



AAFA-MI

Annual Report 2019

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*Thank you to all those who
 have contributed time,
 support and funds – without
 you – we could not exist!*

*Our biggest donors this
 year include:*

**Janz & Knight PLC - Roy Michell
 Foundation**

Energy Foundation

**Consumer Healthcare Product
 Association**

Capital Area United Way

Each year, AAFA-MI works tirelessly to fulfill our mission to improve the quality of life for those affected by asthma and allergies through education, training and advocacy; and 2019 was no exception.

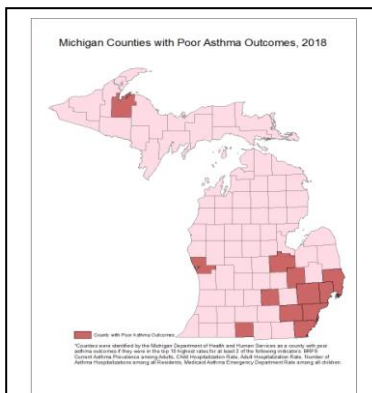
We inspired thousands across Michigan to improve their health through our many programs including: *Wee Breathers*[™] (for home visiting educators & child care centers), *Asthma Management & Education* (for nurses, doctors and respiratory therapists), as well as community health fairs, school events and workplace programs. Educating our Legislators on the importance of health first in all policy decisions is also critical to our mission.

Asthma and allergies (including food) are still one of the most common and most costly chronic diseases. These diseases affect more than 75 million Americans. This is more than diabetes, cancer, heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer's & Parkinson's **combined!** Asthma accounts for over 1.5 million annual emergency department visits. Food Allergies account for over 200 thousand ED visits. Asthma alone accounts for \$82 billion in yearly direct and indirect costs. Helping people get better control will save healthcare dollars and improve quality of life.

Michigan has close to a million people with asthma; about 25% are just kids! In fact, it's a big reason why children miss school, go to the emergency room, or are hospitalized. Total annual costs for asthma in Michigan exceed \$395 million - much of this is associated with out-of-control asthma. Which we work every day to help people get better control.

The good news is deaths from asthma are declining. And childhood asthma rates have leveled off. However, racial disparities still persist among the poorest families and asthma is far more common among African-American children than white children.

Thanks to our Executive Director, Board Members, and volunteers we are changing these startling facts for so many in Michigan through our quality programs, services and our passion to do what's best for those affected by asthma and allergies.



Counties with highest Asthma Rates:

Baraga, Branch, Genesee,
 Ingham, Oakland, Macomb,
 Monroe, Muskegon, Saginaw, St.
 Clair, Washtenaw & Wayne

- 63,000 people miss school or work due to asthma
- 4,700 people visit the emergency room due to asthma
- 82 people visit the emergency room due to food allergies
- 10 people die from asthma
- median annual medical cost of asthma was \$983 in the U.S. This ranged from an average low of \$833 in Arizona to an average high of \$1,121 in Michigan

◀ **Every Day in America**

AAFA-MI is seeking dedicated volunteers. If you're interested, please contact our Executive Director

"You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."

Winston Churchill

For the latest information and news follow us on Facebook and Twitter (aafami)



For Life Without Limits!

We are proud to have reached thousands with our programs and services provided. Here is a sampling:

Public Outreach

- ⊙ Over 7,500 individuals were reached through our involvement with community health fairs, media appearances, workplace programs, lectures, and phone & website interactions

Professional Outreach

- ⊙ 760 Doctors, Nurses, Respiratory Therapists, and other professionals were educated and trained through our medical educational programs & consulting work

Legislative Outreach

- ⊙ Through our partnership with the *Energy Foundation* and *MI Air MI Health*, we had thoughtful conversations regarding asthma, allergies, air quality and renewable energy with over 10 state and federal Legislators

School Outreach

- ⊙ Staff at five schools in southeast Michigan were taught proper asthma management and provided with learning materials

Collaborations, Coalitions & Progress

- ⊙ AAFA-MI staff and volunteers are active leaders with several grant projects, coalitions & groups dedicated to asthma, allergy and food allergy issues (examples: Wayne State University, Detroit Asthma Collective, Michigan Allergy & Asthma Society)
- ⊙ AAFA-MI is an active participant on the Michigan Asthma Advisory Council (MAAC) a panel of asthma experts consulting with the State on policy, management, health disparity issues, and guidelines
- ⊙ Through AAFA National, many exciting programs exist like the *Asthma & Allergy Friendly® Certification Program* (assists consumers with choosing "friendly" products) AsthmaandAllergyFriendly.com
- ⊙ Kids With Food Allergies, a patient organization with the largest online community for families is a division of AAFA. This is an exciting and important partnership which allows us to provide expertise to those affected by food allergies
- ⊙ Our Executive Director helped develop the new *Asthma Care for Adults* program, which is now published at aafa.org/ac-kit

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"Thank you so much for the warm response! I will review everything you have sent which will help us get through this winter season healthier..." Grateful Mom