.
- Latino children have a higher rate of ED visits for asthma than white children. About 400,000 Latino children and adolescents suffer from asthma in the state of California.

Although some genetic factors contribute to these differences, we also know that environmental, economic, and social inequities contribute to the burden of asthma.

VISION AND MISSION

• RAMP envisions healthy communities where asthma is reduced and well-managed, and the health, social, and environmental inequities that contribute to the unequal burden of the disease are eliminated.

• RAMP's mission is to reduce the burden of asthma through a comprehensive approach, ranging from clinical management to environmental protection. We collaborate, coordinate, share resources, advocate, and promote policy change in order to reduce inequities, strengthen asthma prevention efforts, and improve management for all communities.

GOALS

1. Reduce environmental triggers in homes and outdoor air, with an emphasis on diesel.
2. Reduce environmental triggers and improve education and management of asthma in schools and child care settings.
3. Improve clinical management of asthma.
4. Expand RAMP's role in disseminating strategies for reducing asthma disparities.

ABOUT RAMP: WHAT WE DO

"Working Together to Reduce the Burden of Asthma"

RAMP is a collaborative that promotes strategies for reducing asthma through a broad and comprehensive approach that includes clinical management and environmental protection.

RAMP brings together diverse partners such as community-based organizations, schools, medical providers, and environmental health and justice groups to join forces in reducing the burden of asthma with a focus on communities inequitably affected by the disease.

RAMP AS AN ORGANIZATION CORE STRATEGIES

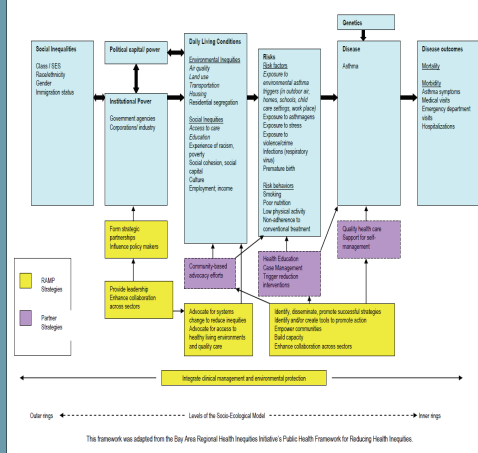
- Expanding Knowledge and Access to Resources
- Creating Linkages
- Providing Technical Assistance
- Advocating for Systems Change

RAMP'S MEMBERS, PARTNERS, AND ALLIES

RAMP collaborates with a number of members, partners, and allies from across sectors throughout the Bay Area. These organizations support RAMP to best identify and comprehensively address the needs of underserved communities. Member organizations are diverse and come from a variety of fields including:

- Clinical/Medical
- Coalitions
- Local Communities
- Education
- Environment
- Housing
- Public Health
- Social/Economic/Environmental Justice Organizations
- Health Organizations

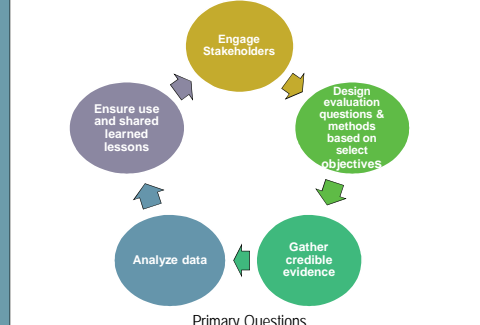
RAMP FRAMEWORK



CURRENT FOCUS RAMP'S INTERVENTIONS ARE RELATED TO:

- GOAL 1**
- Reducing diesel pollution through enforcement of idling policies;
 - Advocating for the inclusion of health considerations into policies on land use and transportation planning;
 - Incorporating health considerations into policies on outdoor air quality; and,
 - Reducing chemical use in schools, child care settings, and homes.
- GOAL 2**
- Supporting policies that will reduce chemical use in schools and child care settings;
 - Advocating for the use of Asthma Action Plans and the adoption of asthma management policies by local school districts; and,
 - Having best practices related to addressing asthma within school and child care settings.
- GOAL 3**
- Increasing access to quality care through the promotion of a comprehensive approach to patient/provider interactions and through policy and advocacy efforts; and,
 - Promoting the use of Asthma Action Plans as an effective asthma self management tool.
- GOAL 4**
- Researching and utilizing strategies that emphasize identifying the social determinates of health;
 - Providing expertise nationwide in order to ensure that work on asthma disparities is broadly distributed;
 - Strengthening and expanding its partnership; and,
 - Providing pilot funding to local organizations to support efforts towards the elimination of health disparities.

EVALUATION



- Is RAMP effective in developing and disseminating coordinated and comprehensive models of asthma management and prevention in order to reduce asthma disparities in African American and Latino communities?
- In what ways was this work undertaken to reflect the interests and needs of African American and Latino communities?
- In what ways do RAMP's efforts address the inequities that lead to health/asthma disparities?

INTENDED OUTCOMES ADDRESSING INEQUITIES

- RAMP will evolve from an organization that addresses asthma to one that also addresses inequities that directly or indirectly affect asthma through partnerships and RAMP's four core strategies.
- Direct collaboration with communities impacted by diesel pollution to raise awareness and change policies to reduce the amount of diesel in low-income communities of color in the bay area.
- Incorporation of asthma/health/inequity into decisions on land use and transportation planning.
- Stakeholders are influenced to make the connection between housing and health inequities to effect policies regarding sub-standard housing.
- Improvement of the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) of schools and childcare centers by focusing in the inequities that lead to poor IAQ that impacts students, teachers and staff with asthma.
- Policy/regulatory changes related to improving clinical asthma management.
- Patient/provider interactions altered so that they are inclusive of a model that identifies and responds to the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) that impact patients' lives.
- Increased quality of care of diverse populations by ensuring providers have access to and utilize culturally appropriate tools.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Regional Asthma Management & Prevention, "Community Action to Fight Asthma: Reducing the Risk for California's Children," *Briefing Kit*, Public Health Institute, 2009.
- Regional Asthma Management & Prevention, "Becoming a Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Asthma Disparities: A Two-Year Report from RAMP," 2010.

CONTACT INFORMATION

kate@rampasthma.org dana.hughes@ucsf.edu