

FACT SHEET

LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER BREATHMOBILE PROGRAM



Asthma is the most common chronic childhood disease. Asthma attacks account for 47.8% of the emergency department visits and 34.6% of the hospitalizations in children less than 18 years old according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The LAC+USC Breathmobile Program's mission is to bring specialty asthma care to the community to improve access for those who need it most.

The objectives of this program are to integrate existing community resources with disease management principles to:

- a. deliver specialty asthma care to under-served children with asthma living in Los Angeles County;
- b. improve public health resource utilization by a shifting care emphasis from acute episodic care to a preventative health care model and;
- c. demonstrate cost effective health care through a decrease in utilization of acute care costs related to asthma exacerbations.

COVID creates an increased risk with people experiencing asthma. Our Breathmobile teams are vigorously conducting telehealth visits to provide regular, preventive and episodic care for pediatric patients with asthma to help protect this vulnerable population.

The Breathmobile program comprises a fleet of mobile recreational vehicles that have been converted to allergen-free environmental health clinics for the community.

The vehicles are staffed by credentialed asthma-specialty trained physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, respiratory therapists, registration staff and financial screeners.

The Breathmobile healthcare team delivers regularly scheduled, preventive, team-based asthma care in English & Spanish to school sites and other community sites.

Patients are scheduled for checkups every 8-10 weeks on average where they get evaluated and their customized treatment plans tailored for their individual needs.

Care may include pulmonary function testing, allergy skin testing, allergen avoidance education and medication use education/demonstration.

Every patient receives a written Asthma Action Plan at the completion of each visit in either Spanish or English.

The LAC+USC Medical Center Breathmobile operates under a Memorandum of Understanding established in 1995 that allows us to initiate services with a community partner whereby children are treated for asthma at no cost to the families, regardless of insurance status.

The LAC+USC Breathmobile Program was the first disease specific program of any type certified for disease specific care by the Joint Commission in the United States.

Asthma disproportionately affects children of lower socioeconomic status, limited access to care, those without insurance, those in foster care, and of African American ethnicity. The program partners with school districts and community organizations to help reach those children who need the services most.

The LAC+USC Breathmobile teams have helped similar programs start across the nation that make up The Mobile Asthma Care for Kids Network (The National Breathmobile Network) (servingunderserved.org). Programs operate in San Bernardino, Oakland, Orange County, Phoenix, Baltimore, and Chicago to name a few.

Over the history of the program, over 30,000 children have been treated at over 200,000 visits. Outcomes for children with asthma are reproducible across different geographic areas, ethnicities, and ages using the Breathmobile model of care.

Patients participating in the Breathmobile program on average have a 67% reduction in ED visits, 87% reduction in hospitalizations, and a 86% improvement in school attendance due to asthma related exacerbations (**Scott L**, Morphey T, Bollinger ME, Samuelson S, Galant S, Clement L, O'Cull K, Jones F, Jones CA. Achieving and maintaining asthma control in inner-city children. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2011 July; 128(2): 56-63.Epub 2011 Apr 30).

Eighty percent of patients achieve guideline-defined well-controlled asthma by their third visit to the LAC+USC Breathmobile program with a 96% probability of achieving control by their sixth visit.

Funded in full and housed at LAC+USC Medical Center, under the Department of Pediatrics/Division of Allergy and Immunology/Dr. Lyne Scott, the LAC+USC Breathmobile Program currently serves children at sites in all supervisorial districts of Los Angeles County with the exception of Lancaster/Palmdale.

In January of 2020, as an expansion of the LAC+USC Breathmobile Program, the High Desert Breathmobile Program launched by request of Supervisor Kathryn Barger to start services in the Antelope Valley.

Dr. Scott and Dr. Marilyn Li have worked regularly with the Los Angeles Asthma Coalition and Department of Public Health to improve asthma education for providers and health care professionals within the DHS system and Los Angeles county outside of the Breathmobile program.

Future plans including expanding to unmet need areas in the community with the completion of three new electric vans by 2021.