351: Respiratory Emergency Department Visits More Common Among Native American Children than Non-Native American in South Dakota.

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BACKGROUND

- A goal of proper asthma care is to minimize urgent care visits.
- African American and Latino children in the United States have higher rates of emergency department (ED) use for asthma.¹
- US national data suggest that asthma is 1.6-1.8 times higher in AI/AN children than in non-Hispanic white children.²,³
- There is also high frequency of ED visits for asthma among asthmatics in the AI/AN population (twice as high as for non-Hispanic whites), which remains poorly understood.⁴-⁶
- We examined respiratory health outcomes and use of ED visits among American Indian/American Native (AI/AN) children and non-AI/AN living in South Dakota (SD).

RESULTS

- Data were available on n=704 children.
- Report of wheeze, rhinorrhea and/or watery eyes, and ED visits were common, while hospitalizations were uncommon (Figure 1).
- As compared with girls, boys were more likely to have a report of wheeze and rhinorrhea and/or watery eyes (P<0.009), but not ED visits (Figure 2).
- Despite no significant difference in prevalence of wheeze or rhinorrhea and/or watery eyes, ED visits were more common among children of AI/AN parents (Figure 3).
- In a model adjusted for age, sex, urban/rural, smoker in the home, rhinitis symptoms and wheeze in the past year, children with an AI/AN parent were more likely to have had an ED visit for respiratory problems [Prevalence Ratio = 1.5, P<0.037].

CONCLUSIONS

AI/AN children had greater ED visits for respiratory problems in this cohort, independent of indicators of asthma severity. Elucidating the underlying causes needs further study.

REFERENCES