



HOLYOKE ASTHMA PROJECT COLLABORATION:

Healthcare, Schools, and Community Organizations are Collaborating to Address Asthma

2024 RCP Network Gathering
November 14, 2024

INTRODUCTION

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Holyoke Health Center

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Development Director
Nuestras Raíces

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

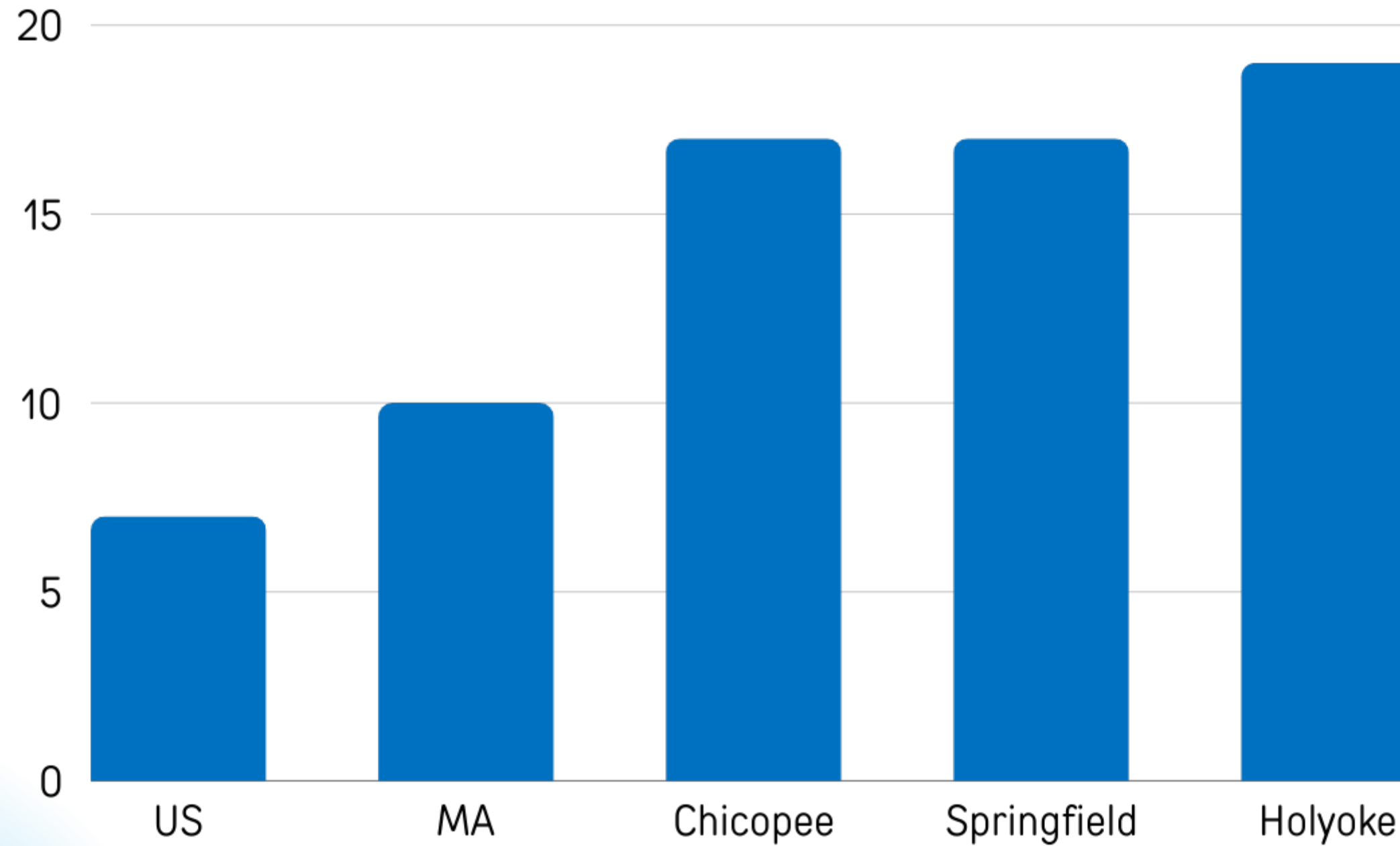
- Learn about how a community in Western Massachusetts is partnering to address climate and health concerns
- Learn how BIPOC people suffer a disproportionate rate of asthma in our community and the challenges they face in accessing healthcare resources
- Learn about how communities can improve air quality through diverse partnerships

ASTHMA DATA OVER TIME

WHO'S IMPACTED?

KIDS WITH ASTHMA

ASTHMA PREVALENCE IN SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN
2022-2023



HPS STUDENTS & ASTHMA

5000 STUDENTS

About 24% with diagnosis of Asthma

High Needs

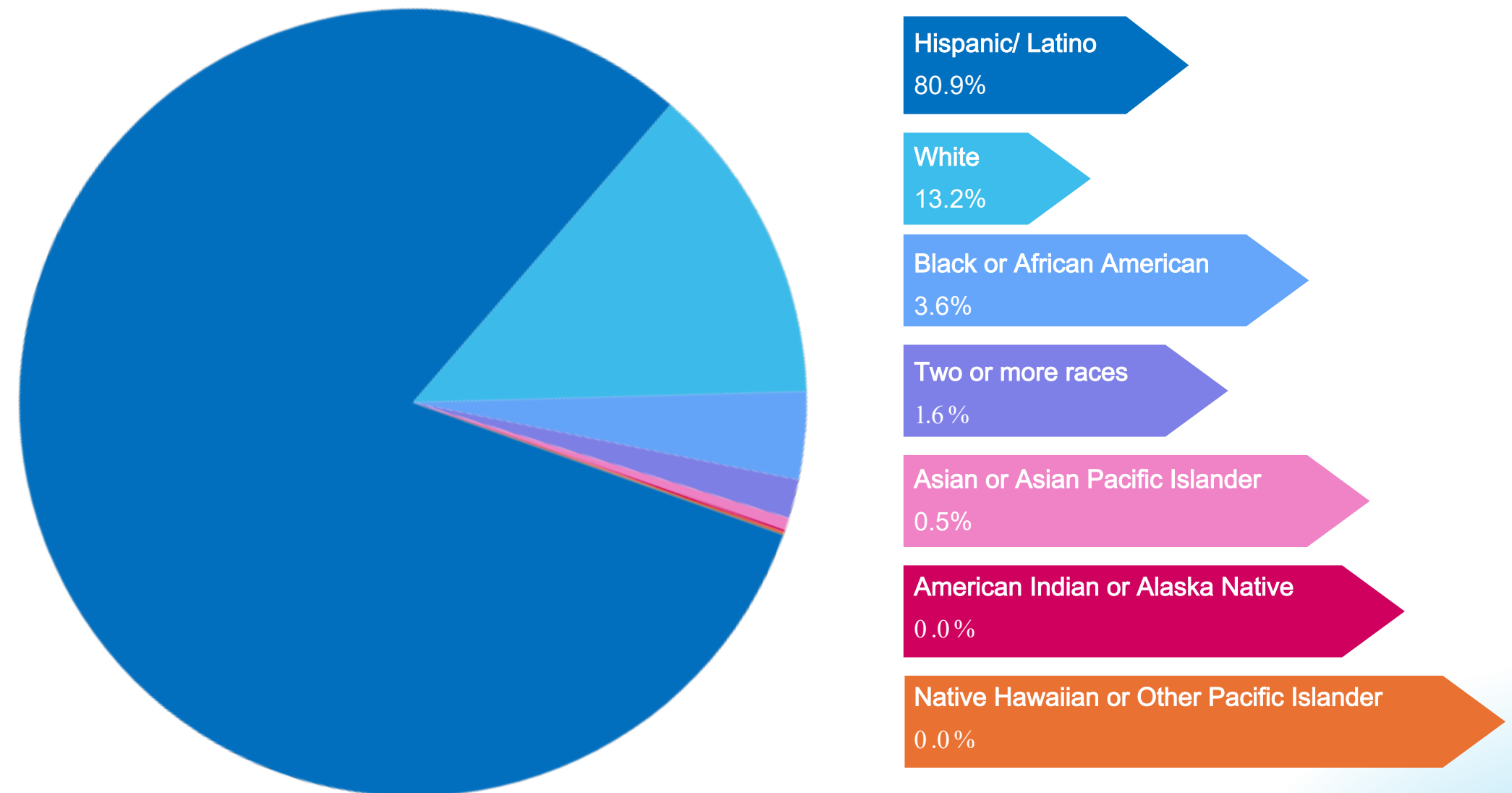
Attendance

+/- 10% of our students are homeless

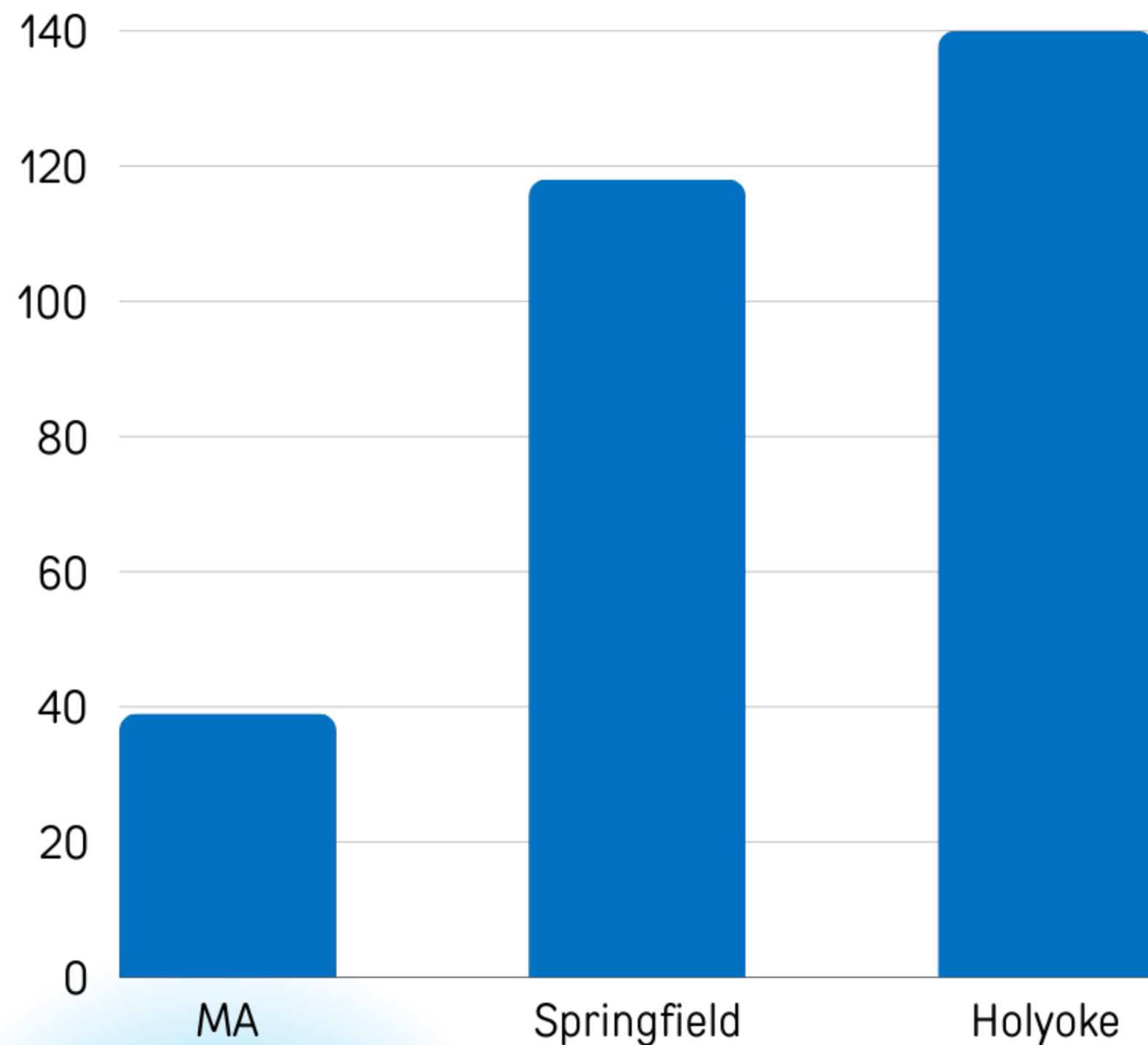
Urban

Multiple Challenges

ENROLLMENT BY DIVERSITY



WHO'S MORE LIKELY TO BE IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM FOR ASTHMA?



Holyoke and Springfield residents are more than **3 times as likely** to go to the Emergency Department for asthma as residents statewide



MA Environmental Health Tracking, Age Adjusted Rates of Emergency Dept Visit for Asthma per 10,000 people for 2021

PREVENTION & WELLNESS TRUST FUND

HealthyHolyoke

Our Health. Our Community.

HEALTHY HOLYOKE PARTNERS



HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JUNTOS PODEMOS | TOGETHER WE CAN



Western Mass
Physician Associates



Holyoke Medical Center



River Valley
Counseling Center



HOLYOKE





HealthyHolyoke
Our Health. Our Community.

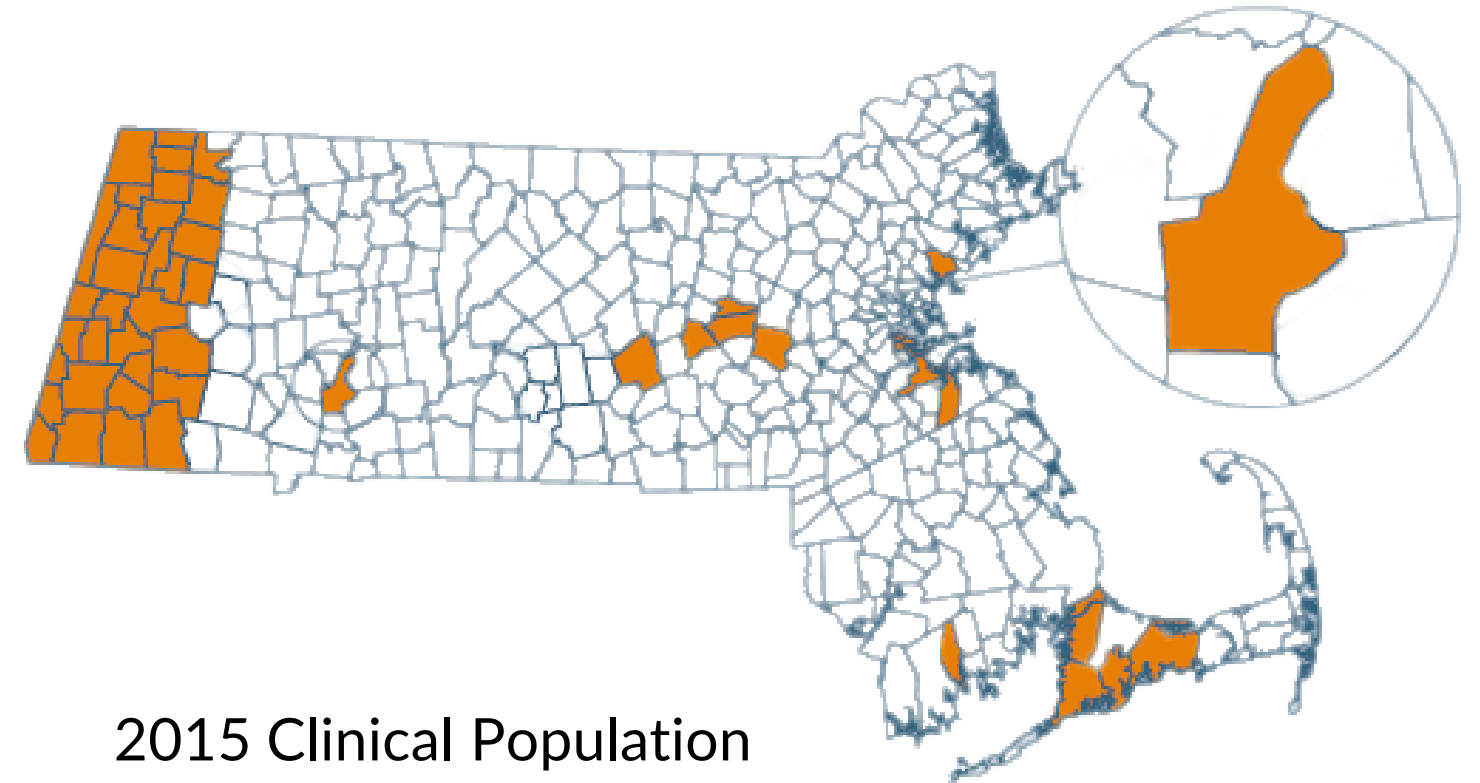
PARTNERS

Coordinating Partner: Holyoke Health Center

Community Partners: City of Holyoke, River Valley Counseling Center, Greater Holyoke YMCA, Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition, Holyoke Public Schools, Holyoke Housing Authority

Clinical Partners: Holyoke Medical Center, Western Mass Physician Associates, Holyoke Pediatric Associates

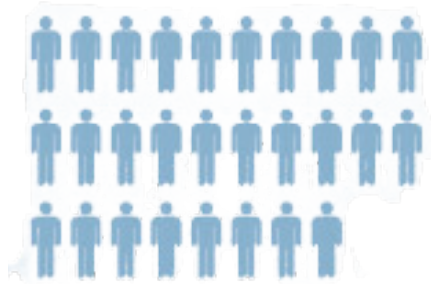
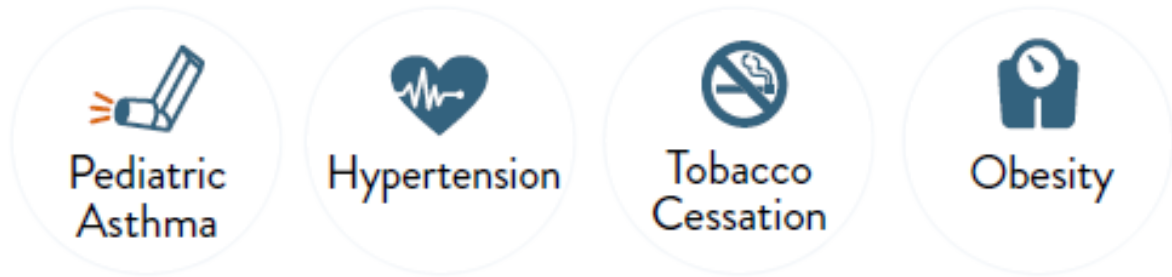
Communities Served: City of Holyoke



2015 Clinical Population
with Priority Conditions:

20,013*

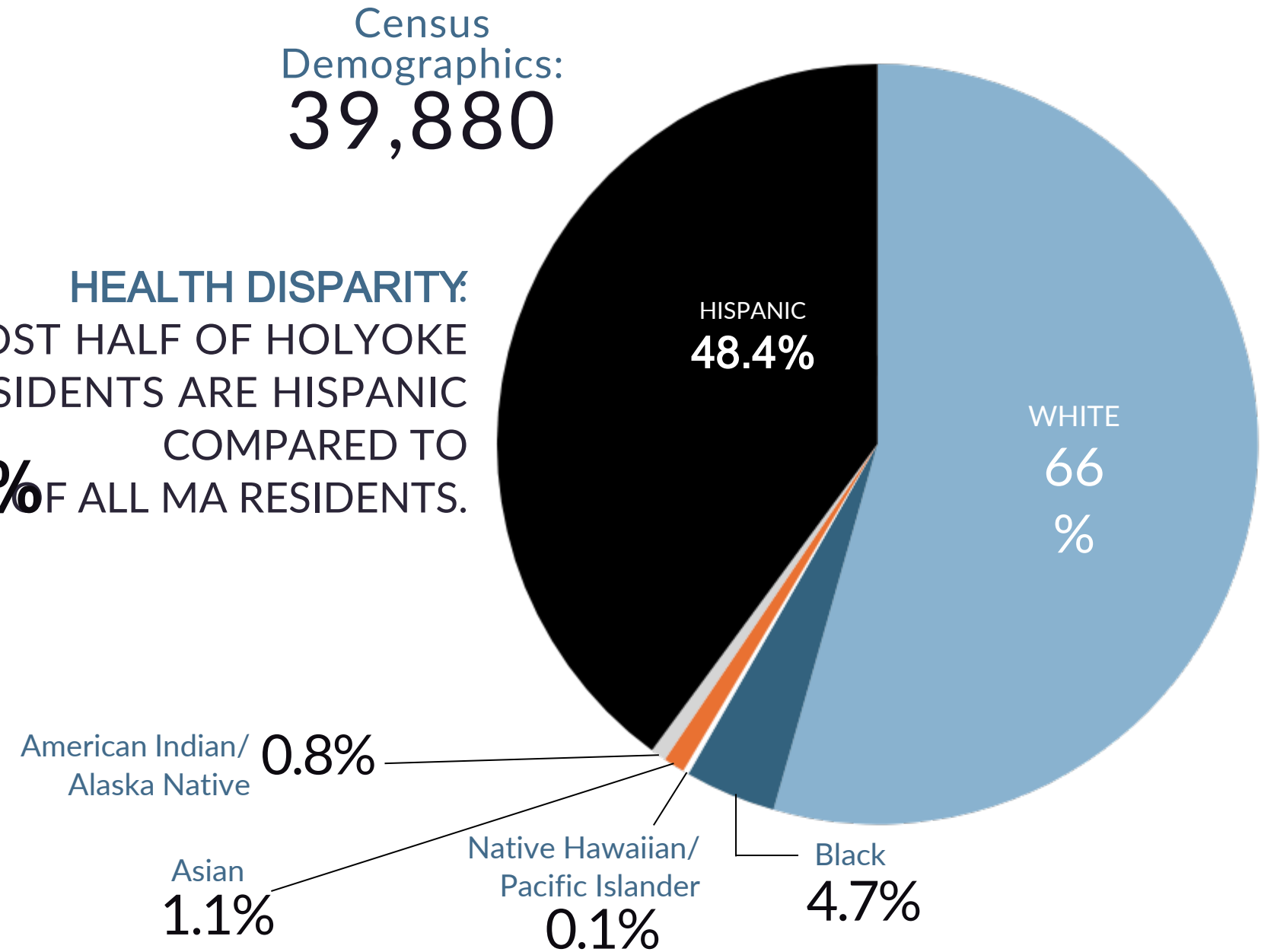
HEALTH CONDITIONS ADDRESSED:



28
jobs supported
by PWTF

Census
Demographics:
39,880

HEALTH DISPARITY:
ALMOST HALF OF HOLYOKE
RESIDENTS ARE HISPANIC
COMPARED TO
11 % OF ALL MA RESIDENTS.



The Facts About Pediatric Asthma in Holyoke



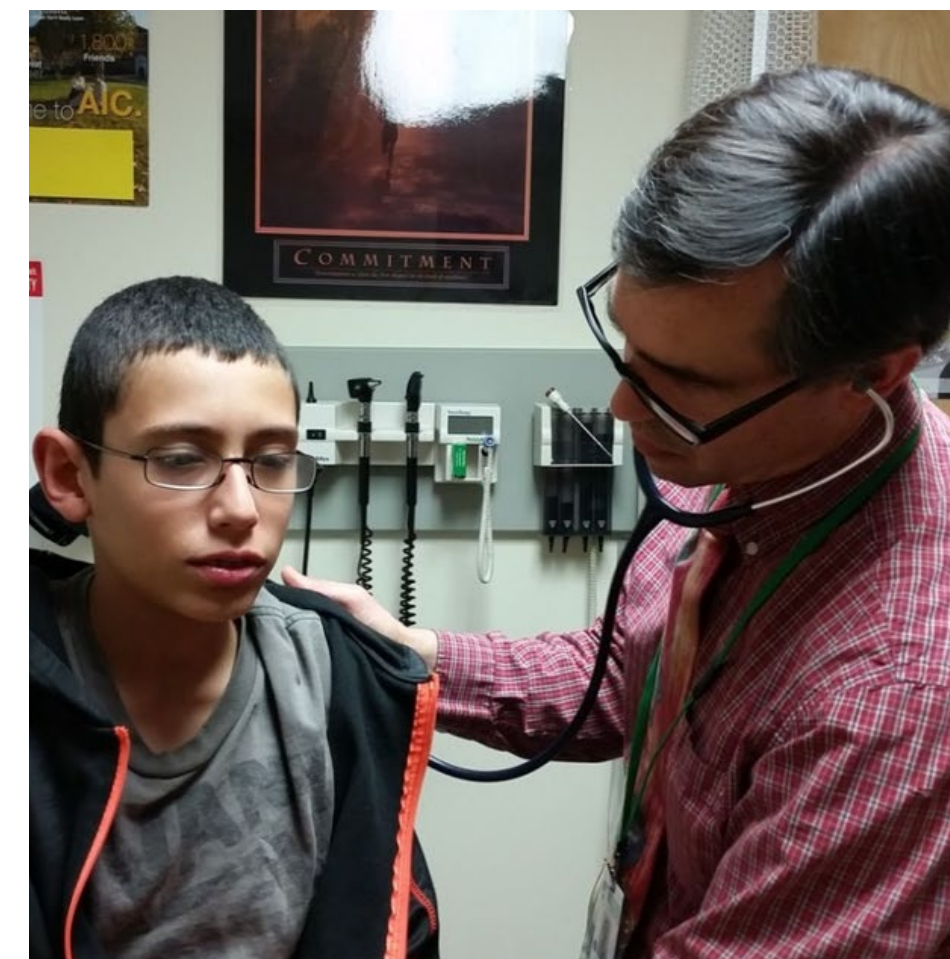
COMMUNITY - CLINICAL INITIATIVES



Carolina Figueiroa, CHW



Building Trusting Relationships
Building Healthy Communities



Asthma Pediatrician Champions:
Dr. Kohen-Diniak (WMPA)
Dr. Biggs (HHC)

The Facts About Pediatric Asthma in Holyoke



PARTNERSHIP REFLECTION: HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOL NURSES

- Environmental assessment and subsequent training of facility staff
- “Asthma Friendly classroom Kits”



ASTHMA PARTNERSHIPS

CYNTHIA CARBONE, MED, MSN, RN
Director of Health, Wellness & Nursing
AT HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



It's the Relationships...



Our connections were developed through shared values, strong work ethics, and commitment to wellness within the community of Holyoke.

Our relationships across organizations, agencies, healthcare, and the school district have strengthened our individual programming and benefited our students and their families.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH HPS

- HHC 5-2-1-0 Let's Move Hampden County!
- Healthy Holyoke & Nuestras Raices Project Green Team
- HPS School Community Health Advisory Council
- Public Health Institute of Western MA
- Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition
- Healthy Homes & Air

Pioneer Valley Healthy Air Network with the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts



PARTNERSHIPS WITH HPS

continued

Pioneer Valley Healthy Air Network with the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts

- Healthy Holyoke Prevention Wellness & Trust Fund
- School Nurse PD & Green Clean
- Open Airways for Schools
- HHC COVID-19 and Immunization Clinics at HPS events
- Regular Meetings/Check-ins with HHC/HPS/Local BOH
- PV Healthy Air Network - air quality monitoring
- Healthy Environments Advance Learning (HEAL)-training & technical assistance to school nurses & custodians to improve school environments for students, heat policies



Health Resources in Action
Advancing Public Health and Medical Research



Massachusetts
Asthma Action Partnership



Healthy Air
NETWORK



TAMMI KOZUCH,
CHIEF OF STRATEGY, DEVELOPMENT AND
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

PATIENTS WITH A DIAGNOSIS OF ASTHMA AT HOLYOKE HEALTH CENTER IN 2023

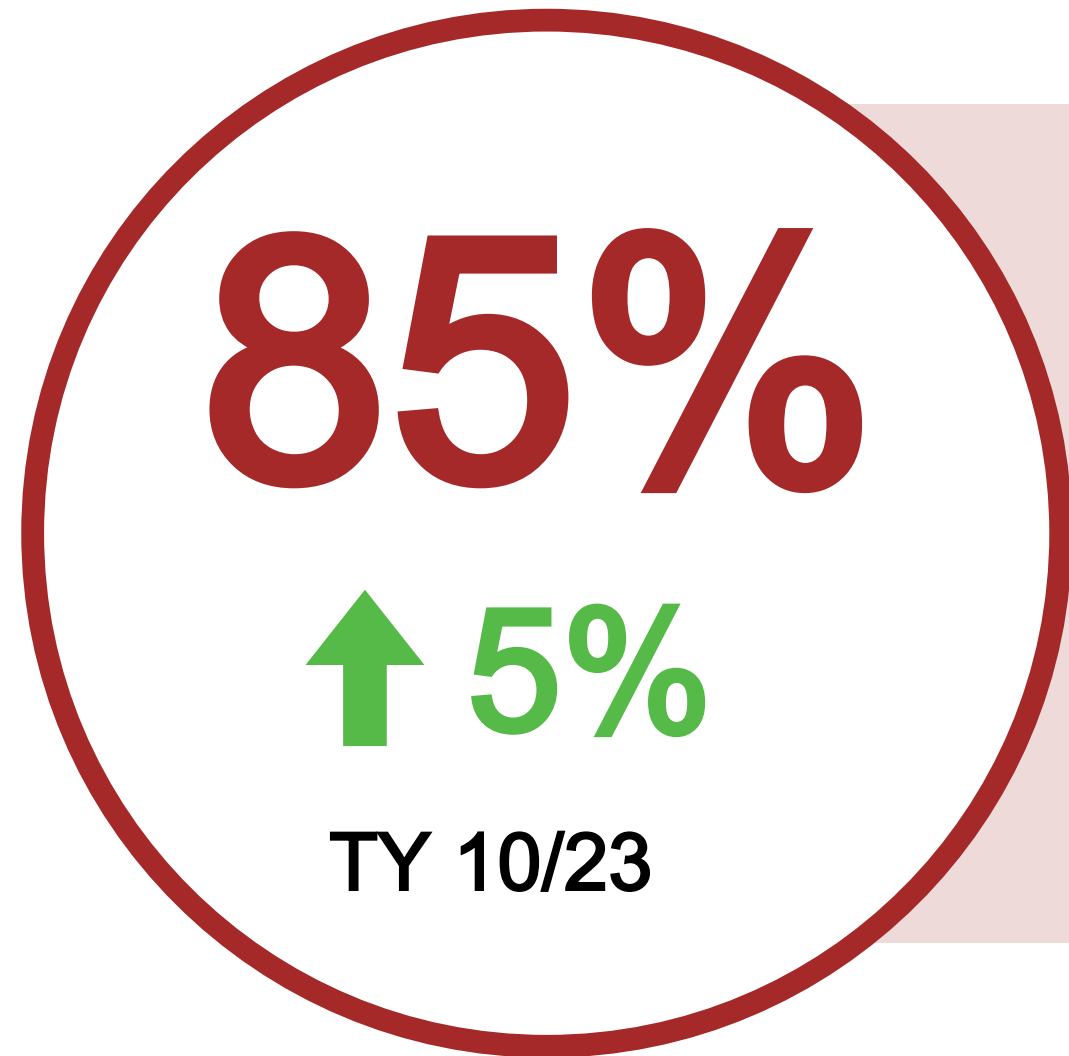
- 2,358 Unique Patients Seen For 4,185 Visits
- 12% Holyoke Health Center Patients Have A Diagnosis Of Asthma



Use of Appropriate Medication for Asthma

Period
TY October 2024

Services Lines
Primary Care



928/1,086

HEALTHY AIR NETWORK WEBSITE



Visit Healthyairnetwork.org

TIPS AND TRICKS *For Reading Our Sensors*

AQI Air Quality Index

The higher the AQI the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern

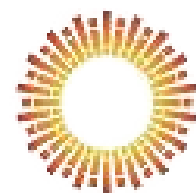
PM2.5 Particulate Matter

Contains microscopic droplets that can cause health problems when inhaled.

MULTI – SECTOR COLLABORATION Resident Advisory Board



Healthy Air
NETWORK



PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE
OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
PARTNERS FOR HEALTH EQUITY

Yale
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH



Massachusetts
Asthma Action Partnership

WESTFIELD
RESIDENTS
ADVOCATING
FOR
THEMSELVES



ReGreen
Springfield



Hitchcock
Center
EDUCATION FOR A HEALTHY PLANET



LiveWell
SPRINGFIELD



earthwatch



WHY ARE WE INVOLVED?

- “Because of my son who has **asthma** and because I now have **asthma too.**”
- “To bring **community voice** in science decisions.”
- “**Air is life.** If you don’t breathe you die, and you need to focus on the **environment.**”
- “To use this **healthy air quality mapping tool** as evidence for **policies.**”

video

HEALTHY HOMES COLLABORATION

Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition convened partnership to address environmental triggers in the home

- This in home education with CHWs was piloted with Healthy Holyoke
- Revitalize CDC has added home assessment and remediation
- City of Holyoke, Community Community Care Cooperative, Wellsense are funding
- Other grant funding



Revitalize
Community Development Corporation



HEALTHY HOMES ASSESSMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL

Identify sources of household air pollution

- Household cleaners
- Air fresheners
- Scented candles
- Wood or gas stoves
- Smoking/secondhand smoke

Identify environmental health hazards in home

- Mold
- Pests and rodents
- Inadequate cooling

Identify other sources of allergy/asthma triggers

- Carpeting
- Duct & vents
- Dust
- Pets and stuffed animals

HEALTHY HOMES ASSESSMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL

Continued

Assess for asthma health educational needs

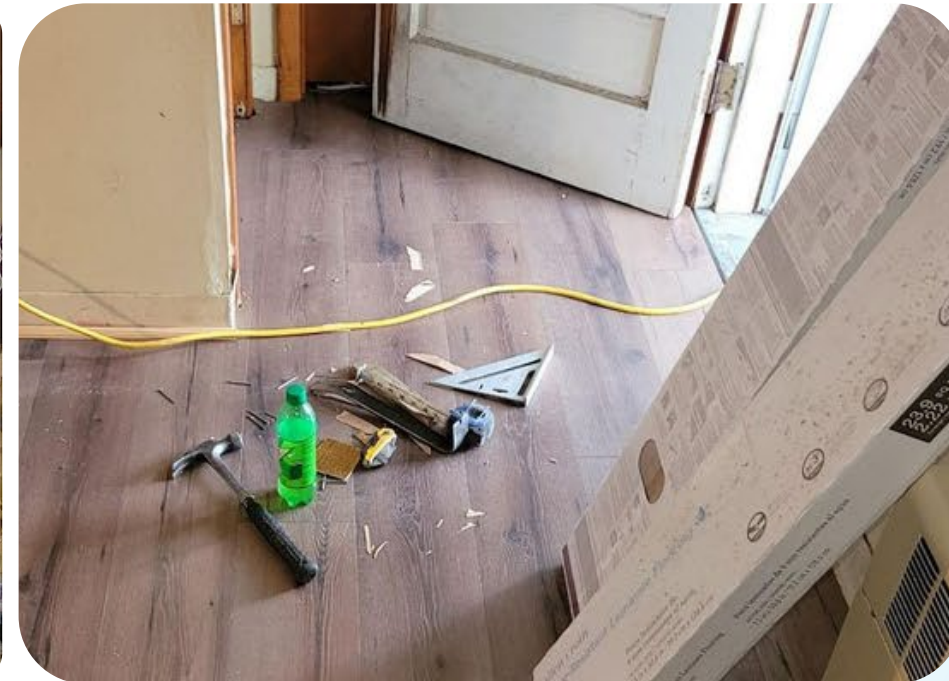
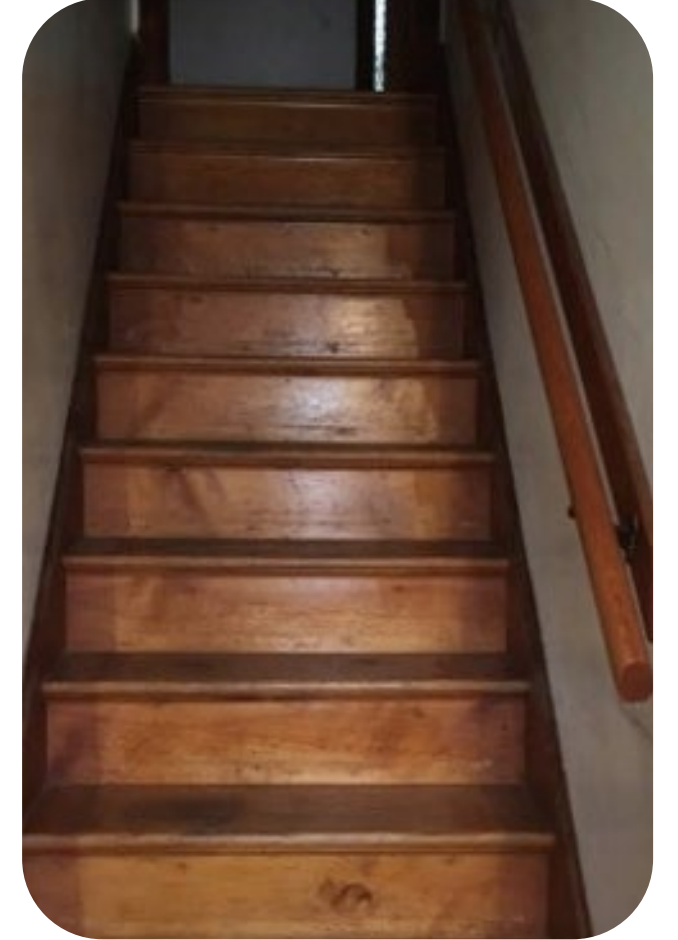
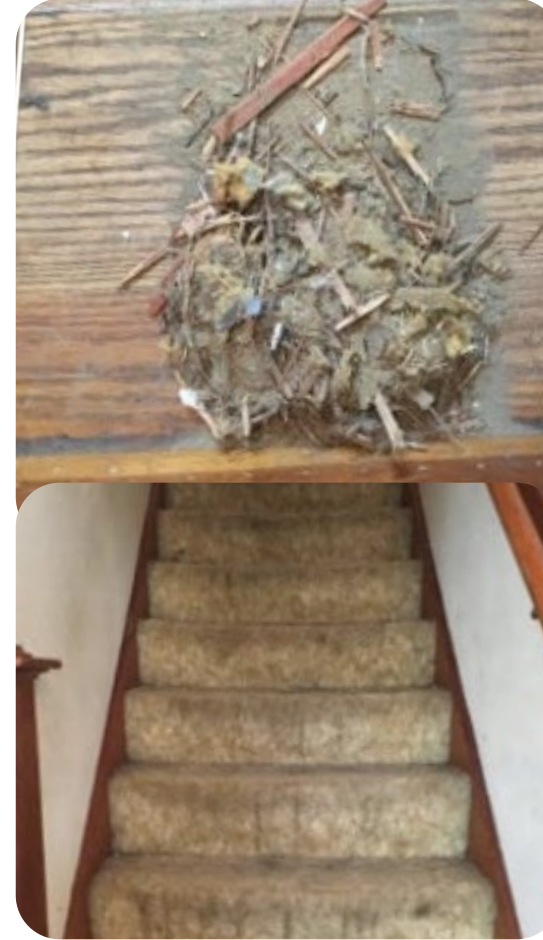
- Review Asthma Action Plan
- Encourage medication compliance
- Asthma self management tools and resources
- General healthy homes education

Implement Home remediation

Examples include:

- Remove Carpet/replace with laminate floor
- Duct cleaning
- Mold remediation/Fixing Leaks
- Safety repairs

BEFORE & AFTER PHOTOS



NUESTRAS RAICES



OUR COMMITMENT TO CLEAN AIR

- Community Gardens
- Urban Farm
- Green Space Planning
- Environmental Policy Advocacy
- Direct Action



MT. TOM COAL POWER PLANT CASE STUDY



ACTION FOR A HEALTHY HOLYOKE

ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 2011 AS GREENWORK

Community Organizations

- Nuestras Raíces
- Neighbor 2 Neighbor
- Holyoke Food and Fitness Policy Council
- Arise for Social Justice

Environmental Organizations

- Conservation Law Foundation
- Sierra Club
- Toxics Action Center
- American Rivers Conservancy

Labor Organizations

- Holyoke Municipal Employees of SEIU 888
- Region 1, Massachusetts Nurses Association
- UAW 2322
- Western Massachusetts Jobs with Justice



POWER PLANT

Closes in December 2014



TIGHE AND BOND WORKED WITH MASSDEP to build the largest Solar Field in MA from 2016-2018



<https://www.bsces.org/news/org/the-transformation-of-mt-tom-s-coal-fired-power-plant-4200>

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Joined Healthy Air Network Steering Committee

Allocated \$145,000 through a
Conservation Law Foundation Air
Quality settlement with Durham
Transportation funding:

- Purchase of 2 Community Gardens
- Repairs of 2 Greenhouses for year-round growing with
- Anaerobic Digester Project to divert food waste and create renewable energy

Developing Plans for a Fruit Tree Nursery and Support for Regreening the Gateway Cities



Regional
Conservation
Partnership
NETWORK

2024
RCP NETWORK
Gathering



to fill out the
SESSION
EVALUATION FORM

We Welcome Your Feedback



Open The
Camera App.



Point your camera at a
QR Code to scan it.

A grayscale photograph of a doctor in a white lab coat sitting at a desk. The doctor's hands are visible, gesturing while talking. On the desk are a laptop, a stethoscope, a tablet, and a pen holder. In the foreground, another person's hands are clasped together. The background is a bright, out-of-focus window. The text 'THANK YOU!' is overlaid in a dark blue, serif font.

THANK YOU!