

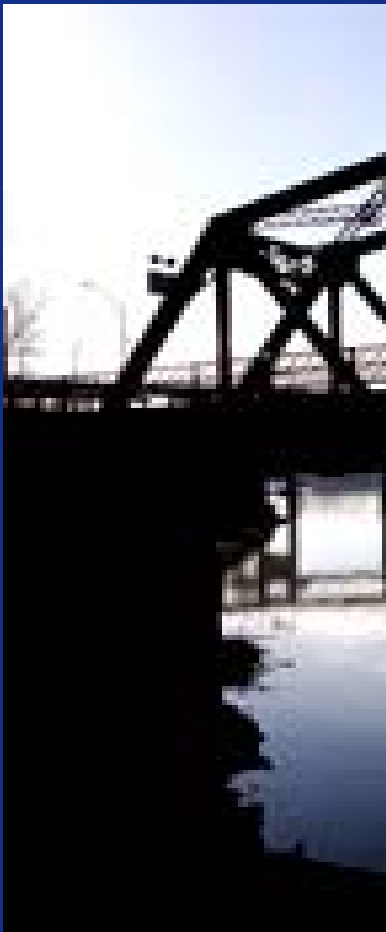
Healthy Homes: *A Health Equity Strategy to Bridge Health And Housing*



Ben Duncan, Health Educator
Multnomah County Environmental Health
Portland, Oregon

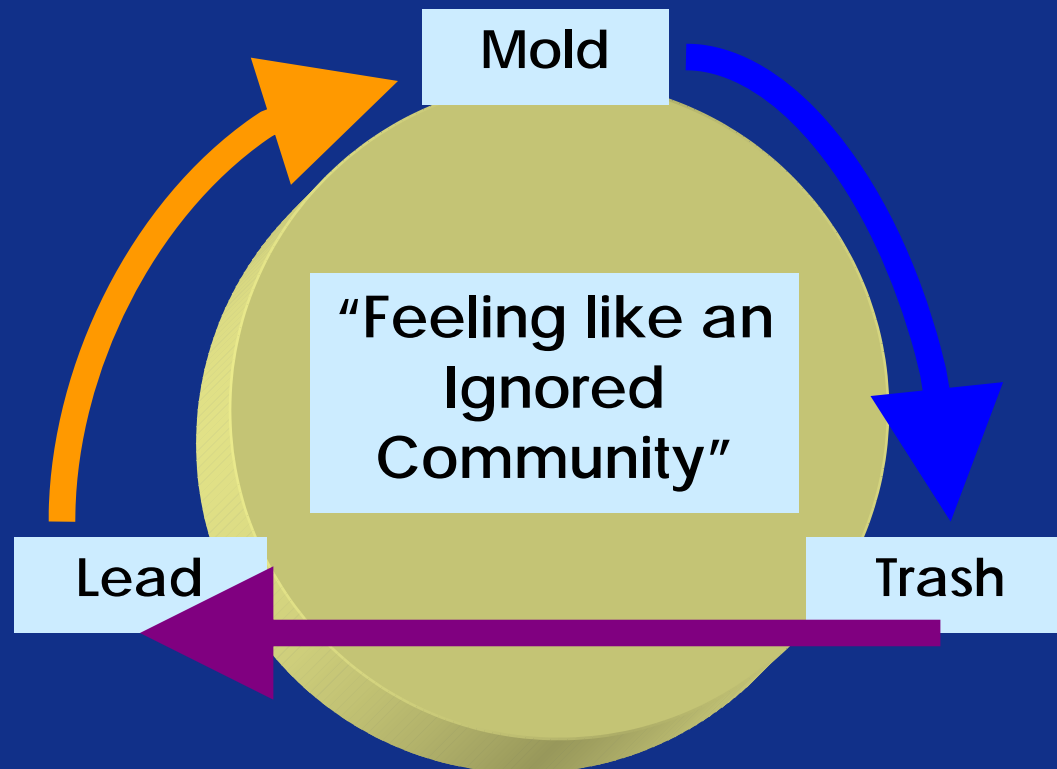
Taking the First Step:

Community Voice : PACE



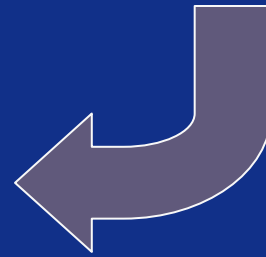
- Defined Environmental Justice
- Self-identified communities came forward
- Community Coalition
- Photo voice, surveys, oral testimony
- Community needs identified and prioritized
 - * Open space meetings
 - * World Café meetings

Outcomes



Step Two

Healthy Homes



The Healthy Homes Program Model

- Utilizes the strength of the family and strong partnerships
- Utilizes a multidisciplinary team
- Reduces environmental triggers
- Complements clinic interventions by improving family understanding of asthma management
- Addresses housing issues

The Team

- Bilingual
Community Health
Nurse, Asthma
Certified
- Bilingual
Community
Outreach Workers
- Environmental
Health Specialist
- Evaluators

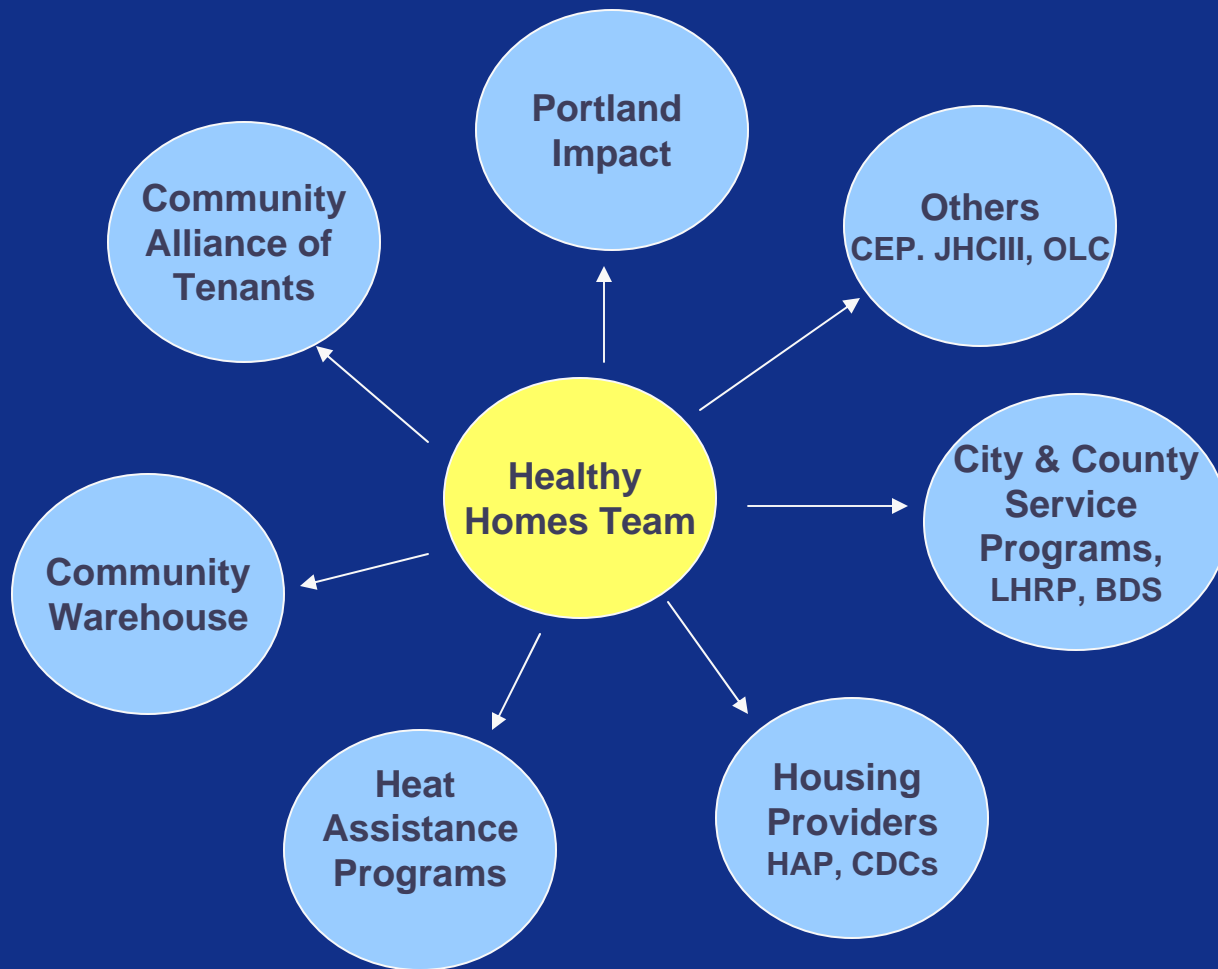


The Visit Model

- 4 – 6 Home Visits over six months
- Incentives (Vacuum cleaners, mattress covers)
- Partnership Leverage
- Pre and Post Evaluation

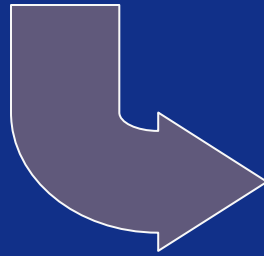


Network of Community Referrals



Step Three

Data Collection



Health Improvements in Healthy Homes Children

- Asthma control as measured by Asthma Control Assessment conducted by the nurse at the first and last visit showed asthma control improvement
- Environmental Health Assessment

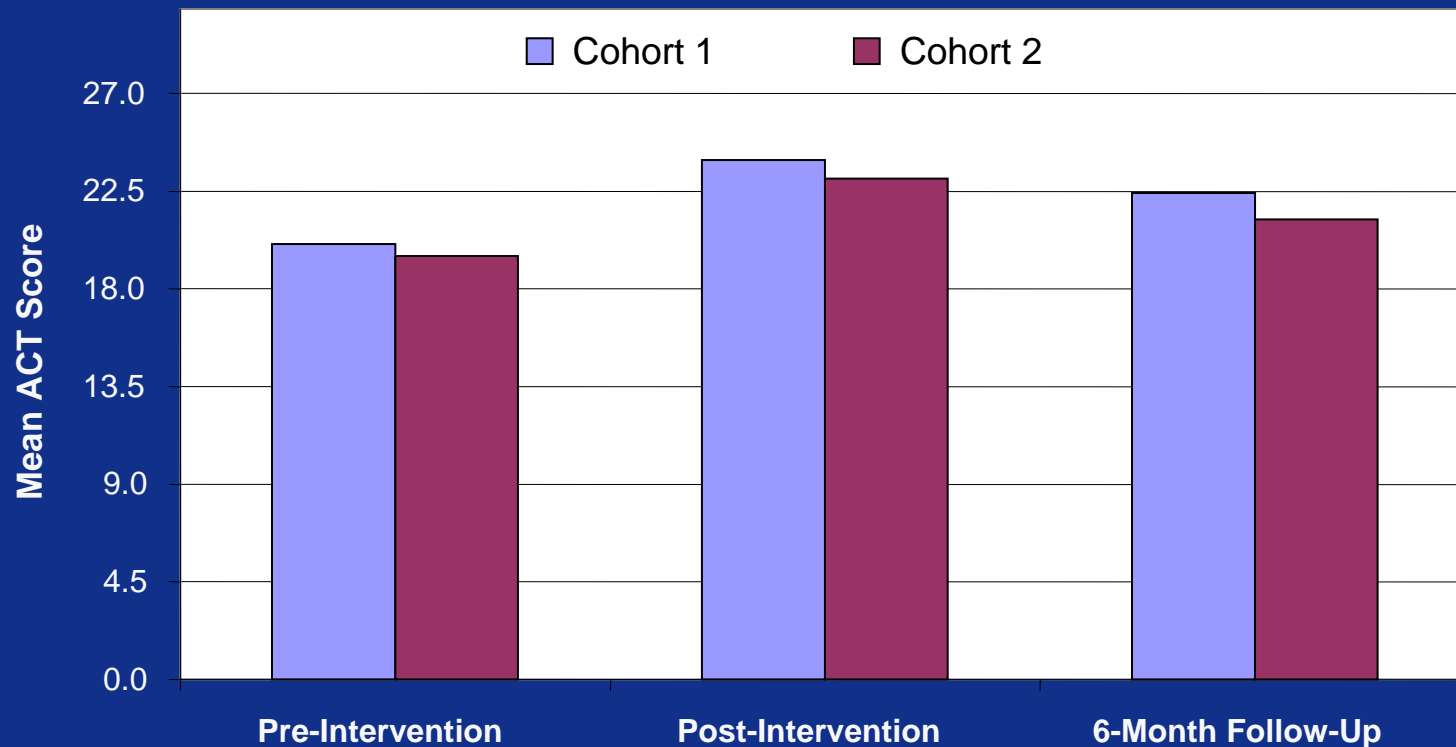
Healthy Homes Data

- 148 children have been enrolled
- The majority of families are Spanish speaking
- Majority of families are people of color
- Over 90% retention in the program

Long-term Improved Asthma Control

Cohorts 1 & 2: Comparison of Pre- and Post- Intervention, and 6-Month Follow-Up ACT Scores

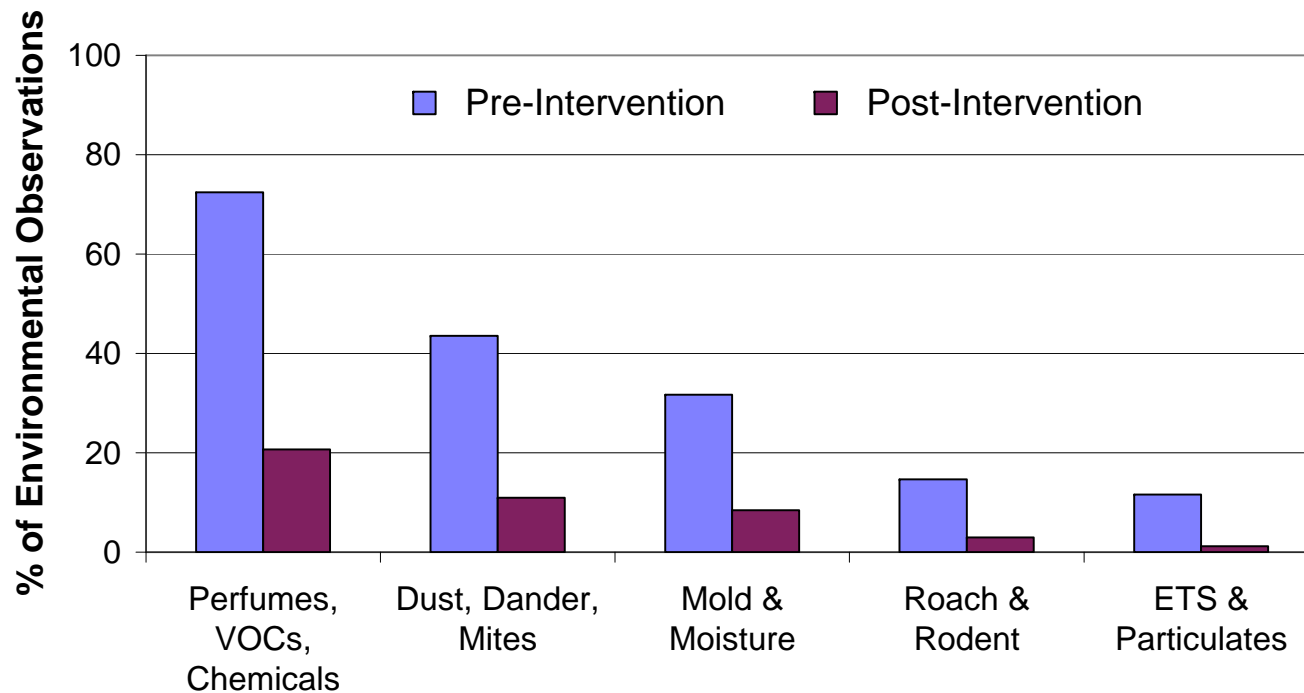
[There is a significant difference between Pre- & Post-Intervention ACT Scores ($p < 0.007$) in both cohorts.]



Reduced household asthma triggers overall

Environmental Asthma Triggers Before & After Healthy Homes Team Interventions: % of Environmental Observations

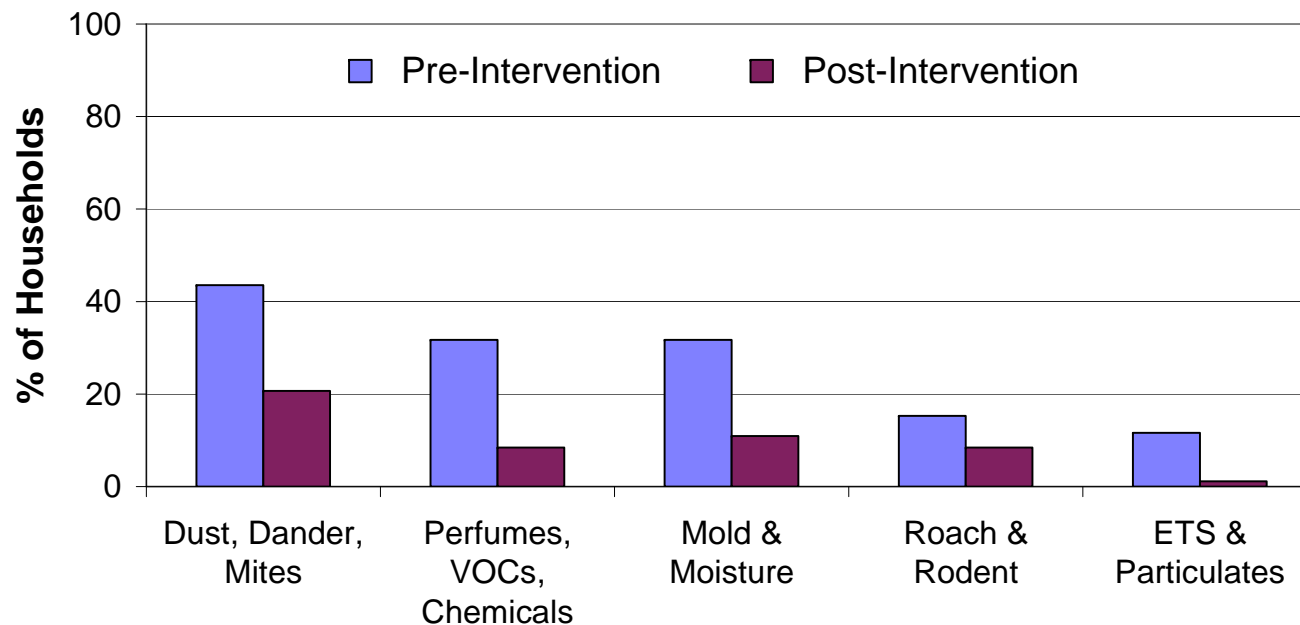
(All pre- post- differences significant, Chi-Square, $p < .0001$)(N=30 households)



Reduced number of homes with asthma triggers

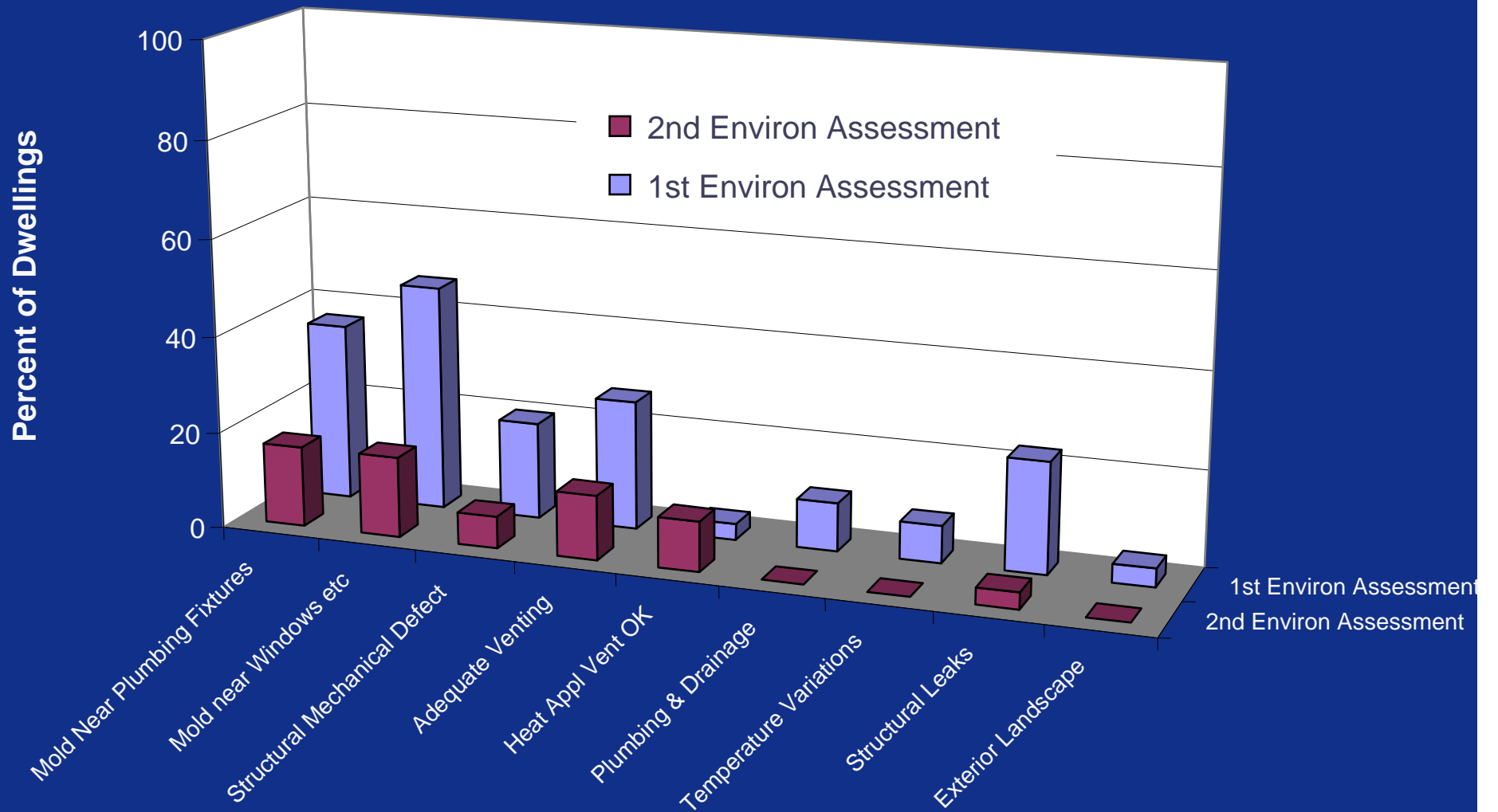
Environmental Asthma Triggers Before and After Healthy Homes Interventions: % of Households with Triggers

(Dust-Dander-Mites; Perfumes-VOCs-Chemicals, & Mold-Moisture are significantly different: Chi-Square, $p=.001 - 0.036$) (N=30)

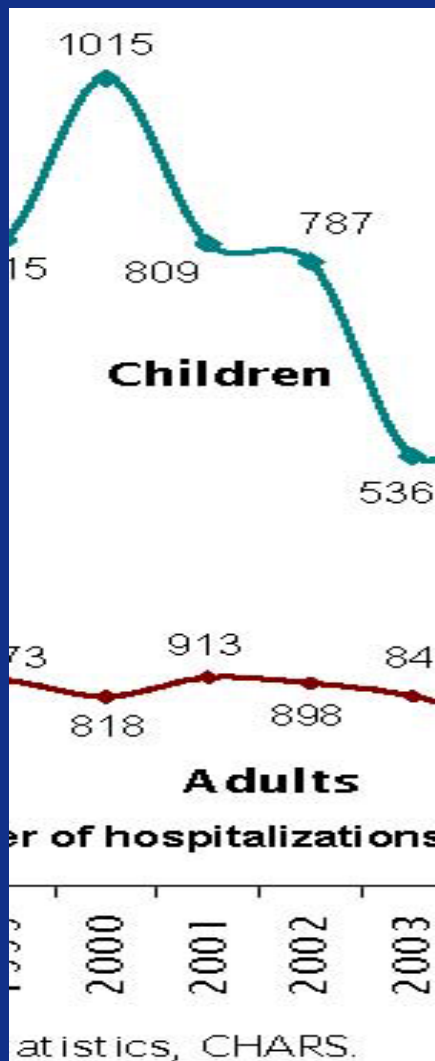


Cohort 2 - Mold and Moisture Assessment

(Each Bar is the Sum of 3 Categories of Exposure)



Asthma Hospitalization in King County



- Hospitalization per 100,000
- Decreased since 2001 when Asthma Health Forum gathered health, housing folks together to address asthma
- \$3,000 for hospitalization, ER visit and intake = \$1.70 saved (intervention) for every \$1 spent on prevention

Healthy Homes Strengths

- Develop strong educational component for landlords and tenants
- Advocate for other supports found to be effective in Healthy Homes
 - Nursing home visit
 - Partner development and referrals
 - Incentives: Green cleaning, vacuum

Public Policy



Healthy Homes Summit

- Convened key health and housing stakeholders
- Informed stakeholders on health and housing issues related to health
- Circled back to stakeholders on actions since PACE
- Facilitated gap analysis with stakeholders
- Created recommendations

Next Steps: Regulatory

- Continue to assess and monitor
- Identify trends
- Create ordinance language that is measurable, objective and links to health
- Standardize inspections
- Develop enforcement that assures fair and equitable treatment
- Create mechanisms to obviate retaliation

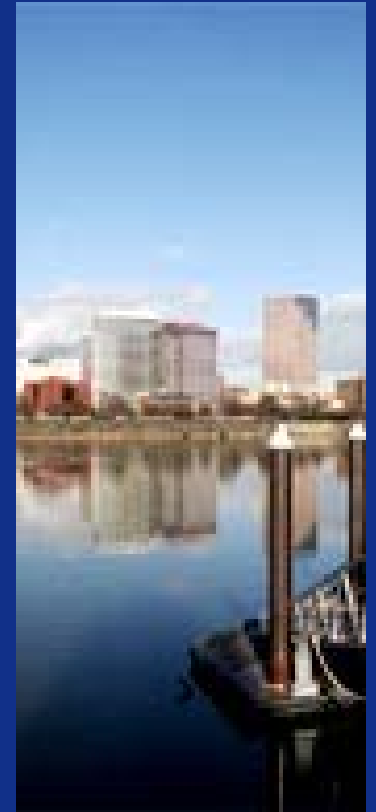
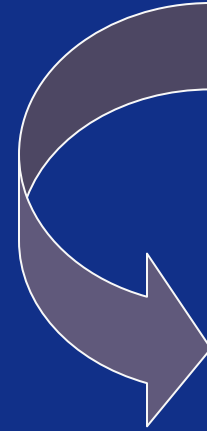
Effective Housing Policies Reduce Future Exposure to Children

- Strict enforcement: report of dangerous levels of lead to owner, residents at address and state lead program
- Limited enforcement addresses were 4.6 times more likely to house a future child who became lead poisoned

Next Steps

- Create a Managed Care (Care Oregon) pilot project with three year funding
- Develop an evaluation plan in collaboration with Care Oregon.
- Negotiate a fixed per visit reimbursement for “case management”
- Continue education of policy makers
- Continue education of legislators

Equity



Health Equity Initiative

Environmental Health has been a partner in the health equity initiative

- Staff time
- Healthy homes/asthma work highlighted
- Connecting health and housing
- Recognition that housing policy is health policy
- Social determinants of health

A Health Equity Lens Is Good Public Health Practice





Ben Duncan, Health Educator
Multnomah County Environmental Health

benjamin.e.duncan@co.multnomah.or.us

503-988-3400