



Policy Brief from the Office of Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner

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\$56 billion

What asthma costs the United States a year in medical expenses, lost school and work days, and early deaths.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Getting the Bronx out of the ‘Asthma Alley’

Asthma is one of the country's most common and costly diseases, especially for New York City residents. Bronx County has one of the highest rates of asthma in the United States, with the Bronx having the highest age-adjusted asthma death rate at four times higher than the national average. In New York State, more than 1.1 million adults have asthma, according to the New York State Department of Health.

Those suffering from asthma have difficulty breathing and asthma can interfere with daily activities. In the Bronx, asthma's prevalence is a significant health concern, and is especially serious for children. For instance, in some neighborhoods in Bronx County, it is estimated that 20% of children are diagnosed with asthma.

The high incidence and prevalence of asthma in the Bronx needs to be examined to get our borough out of the “Asthma Alley,” as the Bronx Community Needs Assessment Report cited in November 2014.

Legislation:

Assembly Bill A.9706: An act to create a temporary state commission to study and make recommendations to immediately address the high incidence of asthma throughout the Bronx. The creation of the commission would further support Legislators and policy makers in their efforts to eradicate the high incidence of asthma.

Asthma Related Deaths per 1 Million Population

National: 10.5

New York City: 19.8

Bronx: 43.5

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NYS Department of Health

Message from Assemblywoman Joyner:

Fighting towards improving New York's public health and addressing key issues such as asthma is an absolute must for our community in the Bronx. Bronx County is notoriously known as being ranked last when it comes to the overall health for Bronxites. By starting a conversation about health – and studying the high incidence of asthma in the Bronx, we can start to move the dial towards better health for our families in the Bronx.