

SCIENCE AND OUTCOMES OF ALLERGY AND ASTHMA RESEARCH (SOAAR)

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY FEINBERG SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ANN & ROBERT H. LURIE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF CHICAGO

GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH: FINDING ANSWERS AND SHAPING POLICY

FOOD ALLERGY



Research

Determined that **8% of children (1 in 13)** have a food allergy and that the **annual cost of food allergy in the U.S. is \$24.8 Billion.**



Innovation

Provided **practical translation of food allergy management guidelines** for pediatricians.

www.foodallergythrive.com



Access

Published research on emergency access to epinephrine in Chicago Public Schools (CPS). In the **first year of having stock epinephrine, CPS used it 38 times to treat anaphylaxis.** More than half of the stock epinephrine was used for children experiencing their **first allergic reaction.**



Policy

Co-authored the **Addendum guidelines for the prevention of peanut allergy in the United States:** Report of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases-sponsored expert panel.



Action

Researched the number of Chicago Public School students who had action plans for either food allergies or asthma and found that **half of students with food allergy and a quarter of students with asthma did not have an emergency action plan on file with their school.** SOAAR is researching the most effective ways to help these students and their families complete and submit action plans with their respective schools.

ASTHMA



Research

Demonstrated the tremendous **geographic variability in childhood asthma prevalence** in Chicago. Rates ranged from 0 to 44% by neighborhood with the **highest rates observed in Chicago's South and West sides.**



Community

Found that community factors such as **local violence and drug-related crime impact asthma prevalence and severity in children.**



Empowerment

Developed the Student Media-based Asthma Research Team (SMART) program to **empower students to improve asthma self-management.** SMART increased **community asthma knowledge** and led to **positive behavior change.**



Outcomes

Tracked asthma patients inhaler usage through **innovative technology** (sensor systems). This study will help **decrease asthma attacks in children by improving medication adherence.**