

# LEADING THE WAY

Association of Asthma Educators Newsletter



Volume 4 February 2025

## Newsletter Editors:

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A S T H M A



ASSOCIATION OF  
ASTHMA EDUCATORS

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Emerging Breakthroughs in Asthma  
Education: Shaping the Future

Marriott Country Club Plaza  
Kansas City, MO

JULY  
23, 24, 25  
2025

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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OUR PRIVATE ONLINE COMMUNITY

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I welcome you to a new year and new opportunities to improve the asthma care of our patients, families and friends. I am honored to be asked to serve as the president of the Association of Asthma Educators (AAE) for the 2025 term. I am humbled by the breadth of knowledge that is within the AAE. We are an organization made up of people from all walks of life that have a focused goal of improving asthma care. We have healthcare professionals from all fields that serve with me in this association. We are always researching, educating and sharing knowledge through the programs offered by the Association of Asthma Educators. We currently have three levels of programs.

1. Our Community Health Worker (CHW) program has been widely used to train Community Healthworkers across the nation to provide asthma education within their very own communities. This course is currently being updated and will be ready for utilization very soon.

2. Our Becoming an Asthma Educator Care Manager (BAECM) course provides additional training and education for those that are involved in asthma management and treatment. The BAECM course is ideal for school nurses and particularly those involved in day to day management of people with asthma. One of the goals for 2025 is for the AAE board to update the BAECM course.

3. Our AE-C Examination Review Course has recently been updated and it is ready for utilization. We are very proud of the work our members and board members have provided to update this course as well as the CHW course. In reviewing data of those folks that have taken our AE-C course and then took the NBRC Asthma Educator Specialist examination we noted a 86% first time pass rate for this examination! That is outstanding! We as an organization should be quite proud of the material we provide for asthma education and related subjects.

I do have a favor to ask of you, our members, would you consider telling your friends and co-workers about the amazing opportunities that are available with the AAE. We are always looking for people with a passion for improved asthma care and management to be a part of the AAE. An association is only as strong as its members, we need members to increase in strength. WE NEED YOU !

Let me tell you about the benefits of being a member of the AAE. We have an annual conference that provides cutting edge research and presentations for all people with an interest in asthma. The 2025 conference will be at Kansas City Marriott Country Club.

We have a message board specifically for members' questions called CommUnity.

That serves as a forum to share knowledge and seek answers. We continually research cutting edge therapies and medications to share with our membership. We have lunch and learn seminars that provide leading educators and professionals an opportunity to share their passion for asthma and related issues. Quarterly newsletters with the most current asthma and allergy information. We have some of the best researched and written educational programs. We have a membership that is always willing to assist.

I am proud of being a member of the AAE, who since 1998 has been providing cutting edge asthma education. I look forward to hearing from you and especially seeing you at our 2025 Annual Conference.

Sincerely,

Clifton Dennis, BHA, RRT, AE-C

President, Association of Asthma Educators



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## HOW SCHOOLS CAN HELP ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN ASTHMA MANAGEMENT

[HTTPS://WWW.JACI-INPRACTICE.ORG/ARTICLE/S2213-2198\(23\)01132-7/  
FULLTEXT](https://www.jaci-inpractice.org/article/S2213-2198(23)01132-7/fulltext)



### TAKEAWAYS

Asthma disparities commonly attributed to ethnicity and race are currently recognized to be driven by Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) that are associated with race, ethnicity. Worse asthma outcomes have been shown to be related to many SDOH, including missed school in children. Excessive school absenteeism exacerbates health literacy and educational attainment leading to sustained poverty and adverse exposures. Improved asthma outcomes are associated with school-based asthma programs. This article discusses key components and the potential that schools have in providing effective programs linking the community, caregivers, the child, and the health care team. Resources are provided to assist the reader in the implementation of these valuable programs.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE PEDIATRIC PATIENT WITH ASTHMA AND OBESITY.

[HTTPS://PUBMED.NCBI.NLM.NIH.GOV/37827386/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37827386/)



### KEY TAKEAWAYS

Guidelines-based treatment with ICs or ICS/LABA is still the mainstay of asthma treatment for patients with obesity, but it may not always offer the best control in patients with obesity.

- Improvement in asthma control and asthma-related quality of life may be observed by treating any present obesity comorbidities, including symptomatic gastro-esophageal reflux, obstructive sleep apnea, anxiety, or depression.
- Healthy lifestyle modifications through dietary changes, increased physical activity, and accessibility to providers are beneficial for asthma control and overall health. These modifications should be proactively pursued in patients with asthma and obesity. The utilization of bariatric surgery for weight loss could become more common in the adolescent population and may offer similar benefits.
- Medications used to treat metabolic disease could find additional indications in asthma treatment for patients with both asthma and obesity
- In consideration of most of these potential management strategies, large prospective randomized clinical trials specifically designed for asthma in the setting of obesity are needed.

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# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT: ELIMINATING TOBACCO-RELATED DISEASE AND DEATH: ADDRESSING DISPARITIES

[HTTPS://WWW.JACI-INPRACTICE.ORG/ARTICLE/S2213-2198\(23\)01132-7/FULLTEXT](https://www.jaci-inpractice.org/article/S2213-2198(23)01132-7/fulltext)



The new report – the 35th on Smoking and Health – reviews the latest scientific evidence on commercial tobacco-related health disparities in the United States. It documents significant progress reducing commercial tobacco use in the United States overall, but tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke has not decreased at the same rate across all population groups.

### Key Takeaways:

- Disparities in tobacco use continue to persist by income and occupation, geography, education, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender and mental health status, the new data from the U.S. surgeon general found.
- Cigarette smoking is more common among American Indian and Alaska Native people than other racial and ethnic groups.
- The tobacco industry markets heavily in areas with larger populations of poor people as well as Black and Hispanic people. Flavored products, including menthol, which can make it harder to quit, are also marketed in these areas.

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## ARS PHARMACEUTICALS ANNOUNCES PLANNED LAUNCH OF “NEFFYINSCHOOLS” PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING NEEDLE FREE EPINEPHRINE TO ELIGIBLE K-12 SCHOOLS AT NO COST

[HTTPS://IR.ARS-PHARMA.COM/NEWS-RELEASES/NEWS-RELEASE-DETAILS/ARS-PHARMACEUTICALS-ANNOUNCES-PLANNED-LAUNCH-NEFFYINSCHOOLS](https://ir.ars-pharma.com/news-releases/news-release-details/ars-pharmaceuticals-announces-planned-launch-neffyinschools)



### KEY TAKEAWAYS

ARS Pharmaceuticals announced that it will be launching the **neffyinSchools Program** in January 2025. The program will provide eligible public and private K-12 schools in the U.S. the opportunity to receive two cartons of neffy 2mg for use in emergency treatment of allergic reactions including anaphylaxis.

### Key Points:

- neffy 2mg was recently approved for the treatment of Type I allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, in adults and children who weigh greater than or equal to 30 kg (66 lbs).
- Participating schools will be eligible to receive replacement doses when the product is used or expires.
- Interested schools are encouraged to review applicable state laws and regulations to ensure neffy® for undesignated use meets all requirements.
- More information about this program can be found at [www.ars-pharma.com](http://www.ars-pharma.com) and [www.neffy.com](http://www.neffy.com) under the Community Program tab.

# COST STOPS 1 IN 6 ADULTS WITH ASTHMA FROM TAKING MEDICATIONS AS PRESCRIBED, STUDY SUGGESTS



Despite a declining trend in the number of people with asthma that say that cost was a barrier in taking medications as prescribed, there are still one in six adults with asthma that are nonadherent to medications due to financial hardship, suggests research published online in the respiratory medical journal Thorax.

<https://thorax.bmj.com/content/80/1/16>

- Adults with asthma who skipped medication doses, took less medication and delayed refilling medications to save money had nearly two times the risk of having an asthma attack and a more than 60% heightened risk of visiting the emergency department for asthma.
- Patients who were younger and female were significantly more likely to report cost-related non-adherence. People who were non-Hispanic Black, lived in the South, had educational attainment less than high school, lacked health coverage, reported low income, smoked, had poor perceived health, and who were single or lived alone were also more likely to report non-adherence to asthma medication because of cost.
- People with income just over the federal poverty level and may not qualify for Medicaid, had the greatest cost-related non-adherence.
- Since asthma is one of the leading chronic diseases, the burden in cost-related non-adherence to medications highlights the need for appropriate policies and social support to address such problems.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Exclusive: US FDA finds widely used asthma drug impacts the brain

U.S. government researchers have found that a widely prescribed asthma drug originally sold by Merck & Co (MRK.N) may be linked to serious mental health problems for some patients, according to a scientific presentation reviewed by Reuters.

Read:



### Doctors hail first breakthrough in asthma and COPD treatment in 50 years

The US Food and Drug Administration approved Neffy (epinephrine nasal spray) 2 mg for the emergency treatment of Type 1 allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, in adult and pediatric



### Foods To Avoid With Asthma (And Ones That Are Safe To Eat) – The Best & Worst Foods For Asthma, Ranked

Although a single food won't make or break asthma, it can still influence symptoms. Some foods can help patients breathe easier, while others can prompt wheezing. Choose the right foods or drinks for asthma by learning which ones might make the condition better or worse.





# AAE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## Emerging Breakthroughs in Asthma Education: Shaping the Future

Marriott Country Club Plaza  
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JULY  
23, 24, 25  
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Scan for full details



The Association of Asthma Educators (AAE) is the premier national nonprofit organization devoted to excellence and raising the competency of diverse individuals who educate patients and families living with asthma. The AAE Annual Conference is the most prominent educational offering of AAE, drawing over 250 asthma educators from all professions, including: respiratory therapists, nurses, pharmacists, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, community health workers, athletic trainers, and other healthcare professionals.



Country Club Plaza

Book Your Stay



# AAE ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEWS

ASSOCIATION OF ASTHMA EDUCATORS

## Registration

WED JULY

**23**

Dual Learning Tracks

THU JULY

**24**

General Session

FRI JULY

**25**

General Session  
and Breakouts

Registration includes: CEs,  
Breakfast, Lunch, and Receptions

Registration Type	Price (USD)
<b>NEW Member SPECIAL:</b> Full Conference PLUS Membership	\$630.00
<b>AAE Members: Full Conference</b>	\$530.00
<b>MILITARY: Full Conference Registration</b>	\$500.00
<b>2 Day Non Member Registration: July 23 &amp; 24</b> (Wed and Thu)	\$410.00
<b>2 Day Non Member Registration: July 24 &amp; 25</b> (Thu and Fri)	\$410.00
<b>JULY 23 Single Day Registration</b>	\$250.00
<b>JULY 24 Single Day Registration</b>	\$250.00
<b>JULY 25 Single Day Registration</b>	\$250.00
<b>Past Presidents</b>	\$280.00
<b>Students: Full Conference</b>	\$200.00



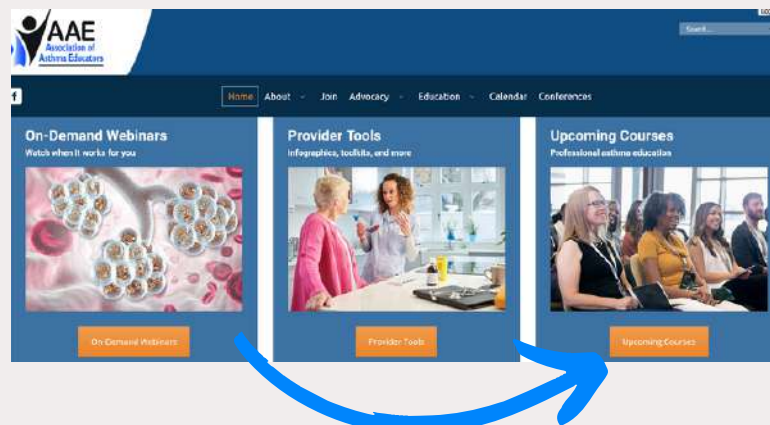
[www.asthmaeducators.org](http://www.asthmaeducators.org)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AAE Calendar

Visit our website and click on **Upcoming Courses**

[www.asthmaeducators.org](http://www.asthmaeducators.org)



ASSOCIATION OF  
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## Asthma Education for the Community Health Worker



### About Our Program

The AAE is dedicated to supporting the asthma educational needs of Community Health Workers by providing a comprehensive training program based on the national asthma guidelines. As a result, the Asthma Education for the Community Health Worker program was carefully designed and reviewed by over 35 asthma educators around the nation to ensure groups receive a high-quality curriculum. It includes five separate teaching modules and concludes with a comprehensive evaluation to earn an AAE Certificate of Completion.



### The Program

- Ensures that community health workers receive a consistent high-quality curriculum developed by Certified Asthma Educators
- Provides an effective, nationally available low-cost program
- Facilitates community health workers' communication with clinical mentors for professional development

### APRIL 2025 COURSE Schedule:

- MONDAY April 14  
12:00pm-3:00pm ET  
Complete Module 1 & 2
- WEDNESDAY April 16  
12:00pm-3:00pm ET  
Complete Module 3 & 4
- MONDAY APRIL 21  
12:00pm-3:00pm ET  
Complete Module 5 and  
FAQs
- WEDNESDAY APRIL 23  
9:00am -5:00pm-  
\*Schedule a one hour  
individual assessment

SCAN HERE





# NEW AAE MEMBERSHIP ONLINE COMMUNITY

## Welcome

Welcome to your new AAE Community! The AAE Community will allow you to interact regularly and easily with peers, experts, and organizational staff. We feel this is an ideal way to enhance our organization's benefits to you, our members.

Within AAE Community, members have:

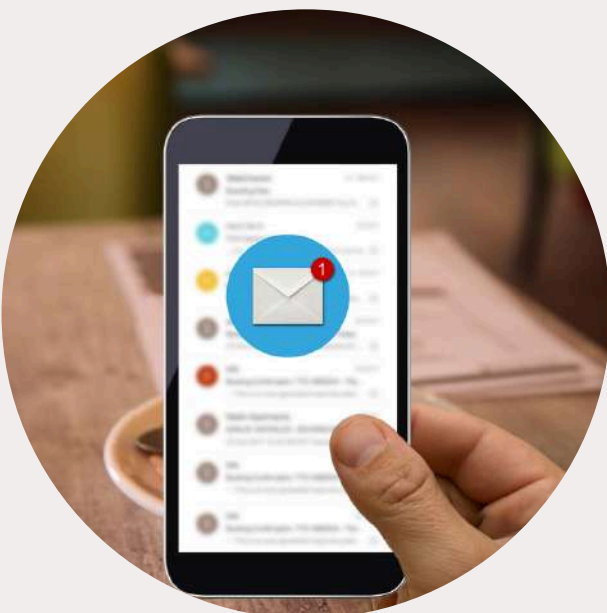
- The ability to post questions in forums where peers and experts from across the industry can respond with their insights and ideas.
- The ability to share your own expertise in response to the questions of others.
- Opportunities to build your network through formal connections, private messaging, and other options.
- A robust and easy-to-access resource library, where you can download what you need when you need it.

As you get started,

- Check out the interest-based groups to see what other people are already posting.
- Search the member lists to see who is in the community. We are a small, but mighty group. We know you will surely find some familiar faces!
- Send a connection request to colleagues that you know or want to know.
- Introduce yourself in the topical groups.
- Be sure to complete your profile, including a profile photo, so that people can easily search for you by expertise, interest, or goal.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to our organization. We hope to see you around AAE Community as we continue to advance our industry and to support one another.

BOOKMARK: [https://  
aaecommunity.smallworldlabs.com/dashboard](https://aaecommunity.smallworldlabs.com/dashboard)



# LEADING THE WAY