

A Worldwide Charter for All Children with Asthma

Asthma = the most common chronic childhood disease worldwide

Global Asthma Prevalence



Most deaths are preventable

More than 80% of asthma-related deaths occur in low-and lower-middle income countries.

Global Asthma Among Children

A recent study detailed pediatric asthma prevalence in 2 age ranges:



Prevalence among children is increasing in low- and middle-income countries

Childhood asthma deaths range from: 0 to 0.7 per 100,000 people

Risk factors in low- and middle-income countries



Tobacco smoke



Outdoor air pollution



Viral infections



Environmental disasters (hurricanes, wildfires, floods)

ASTHMA

Leading cause of school absenteeism



Sources: "Pediatric Asthma: A Global Epidemic," *Annals of Global Health*, 2019; International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC); World Health Organization (WHO); "A Worldwide Charter for All Children with Asthma," published in *Pediatric Pulmonology*, May 2020.

GUIDELINES ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH.

Support is needed in healthcare policy, access to diagnosis and treatment, and research to improve care.

Building Blocks:

How to Reduce Childhood Asthma Prevalence and Death

LOCAL SUPPORT

- Identify a community asthma champion to support asthma programs and treatment.
- Identify children with moderate to severe asthma and develop treatment plans that includes regular lung function testing.
- Assist school nurses and community health workers with asthma management.

NATIONAL SUPPORT

- Use Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) as a template to develop national guidance and regulatory approval of asthma medications.
- Develop asthma education in primary care.
- Identify children with a high burden of asthma so they can be referred to a specialist.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

- Continue to use GINA as a basis for effective asthma management.
- Update guidance on difficult-to-treat asthma as new medications and management strategies are introduced.
- Develop strategies to train primary care and community health workers to manage children with mild to moderate asthma.

The Rights of Children with Asthma

Children with asthma deserve...

- a timely, accurate diagnosis of asthma within the primary care or community setting
- the right to medicines recommended for asthma (as included in the *Essential Medicines List of the World Health Organization*)
- the right to know what type of asthma they have, so they obtain the right treatment
- a referral to a specialist if asthma cannot be controlled in the primary care or community setting
- long-term follow-up care to ensure health and growth is monitored and evaluated

Adapted from "A Worldwide Charter for All Children with Asthma," published in *Pediatric Pulmonology*, May 2020.