

STRONG CHILDREN'S RESEARCH CENTER

Summer 2018 Research Scholar

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ABSTRACT

Title: Internet Use among Caregivers of Urban Children with Persistent Asthma

Background: Asthma is the most common chronic disease of childhood, disproportionately affecting poor and minority children. The internet is now commonly used as a platform to share health information, however little is known about how caregivers of urban children with persistent asthma use the Internet.

Objective 1) Describe the use of the Internet among urban caregivers of children with asthma; 2) Explore associations between Internet use and sociodemographics, asthma symptom measures, medications, and healthcare utilization.

Design/Methods We used data from the School-Based Telemedicine Enhanced Asthma Management (SBTEAM) program for elementary school-aged children with persistent asthma in urban Rochester, NY. We conducted in-home, structured surveys with caregivers to assess children's demographic information, healthcare utilization (prior year), asthma severity and symptoms (prior 14 days). Caregivers reported current internet use at home based on 10 survey items. We used bivariate and multivariate regression analyses to examine associations between internet use and sociodemographics, asthma symptom measures, medications, and healthcare utilization.