Children’s Asthma Camp Online Survey Summary

An online survey was developed and distributed as part of the Consortium of Children’s Asthma Camps’ (Consortium) study to determine the value of asthma camps.

Methods:
The online survey was developed to collect a variety of information about asthma camps in the United States, including general camp information, camper demographics, staffing patterns, budget information, asthma education provided through camp, and community outreach. This survey was piloted tested with two asthma camp directors. Adjustments were made based on pilot test comments. The final survey was first distributed on Monday, October 4, 2004. Camps were contacted either via email or phone at least four times requesting that they complete the online survey. Surveys were accepted until Friday, January 21, 2005.

This survey took significantly longer to distribute and collect that anticipated, primarily due to the lack of up-to-date information on the Consortium database. This database of camps in the United States is maintained by the Consortium; however, the responsibility for updating individual camp name and information has been the responsibility of the individual camp. Camps are able to update their information at any time and the Consortium sends several reminder prompts throughout the year. Through the distribution of this survey, it was found that not one of the camps listed in the database had complete correct information. Therefore, significant time was spent contacting the individual camp or the local American Lung Association affiliate to verify the correct camp information. The positive result is a very up-to-date Consortium database and a realization that the Consortium cannot passively rely on individual camps to update their camp information.

Seventy-five (75) surveys were completed for a return rate of 62%. Excluded from this response rate are two surveys completed by asthma camps in Mexico. The response rate is based on 121 verified asthma camps (defined as having a contact name, phone number, and/or email address in the Consortium database after personal contact with a camp staff person between October 2004 and January 2005). An additional 10 asthma camps are listed in the database, but were unable to be verified (total asthma camps in the U.S. believed to be 131). The results of this online survey were analyzed using Microsoft Access.

Summary of findings from the online survey:

- 75% of camps who have a designated staff person whose responsibility is to direct camp activities, have a staff coordinator at or less than 0.3 FTE.
- 62% of camps responding have more than 10 years of experience.
- The average number of campers per camp has consistently decreased since 2000.
- 70.3% of camps are residential and last an average of 4.9 days.
• 45.2% of respondents indicated more than half of their 2004 campers were new.

• 41.9% of respondents indicated more than half of their 2004 campers were returning campers.

• 47 respondents indicated that they conducted one or more of the following types of camp evaluation: pre-post test of camper knowledge; pre-post test of camp pulmonary functioning; survey of camper and/or parent satisfaction; and post-camp survey of staff/volunteer satisfaction.

• Six camps reported that they conducted some type of research or evaluation beyond pre-post tests or participant satisfaction.

• 54.8% of respondents reported that at least 61% of campers were from limited income families.

• Seven respondents indicated they required documentation/verification of family’s socioeconomic status. The remaining respondents indicated that financial support was provided based on parent request.

• 22.7% of respondents indicated at least 61% of campers were from the inner-city or at-risk neighborhoods.

• Camps are staffed by a variety of professionals and disciplines.

• Few camps provide CME/CEU opportunities for their medical staff.

• 15 camps (20.5% of respondents) indicated that they do not have a camp registration fee.

• The average 2004 camp expenditures ($35,805) and average income ($35,097) reported were also equal.

• Average 2004 total pharmaceutical contribution per camp was $4,860.

• The average number of hours of group or individual asthma education varied greatly from 0-2 hours to more than 8 hours.

• A set asthma education curriculum was used by less than half of camps.

• Less than half (46.6%) of camps require an asthma action plan. “How to use your asthma action plans” are not covered as consistently as other asthma management components.

• Few camps provided sibling education. Half of camps provided parent/care provider education through brief sessions pre-camp or at the time of drop-off or pick-up.

• Most camps received publicity or media coverage for their 2004 camps.
List of the Children’s Asthma Camp online survey questions and related responses.

Do you have a designated staff person whose responsibility is to direct camp activities?
   Yes = 69 (92%)
   No 6 (8%)
   Responses to this question =  75

If yes, what percent FTE is this designated camp staff person or how many hours devoted to camp coordination?
   Less than 0.2 FTE = 25
   0.2 to 0.29 FTE = 9
   0.3 to 0.39 FTE = 2
   0.4 to 0.49 FTE = 1
   0.5 to 0.59 FTE = 2
   0.6 to 0.69 FTE = 3
   0.7 to 0.79 FTE = 1
   0.8 to 0.89 FTE = 0
   0.9 to 0.99 FTE = 1
   1.0 FTE or more = 1
   Responses to this question =  45

How many years has your organization been offering asthma camps?
   0 – 5 years = 18 (24.3%)
   6 – 10 years = 10 (13.5%)
   11 – 15 years = 12 (16.2%)
   16 – 20 years = 4 (5.4%)
   More than 20 years = 30 (40.5%)
   Responses to this question =  74
   * Due to rounding, total = 99.9%

Have you conducted any research or evaluation of you asthma camp?
   Yes = 56 (75%)
   No = 19 (25%)
   Responses to this question =  75

How many children attended your camp....
In 2000?
   Total = 3,154 campers; mean camper per camp = 67.1
   Responses to this question =  47

In 2001?
   Total = 3,112; mean camper per camp = 64.8
   Responses to this question =  48
In 2002?
Total = 3,307; mean camper per camp = 60.1
Responses to this question = 55

In 2003?
Total = 3,616; mean camper per camp = 57.4
Responses to this question = 63

In 2004?
Total = 3,876; mean camper per camp 56.2
Responses to this question = 69

The remaining questions and responses were based on the 2004 camp experience.

What type is your camp?
Residential = 52 (70.3%)
Day = 19 (25.7%)
Mainstream = 1 (However in the following question, five camps described their camps as residential mainstreaming.)
Other = 2
Responses to this question = 74

If day or residential, number of days?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of days</th>
<th>Number (percent) of camps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 (2.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 (0.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10 (14.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10 (14.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>20 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>18 (26.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 (11.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responses to this question = 69
* Due to rounding, total = 98.7%

What requirements must the children meet in order to attend your camp?
• Daily medications consumed = 35
• Camper must have a certain level of asthma severity = 29
• New diagnosis of asthma (defined as diagnosis within the last year) = 4
• Other = 29

Please describe the details of your requirements:
• 9 reported accept children with moderate to severe asthma
• 36 indicated child only needs to have diagnosis of asthma
• 3 indicated preference to moderate/severe, but will accept any child with asthma.

Do you require a written asthma action plan for your campers?
  Yes = 34 (46.6%)
  No = 39 (53.4%)
  Responses to this question = 73

What percent of your 2004 campers were:
New asthma campers:
  0 – 25% = 3 (7.1%)
  26 – 50% = 20 (47.6%)
  51 – 75% = 8 (19%)
  76 – 100 = 11 (26.2)
  Responses to this question = 42
  * Due to rounding, total = 99.9%

Returning campers:
  0 – 25% = 9 (20.9%)
  26 – 50% = 16 (37.2%)
  51 – 75% = 16 (37.2%)
  76 – 100 = 2 (4.7)
  Responses to this question = 43

What ages were your 2004 campers:
• 73% of respondents indicated that their campers were between 8 and 13 years of age.
• 16% of respondents indicated that their campers were between 6 and 7 years of age.
• 6.5% of respondents indicated that their campers were between 14 and 15 years of age.

If other, please describe:
• Counselors in training
• High school students
• Junior counselors
• Parents

Gender of 2004 campers:
  Approximately half of 2004 campers were male and half female.

What percent of your 2004 campers were from limited income families?
  0 – 20% = 12 (19.4% of respondents)
  21 – 40% = 6 (9.7%)
  41 – 60% = 10 (16.1%)
  61 – 80% = 18 (29%)
  81 – 100% = 16 (25.8%)
  Responses to this question = 62
What documentation did you require for proof of income (i.e. How did you determine the camper’s socioeconomic status)?
Seven respondents indicated they required documentation/verification of family’s socioeconomic status. The remaining respondents indicated that financial support was provided based on parent request.

What percent of your 2004 campers were from the inner-city or at-risk neighborhoods?
- 0 – 20% = 24 (36.4% of respondents)
- 21 – 40% = 12 (18.2%)
- 41 – 60% = 15 (22.7%)
- 61 – 80% = 7 (10.6%)
- 81 – 100% = 8 (12.1%)
Responses to this question = 66

Do you provide the counselors for your camp?
- Yes = 47 (64.4%)
- No = 26 (35.6%)
Responses to this question = 73

Do you go to a facility that provides camping expertise and staff counselors?
- Yes = 39 (54.2%)
- No = 33 (45.8%)
Responses to this question = 72

How is your asthma camp staffed (Please check all that apply.)?
Camps are staffed by a variety of professionals and disciplines, including (in rank response order):
1. Respiratory therapists
2. Nurses
3. Allergists
4. Pediatricians
5. Nurse practitioners

Other types of camp staffing included:
- Child and family psychology
- Nursing, RT, and pharmacy students
- College students
- Local high school students
- Girl Scouts
- Former campers
- U.S. Marines

Is your medical staff:
- Volunteer – 52 (71.2%)
- Paid – 3 (4.1%)
- Combination of volunteer and paid – 18 (24.7%)
What was your 2004 camp budget (expenditures) (including designated staff time but excluding in-kind contributions or volunteer hours):
Budget expenditures reported by 55 camps totaled $1,969,291; average $35,805 per camp.
* Four additional camps expenditure totals were excluded because they did not include staff costs.

What was your total 2004 camp income (including all registration fees, grants, contributions, etc. but excluding in-kind contributions or volunteer hours):
- 51 camps reported a total 2004 camp income of $1,789,954; average $35,097 per camp.
- Income ranged from $1,700 to $95,000.

How is your camp funded? (Check all that apply.)
- Donor contributions = 59
- Grants from foundations = 53
- Grants from pharmaceutical companies = 48
- Partnerships with other agencies and organizations = 43
- Fee for service = 33
- Fundraisers = 22
- General operating budget = 21
- Asthma Walk = 17
- Health Plan (HMO) = 11
- Government funds = 2
- Other = 8, including:
  - $20 application fee
  - Local medical students conduct a 5K run/walk and proceeds go to asthma camp
  - Children’s Miracle Network
  - Local hospital provides funds

What was your 2004 camp registration fee?
- The range of camp registration fees was between zero and $650.
- 15 camps (20.5% of respondents) indicated that they do not have a camp registration fee.
- Health plan/insurance covered part of all of registration fee = 12 camps (17.9%)
- Sponsorship offered to child = 50 camps (72.5%)

Do you receive pharmaceutical sponsorship for camp?
Yes = 53 (79.1%)
No = 14 (20.9%)
Responses to this question = 67

Please list the pharmaceutical companies who sponsored your camp in 2004.
The following pharmaceutical companies were the most frequent sponsors:

- GlaxoSmithKlein sponsored 19 camps
- Astra Zeneca = 14
- Sepracor = 12

Please indicate the total amount of pharmaceutical contributions in 2004. A total pharmaceutical contribution of $189,552 was reported by 39 camps (average contribution of $4,860).

Please estimate the total number of volunteer health care professional staff hours for your 2004 camp. Total volunteer hours reported by 58 camps = 52,648 hours or 907 hours per camp.

Do you provide CME/CEU opportunities for staff?

- Yes = 13.8%
- No = 86.2%

Please estimate, in dollars, the amount of in-kind contributions (products, services, prizes, etc.) your camp received in 2004. 48 camps reported a total of $289,708 in in-kind contributions; average was $6,036.

How many hours of group asthma education did your campers receive in 2004? (check one)

- 0 – 2 hours = 4 (6%)
- 2 – 4 hours = 15 (22.4%)
- 4 – 6 hours = 15 (22.4%)
- 6 – 8 hours = 21 (31.3%)
- More than 8 hours = 12 (17.9%)

Responses to this question = 67

How many hours of individual asthma education did your campers receive in 2004? (check one)

- 0 – 2 hours = 32 (47.8%)
- 2 – 4 hours = 24 (35.8%)
- 4 – 6 hours = 4 (6%)
- 6 – 8 hours = 3 (4.5%)
- More than 8 hours = 4 (6%)

Responses to this question = 67

* Due to rounding, total = 100.1%

Did you use a set asthma education curriculum during your 2004 camp?

- Yes = 33 (48.5%)
- No = 35 (51.5%)

Responses to this question = 68

If yes, what was the name of the curriculum?

- 10 respondents use and/or modify *Open Airways for Schools*
• Many reported using a combination of existing curriculum or developing their own.

What components of asthma management were covered during your 2004 camp? (check all that apply)
• Asthma triggers and other environmental controls = 69
• What are the types of asthma medications = 69
• What is asthma = 68
• What to do in case of an asthma episode = 68
• When to take asthma medications = 66
• How do asthma medications work = 64
• How to use your written asthma action plans = 49

Did you provide sibling education during your 2004 camp?
Yes = 9 (13%)
No = 60 (87%)
If yes, please describe: If sibling education was provided, it was often not directed at siblings, but was part of a family retreat or session.

Did you provide parent or car provider education during your 2004 camp?
Yes = 34 (50%)
No = 34 (50%)
Responses to this question = 68

Please describe the parent session: 24 respondents reported the parent session was either pre-camp, at drop-off time, or during pick-up.

Did you receive publicity or media coverage for your 2004 camp?
Yes = 56 (82.4%)
No = 12 (17.6%)
Responses to this question = 68

Please describe the type of media.
• Newspaper = 50
• Radio = 21
• TV = 18
• Other = 9, including included with hospital advertisements and posters in physician offices.

What would happen to the asthma camp in your community if your organization would no longer support it?
Close = 34
Find another sponsor = 7
Other = 1
Unknown = 26
Do you have plans to increase the age limits for children attending your asthma camp?
   Yes = 4 (5.9%)
   No = 64 (94.1%)
   Responses to this question = 68

If yes, to what age? The four respondents are increasing the age of the campers.

Do you have plans to decrease the number of days of your camp in 2005?
   Yes = 5 (7.6%)
   No = 61 (92.4%)
   Responses to this question = 66

Do you have any other plans to change the style/delivery of your asthma camp in 2005?
   Changing location – 5
   Adding asthma action plan -2
   Sibling camp added -1