

Asthma in Children and its Burdens
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Abstract

Asthma is a common chronic disease that affects approximately 26 million people in the United States, and it is one of the most common chronic diseases in childhood, affecting an estimated 7 million children (Morris, M.J. & Mosenifar, Z., 2016). Asthma inflicts a considerable burden on patients, families, society, and the healthcare system if not well controlled. The pathophysiology of asthma is complex and involves airway inflammation, intermitted airflow obstruction, and bronchial hyperresponsiveness. Uncontrolled asthma can impact academic performance of children and can prevent children from performing in school activities. The burden of asthma is disproportionately shared by minorities and low socioeconomic groups. Asthma disparities are highly associated with poverty, environmental air pollutions, occupational triggers, exposure to second-hand smoking, and lifestyle risk factors. The majority of the population at risk for asthma lives in subsidized housing where the amount of air pollution is very high. Some are unable to access the healthcare system, or financial resources to purchase asthma medications. The Transcultural Nursing Human Rights Statement indicates that inequalities, discrimination, and suffering should not continue; every human regardless of age, race, ethnicity, and cultural values should have the universal rights to access quality care. Therefore, all healthcare providers should implement the strategies of transcultural nursing to become active advocates for changes in healthcare delivery and social policies related to equitable access to healthcare and delivery of culturally competent care worldwide to give children and the marginalized population a voice in the management of asthma.

References

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