

Abstract

The number of adults aged 18 and over who currently have asthma is over 18.4 million. The homeless are at greater risk of acute asthma exacerbations due to uncontrolled shelter conditions, and this increases the number of emergency department (ED) visits and hospitalizations for both adults and children. Asthma screenings were absent in the shelter system, therefore this project was developed to fill that gap. Objective: Develop, implement, and evaluate an asthma screening protocol in the practice site to reduce the risk of acute asthma exacerbations. Methods: The participants were the staff at the shelter, who were trained to conduct the asthma screening protocol over the period of four weeks. Findings: When patients learned to identify their asthma triggers, they were better able to control their asthma exacerbations (Al-Jahdali et., 2013). Results: The data showed significant difference between the level of asthma control and exacerbations at baseline (14.8) and post implementation (19.45) with p-value ($p < 0.03$). Conclusion: The implementation of the screening protocol reduced the number of ED visits. Key words: asthma, exacerbations, homelessness and asthma, asthma screenings.