



# 2020 IMPACT REPORT



A Year of Courage, Collaboration and Confidence



## Our Mission

The mission of Allergy & Asthma Network is to end the needless death and suffering due to allergies, asthma and related conditions through outreach, education, advocacy and research.

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# In These Unprecedented Times, We're Grateful for Our Community – And Your Support

Remember as a child thinking how futuristic 2020 seemed – artificial intelligence, driverless cars, smart homes? Little did we know that 2020 would actually bring us back to the basics – faith, family, friends and fulfilling work. This year has certainly been full of twists and turns. Yet the resilience and agility demonstrated by so many is inspiring. Our community has supported one another in the face of great uncertainty and challenge!

As we move ahead in 2021, we want to pause and express our gratitude.

First, for your **courage** – to carry on in the face of great adversity; to stand up for those who have been silenced for decades; and to support others as they battled COVID-19 while living with asthma, allergies and related conditions. Your courage has fueled our passion to engage, educate and empower!

Next, for your **collaboration** – you came together to advance science and the patient voice in the midst of a noisy and confusing time; and you joined with us to co-create educational resources and programs to help people navigate chronic conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your collaboration accelerated the path to vaccines and a “new normal”!

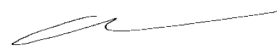
Finally, for your **confidence** – 60,000 of you tuned into our COVID-19 webinars; 200,000 visited our online COVID-19 Information Center; one million of you engaged with our new website to access evidence-based resources; and more than 1,000 of you attended our live COVID-19 and respiratory screenings. You consistently demonstrate your confidence in the Network and we are grateful for your trust!

No doubt 2021 will be filled with many surprises as well. What you can be assured is that we will continue to work diligently to fulfill our mission: to end needless death and suffering due to allergies, asthma and related conditions through outreach, education, advocacy and research.

We look back and thank you for all you have done. We look forward with the conviction that we can all breathe better together!



Tonya Winders  
President and CEO  
Allergy & Asthma Network



John Tucker  
Board of Directors Co-Chair  
Allergy & Asthma Network



# OUR IMPACT

## We responded to the unmet needs of patients and families through programs and partnerships at the local and national levels.

The COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted the adverse impact of health inequities on communities of color. We elevated these two issues – COVID-19 and health inequities – as our top priorities. We focused on expanding our programs and services where the needs were greatest for people with allergies, asthma and related conditions.

**We launched the Not One More Life Trusted Messengers Program**, a community outreach program for underserved communities. The program offers free asthma, COPD screenings and COVID-19 testing. Individuals who were deemed to be high risk were then enrolled in digital health support, including telehealth coaching.

**1,000** African American and Hispanic/Latino families in the Atlanta region received COVID-19 and respiratory health services.



**We launched the Black People Like Me Virtual Conference Series: Asthma, COVID-19, Questions We Need Answered**, a series of six virtual meetings to initiate a conversation with the African American community to better understand and address the impact of asthma and COVID-19 in their lives. We also explore opportunities to better engage Black patients and families in research to improve their overall health.

**1,450** people registered for the first of six sessions in December 2020.



**We distributed COVID-19 resources for Hispanic families** with the support of the CHEST Foundation and the Feldman Family Foundation.

**700** families served with COVID-19 educational posters and brochures in Northern Virginia.



*"As a COVID-19 survivor, I'm supporting the Black People Like Me program to add the breath and voice that I nearly lost, to join the Allergy & Asthma Network fight for our fundamental right to live."*

Sandra Finley  
AAN PCORI Project Advisory Group  
Patient Advisor

*"I thought the Not One More Life Trusted Messengers screenings went very well. Very organized. Great directions and signage. The healthcare workers were very professional and cordial."*

Kathryn Stanley

# OUR IMPACT

We developed education and awareness programs for families and healthcare providers to increase knowledge of asthma and COPD and advance guidelines-based care across the country.

**We launched the Community Asthma & COPD Experts** program to educate people about the value of guidelines-based asthma care and the unique needs of patients with COPD that overlaps with asthma.

**80** volunteers from **25 STATES** are now able to educate their communities with the latest information about asthma and COPD.



**200,000**

COVID-19 Information Center page views of content created in both English and Spanish.

**We continued OCS Overexposed**, a national multichannel education campaign in collaboration with more than 10 patient advocacy and medical societies.

**1,000** media placements reached a potential audience of almost **200 MILLION** readers to educate readers about oral corticosteroid overuse.



**90 million**

media impressions through our **national media campaigns** to increase awareness of allergies, asthma, COVID-19 and related conditions.

**We hosted the 2020 USAsthma Virtual Summit**, in conjunction with the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) and with the support of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**1,540** professionals from 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands learned about guidelines-based asthma management.



**47,000** reached through our **monthly e-newsletters** with an above average open rate of 20%.

**450** calls answered on our **bilingual Toll-Free Help Line** (English and Spanish).

**60,000** attended our webinars, a **750% increase from 2019**.

*"Sending a big thank you to Allergy & Asthma Network for their webinars. I am a school nurse and we are attempting to do all we can to reopen our schools safely. Your support makes all the difference."*

*Elizabeth Paquette  
School nurse*

*"Thank you for the excellent 'Biologics and Asthma' webinar. I currently work in a pulmonary specialty office. This presentation was right on point and taught me quite a bit. It is evident that a lot of research and hard work was put into this webinar."*

*Michael Baxter  
Pharmacist*

# OUR IMPACT

## We united people in the fight to improve access to care for all. We gave a powerful voice to the patient journey.

Our work is not possible without the involvement of patients, families and patient advocates who tell their stories and make an impact on elected representatives. Patient testimony, letters to legislators and meetings with advocates to share patients' needs are a key to our success in driving policy priorities and making positive change in the community.

**7** Key policy priorities drove our advocacy work in 2020:

- **Access to Care**
- **Affordable Medications and Treatments**
- **Asthma and Allergy Program Funding**
- **Health Equity**
- **Food Package Labeling**
- **Airline Passenger Safety**
- **COVID-19**

**6** key types of advocacy wins stemming from grassroots advocacy work that impact the health and wellness of people with allergies, asthma and related conditions. Our advocacy work led to:

- Increased federal funding in fiscal year (FY) 2021 for six federal agencies that support allergy and asthma programs.
- Federal funding and increased access for COVID-19 vaccine distribution, testing, telehealth and other critical healthcare needs in response to the pandemic.
- Passage of the "School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act" to encourage more schools to adopt comprehensive asthma and allergy management programs and staff training.
- Passage of the "No Surprises Act" which provides protection against surprise medical bills.
- Release of federal guidance by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) so that emotional support animals on airlines are no longer recognized as service animals. This will help reduce the risk of symptoms in air travelers with asthma and animal allergies.
- Release of draft guidance by the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for sesame labeling by food manufacturers.



**23** We advocated in 23 of 50 states on more than a dozen different issues impacting the health and well-being of people with asthma, allergies and related conditions.

**78%** We increased our advocacy actions (comments, testimony, letters) by 78% at the state level as compared to 2019. **This resulted in laws passed in 10 states.**

**54%** We increased our attendance by 54% at our 2020 Allergy & Asthma Day Capitol Hill (AADCH) Virtual Advocacy Day, as compared to 2019. Attendees expressed high satisfaction and enthusiasm for attending future AADCH events.

*"I have enjoyed collaborating with Charmayne Anderson on the topic of stock albuterol inhalers in Maryland schools for the past two legislative sessions (and leading up to them). She has been a tremendous resource and collaborator as we worked on this effort, along with a coalition of advocates including the American Lung Association, nurses, pharmacists and doctors.*

*"She kept us informed about the laws in other states and related federal legislation, helped advise our group and our legislative sponsor about best practices for stock albuterol legislation, and provided valuable written and oral testimony for the past two legislative sessions. Hopefully we will soon have a successful stock albuterol law in Maryland, due in part to Charmayne's efforts."*

*S. Christy Sadreameli, MD, MHS*

# OUR IMPACT

We drove innovation through research and strategic partnerships with the goal of improving health outcomes and quality of life.

We partnered on a national awareness campaign to break down barriers that keep racially and ethnically diverse patients from participating in clinical trials.

We initiated three studies on three conditions: **severe asthma, atopic dermatitis** and **topical steroid use**.

We continued our partnership in a patient-centered outcomes research study with Brigham and Women's Hospital researchers. The study compared usual care vs. use of controller medications together with reliever medications to reduce asthma flares in African American and Hispanic/Latino populations.

10

Different topic areas for research partnerships:

- Asthma
- Eczema
- Allergies
- Rhinosinusitis
- COVID-19
- Severe asthma
- Cannabis use
- Telehealth
- Health disparities
- Topical steroid use

We launched our **Asthma360 Registry** and **COVID-19 Registry** to capture real-world data and the impact of these conditions over time.

We received our first Eugene Washington **PCORI Engagement Award** from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The award will help Allergy & Asthma Network participate across all phases of patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) and clinical effective research (CER) while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.



10

Published papers in clinical literature

16

Research projects we led or supported

*"I am an African American who suffers from severe asthma. The Black People Like Me project helps me share my experiences with the community. I am grateful that I can gain knowledge from fellow participants. I want to feel empowered and I want my family to be a part of such an engaging group. It helps to get questions answered and understand the research acquired for it."*

*Charnette Darrington  
Severe asthma patient*

## Thank you to our partners

- American Association for Respiratory Care
- American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
- American Thoracic Society
- Association of Asthma Educators
- CHEST Foundation
- National Association of School Nurses
- National Medical Association
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- Self-Care Catalysts

## Thank you to our donors, funders and sponsors!

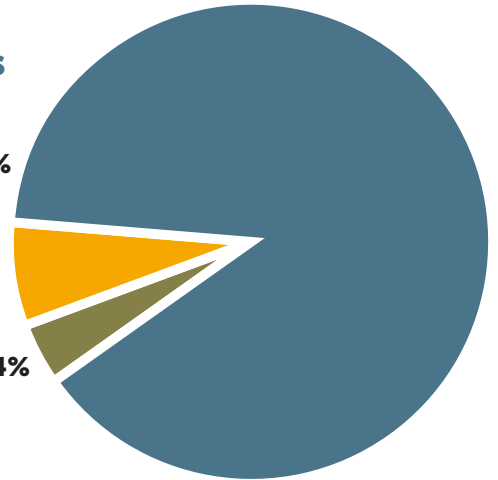
The generous support we receive from individual donors, corporations, foundations and grantors enable us to continue existing programs and expand our offerings to meet emerging needs. We know that we need to be good stewards of your generous gifts and continually earn your trust. For this we are grateful.

- Abbvie
- American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
- American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
- Aimmune
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- CDC
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- DBV
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- Genentech
- GSK
- Kaleo
- Novartis
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
- Pfizer
- Regeneron
- Sanofi Genzyme
- TEVA
- Viatrix



## Financials

- Program - **89%**
- Admin - **7%**
- Fundraising - **4%**



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