

LOUISIANA COMMUNITIES AT THE CROSSROADS

Environmental and social vulnerability,
COVID-19 and asthma



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected the socially and environmentally vulnerable, through direct and indirect effects on other health conditions. Asthma is a risk factor for severe illness with COVID-19 and is heavily influenced by both indoor and outdoor environmental factors.

Understanding the relationships between these social, environmental and health factors can help us better conduct outreach efforts that improve health equity and help with future pandemic preparedness by reducing long-standing health disparities that affect people in vulnerable communities.

1

What is the issue?

- Areas with high social and environmental vulnerability tend to have a high burden of chronic lung conditions like asthma as well as COVID-19

2

Where is the issue?

- 137 census tracts of EJ concern identified
- Most located in East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Jefferson and Caddo parishes
- 75/137 (55%) had a high burden of asthma
- 15/137 (11%) had a high burden of COVID-19 and asthma

3

How can we address it?

- Programs that reduce environmental health disparities, including SEET's BREATHE program



A CALL TO ACTION

Considering the impact of long-standing health and environmental disparities on the COVID pandemic, SEET is looking to work hand-in-hand with clinicians to mitigate at least one risk factor: moderate to severe asthma. Towards that goal, **we are seeking referrals into our BREATHE Program (Bringing Respiratory Health Equity for Asthmatics Through Healthier Environments)**, which provides free and personalized education encompassing both the clinical and environmental management of asthma.



More information about BREATHE is included in this packet. To refer your patients, visit www.ldh.la.gov/breathe-enroll.

