

Celebrating Success: LDH's Tracking Program Establishes the BREATHE Initiative to Assist Children with Asthma to Have Healthier Days

The [Louisiana Department of Health's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program](#) (LDH Tracking) and the [Louisiana Center for Healthy Equity](#) are spearheading a public-private partnership to reduce disparities in childhood asthma management in East Baton Rouge (EBR) Parish. This collaboration was forged after LDH's Tracking team published a Louisiana Morbidity Report [article](#) about childhood asthma concerns in EBR. Together with the [Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, School of Public Health](#), the partnership was awarded a technical assistance grant through the [US Environmental Protection Agency's National Initiative for Asthma Reimbursement](#).

As part of this award, the [Green & Healthy Home Initiative](#) is collaborating with LDH Tracking to develop a comprehensive, home-based intervention to improve childhood asthma outcomes. With a focus on environmental asthma triggers, this initiative has been termed BREATHE – Bringing Respiratory Health Equity for Asthmatics Through Healthier Environments. The three main goals of the BREATHE program are: (1) creating dialog about asthma management with communities at risk; (2) addressing environmental quality issues and housing needs; (3) partnering with Medicaid and Managed Care Organizations to expand home-based asthma care options.

Although its initial focus is on childhood asthma in EBR, the BREATHE initiative is designed to be scalable and sustainable such that, in time, it can be developed into a statewide asthma program that could benefit both children and adults.