
LC4 Working Cooperatively



Who is People Working Cooperatively?



People Working Cooperatively (PWC) serves 19 counties across Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Through a variety of community services, **PWC focuses on environmental health via home improvement.** Their mission is founded upon the belief that **housing is a key social determinant of health** and therefore, an essential mechanism to **prevent the presentation and exacerbation of numerous chronic diseases.**

Who is People Working Cooperatively?



Fig A: People working cooperatively



Fig B: Person working cooperatively



Social Determinants of Health Addressed

- Housing, income, and health care are all contributors to the negative outcomes seen in Cincinnati communities, and there has been insufficient efforts to improve the quality of living spaces and therefore treat medical conditions.
- In collaboration with People Working Cooperatively, LC #4 has focused on **addressing asthma triggers in the home** and the ways in which PWC could provide education to combat these health disparities.
- We worked to help find PWC grants to expand their outreach to renters and homeowners. Ultimately we created magnets that PWC can distribute to families who visit their Home Innovation Center. We also collaborated to create a new, inneractive board for their Innovation Center for asthma prevention and education.

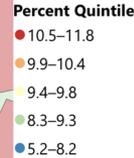
Our Service Learning Project and SDH : Safe Housing & Asthma Prevention

National **State**

Current Asthma Prevalence by State or Territory (2019)

Select age group:

- Adult
- Child



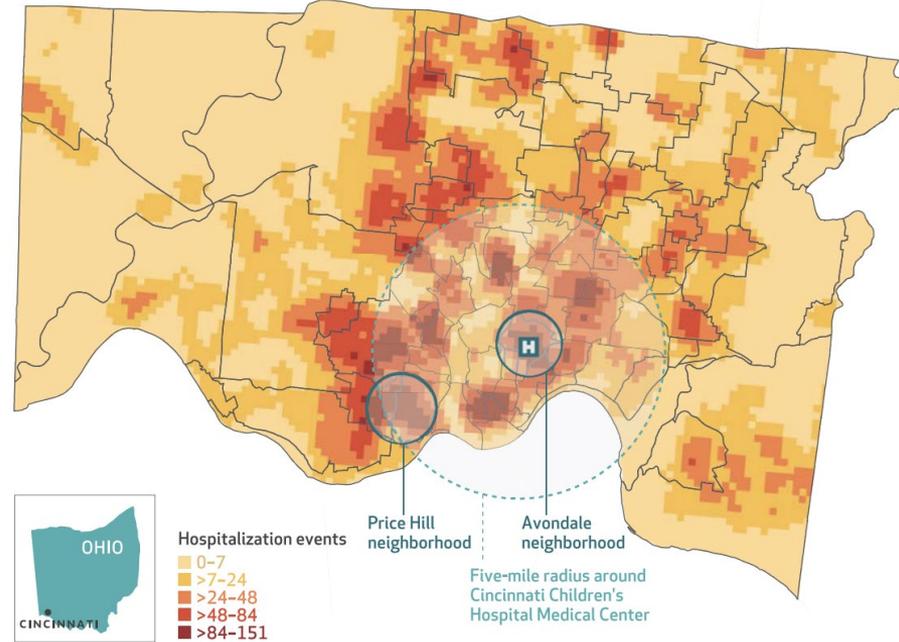
· Current asthma prevalence varies in states and territories, ranging from 4.3% in North Dakota to 12.1% in the District of Columbia for children and from 5.2% in Guam to 11.8% in Maine for adults.
· The median across all states and territories was 9.7% among adults and 7.6% among children.

Data Table –

| State or Territory | Percent | SE |
|--------------------|---------|------|
| Ohio | 11.1 | 0.46 |



Hot spots of hospitalizations for children ages 0-18 years in Hamilton County, Ohio, July 2012-June 2015



Challenges Facing Safe Housing



- A **“trigger”** is something in your **environment**, that when exposed, will induce an asthma exacerbation, or **“attack”**
- One person’s triggers may be very different than another person’s triggers



PWC's Impact on the Community

PWC is a non-profit organization that focuses on critical home repairs, energy conservation, and accessibility modification services offered at no cost to clients, funded fully from grants from businesses, donations, and other local organizations. This eliminates the financial burden on families in our community.

- **Performs more than 8,000 services for eligible homeowners each year** by a robust group of more than 110 licensed, professionally trained staff.
- PWC volunteers and skilled staff are in **more than 4,500 homes annually assisting nearly 9,000 individuals in southwestern Ohio, northern Kentucky and southeast Indiana.**

In the view of the whole home, PWC also hosts the Innovation Center that educates visitors on the intersection of health and home. Other educational services that PWC promotes include:

- Electric Partnership Program
- Stepping On Fall Prevention Workshop



PWC's Impact on the Community

Housing is a social determinant of health that impacts the Cincinnati community and the population PWC serves. In conjunction, **low income neighborhoods are disproportionately affected by housing inequalities that are manifested in their overall health.** Sub-optimal living conditions exacerbate health disparities, especially in lead toxicity, asthma, and fall risks. PWC focuses on the intersection of housing and wellbeing to positively influence health outcomes in our Cincinnati neighborhoods.

Overall PWC's impacts the Greater Cincinnati community by **increasing awareness of and accessibility to a healthy home environment** via multiple educational initiatives and free of cost home improvements.



How City Council Can Help

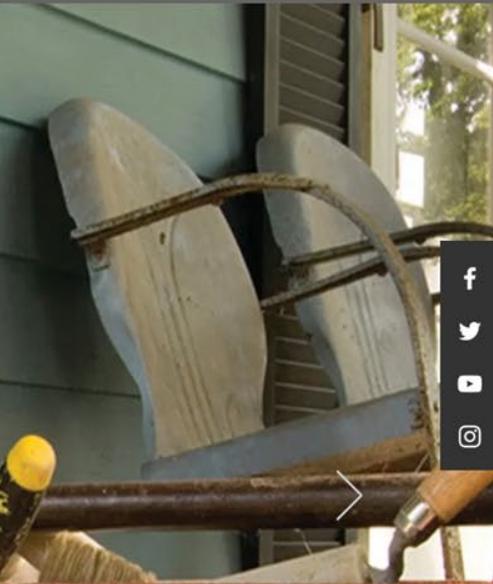
- Ultimately, **safe home environments decrease asthma triggers.**
- To address these health disparities, we support policies protecting air-quality safety for renters and homeowners alike.
 - Policies regarding HEPA filters, pest and mold control, and current policy enforcement



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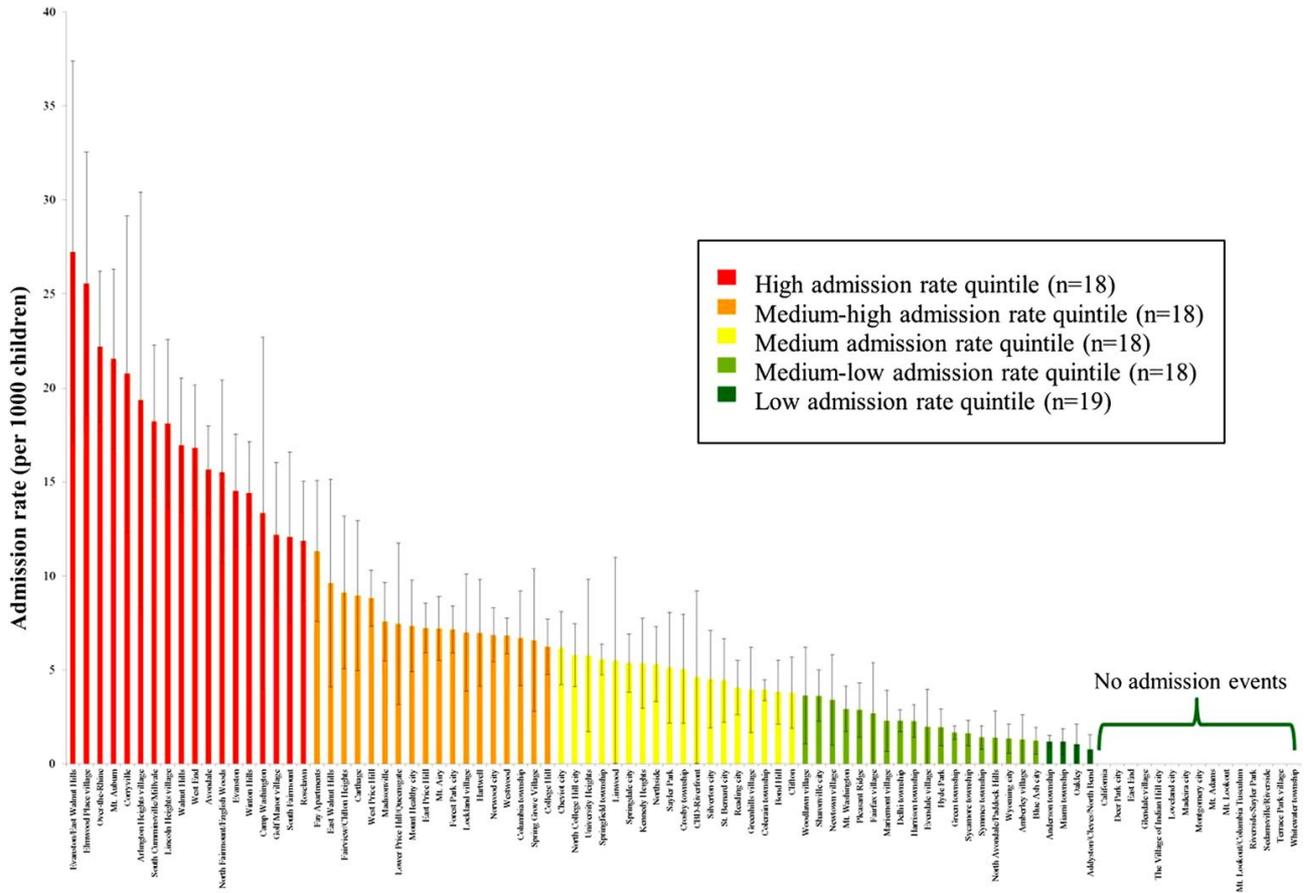
This is what happens when good people work **together.**

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An article examined asthma admission rates across 91 neighborhoods in Hamilton County. Admission rates differed as much as 88-fold across neighborhoods, with 15 neighborhoods having a zero percent admission rate, illustrating simultaneously the disparity and possibility of eradicating asthma (Inequalities in Neighborhood Child Asthma Admission Rates... Distribution of asthma admission rates within Hamilton County).



Hamilton County neighborhoods

Distribution of asthma admission rates within Hamilton County (n = 91 neighborhoods). Adapted from Beck, A. F., Moncrief, T., Huang, B., Simmons, J. M., et. al (2013). Inequalities in neighborhood child asthma admission rates and underlying community characteristics in one US county. *The Journal of pediatrics*, 163(2), 574-580.

Highest admission rates:

- Evanston/East Walnut Hills
- Elmwood Place Village
- Over-the-Rhine
- Mt Auburn
- Corryville



A study found that 4,355 children ages 1-16 were hospitalized for asthma at Cincinnati Children's Hospital between January of 2009 and December of 2012 (Beck et al., 2013)².

Reducing asthma triggers in the home can dramatically decrease hospitalizations and emergency department visits. Children with the highest levels of housing code violations had greater odds of revisiting the emergency department compared to those with lower or no housing code violations (Beck et al., 2014)¹. “[Housing] interventions designed to reduce material deprivation and income inequalities could significantly reduce infant hospital utilization” (Brokamp, et.al, 2019)³.

Organizations like PWC which provide emergency home repairs, host educational seminars on asthma trigger reductions, and dispense cleaning supplies to reduce asthma triggers, have the ability to tackle asthma at the source. Public affordable housing and/or housing receiving external funds are more likely to be subjected to mandated housing inspections utilizing state-based housing codes (Sandel, M. T., & Bovell-Ammon, A., 2020)⁴. Consequently, this may lead to improved living conditions that could improve asthma outcomes for children in those circumstances.



Works Cited

1. Beck, A. F., Huang, B., Chundur, R., & Kahn, R. S. (2014). Housing code violation density associated with emergency department and hospital use by children with asthma. *Health affairs*, 33(11), 1993-2002.
2. Beck, A. F., Moncrief, T., Huang, B., Simmons, J. M., Sauers, H., Chen, C., & Kahn, R. S. (2013). Inequalities in neighborhood child asthma admission rates and underlying community characteristics in one US county. *The Journal of pediatrics*, 163(2), 574-580.
3. Brokamp, C., Beck, A. F., Goyal, N. K., Ryan, P., Greenberg, J. M., & Hall, E. S. (2019). Material community deprivation and hospital utilization during the first year of life: an urban population-based cohort study. *Annals of epidemiology*, 30, 37-43.
4. Sandel, M. T., & Bovell-Ammon, A. (2020). Associations between federal rental housing assistance and childhood asthma—a renewed call for investing in housing for health. *JAMA pediatrics*, 174(6), 525-526.

Thank You For Your Attention!

-Best LC

