DISPARITIES IN ADMINISTRATIVE PEDIATRIC ASTHMA PREVALENCE IN CLARK COUNTY

Abstract

Objective: Asthma is one of the most common chronic diseases affecting young children nationally and globally. Asthma affects more than 25 million people in the nation, of which 6 million are children. Lifetime asthma prevalence for children in Nevada is 11.5% (CDC, 2016). In Clark County School District (CCSD) during the 2016-2017 school year, 20,235 students (8%) listed asthma in school records as a health concern. Asthma burden varies by sociodemographic group with highest rates documented among Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and pediatric populations. The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of self or proxy reported health status on school absenteeism and GPA measures among Clark County School District (CCSD) students enrolled during the 2016-2017 academic school year. Methods: Administrative and health record data were acquired from Clark County School District for the 2016-2017 school year. The relationship between health status, school achievement measures, and absenteeism in Clark County was assessed using general linear models. Results: Significant relationships between health status and gender, grade level, and race/ethnicity were found ($p<0.05$). General linear models assessing the relationship between health status, cumulative GPA, and absenteeism were significant ($p<0.001$). The adjusted models showed that high school students with asthma had equivalent cumulative GPAs compared with healthy students. Yet students K-12 with asthma had more days absent when compared to other groups. A significant inverse relationship remained between cumulative GPA and days absent (weighted for enrollment time) after adjustment for sex, race, and grade level ($p<0.001$). Students grades 3-8 with asthma performed equivalently on standardized test scores compared to healthy children and those with a different health condition. Conclusion: This study demonstrated that children with asthma perform equivalently in school compared to healthy children and those with a different health condition. The enforcement of asthma action plans and national guidelines for treatment may be responsible for improved school outcomes. Increased absenteeism remains problematic among children with asthma. Comprehensive public health and school-based programs are critical to enforce clinical guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and management of the condition among school aged children.

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019
Time: 10:30am
Location: BHS 131

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Committee In Charge:
Dr. Sheniz Moonie, Advisory Committee Chair
Dr. Jennifer Pharr Advisory Committee Member
Dr. Timothy Bungum, Advisory Committee Member
Dr. Alona Angosta Graduate College Representative