Less Harmful Doesn't Mean Harmless
E-Cigarettes and Vaping

BREATHE DC

OUR HISTORY AND MISSION

Breathe DC is the first District of Columbia non-profit community health organization created to fight all forms of lung disease, especially in communities with health disparities. We are dedicated to making healthy breathing and clean air the norm for everyone who lives, works, and raises their families in greater Washington, DC. Through evidence-based community health programs, health education, community partnerships, and public policy advocacy, we engage local residents and leaders to form a united front against asthma, smoking, lung cancer, COPD and air pollution.
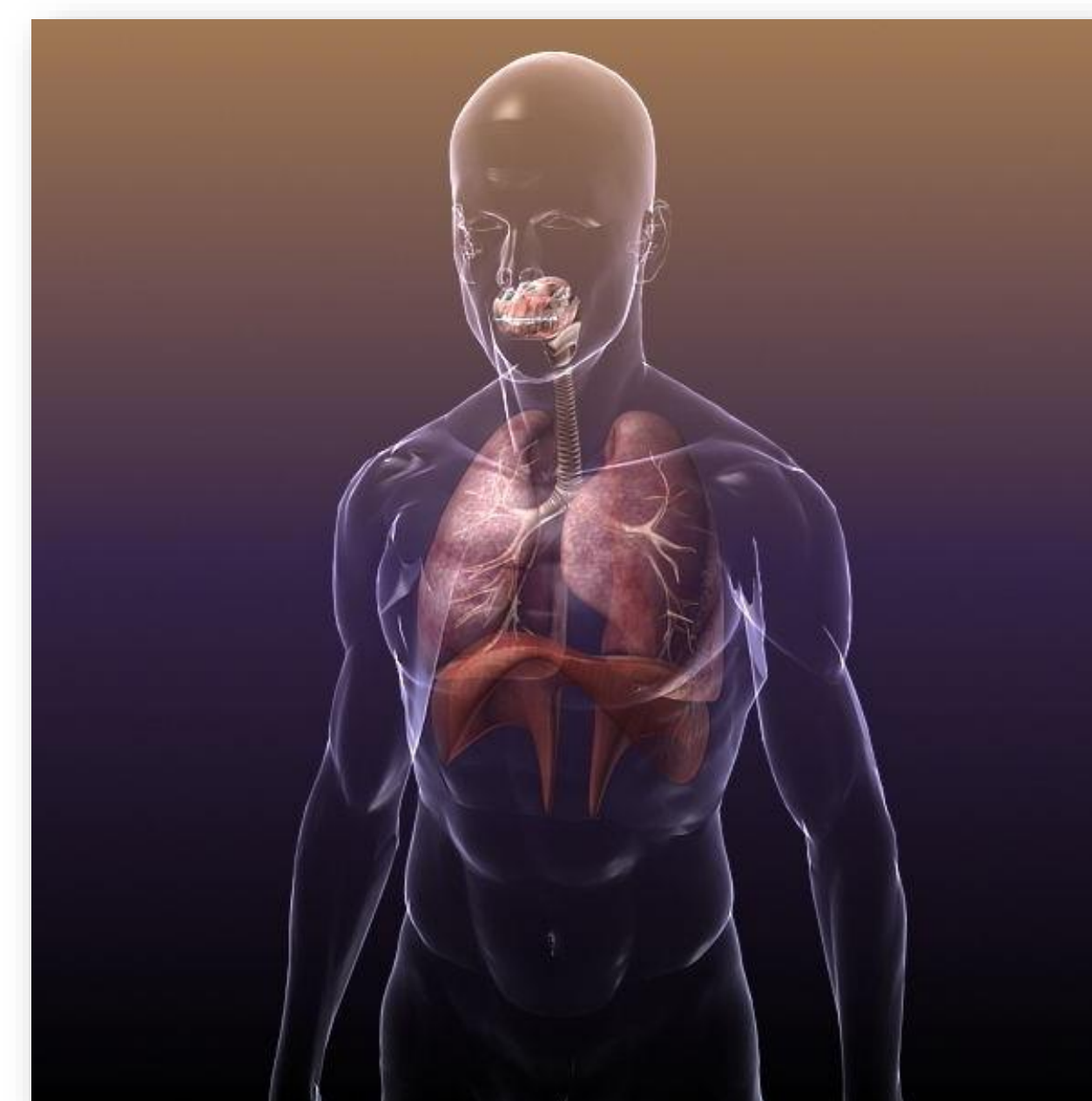
COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

- Washington, D.C. (primarily Wards 7 & 8)
- Adults and youth with respiratory diseases
- Disadvantaged and underserved populations
- D.C. Public Housing communities

HEALTH EQUITY GOALS

Safeguard healthy air and protection of lung health through the elimination of smoke, air pollution, and allergens.	Increase access to services that empower adults and youth to lead fuller, more active lives without the limitations associated with respiratory diseases.
Implement smoke-free policies in all multi-dwelling properties.	Regulate access of e-cigarettes and vaping devices of youth.

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Won litigation** prohibiting Santa Fe Tobacco Company from marketing its "Natural American Spirit" brand cigarettes as a healthier tobacco alternative.

- Contributed to lowering rates of smoking in D.C. wards where as many as **1 in 3 adults** are smokers.

- Assisted **5 local universities** with adopting tobacco-free campus policies.

- Educated more than **800 children** with asthma on ways to manage their chronic condition and reduce asthma-related emergency medical care.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Breathe Easy
Goal: Reduce asthma triggers in the home.

Smoke-free Housing
Goal: Create smoke-free communities throughout the District.

East River- Tobacco Free Project
Goal: Help mothers go tobacco-free, and homes stay smoke-free to improve children's health in East of the River ("East River") communities.

Smoking Cessation
Goal: Assist smokers in their commitment to quitting and increasing awareness about the long-term impact of smoking on their quality of life.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- What are the long-term health effects of smoking e-cigarettes and vaping on youth?

- What happens to the chemical composition of e-cigarettes and vaping when heated?

- What are the health implications of smoking e-cigarettes and vaping on the respiratory system?

- What health risks are associated with secondhand aerosol exposure?

WAYS YOU CAN HELP US

- Increase public awareness on the dangers of e-cigarettes and vaping.

- Conduct evidence-based research on the health effects of electronic smoking devices.

- Assess policy-related issues associated with the regulation of e-cigarettes and vaping.

- Collect and analyze data.

- Improve our organization's existing research methodologies and processes.

WAYS WE CAN HELP YOU

- ✓ Navigating the community
- ✓ Grant writing federal/National Institute of Health
- ✓ Outreach/ Obtaining community consents
- ✓ Managing budgets
- ✓ Project Implementation
- ✓ Understanding community need and strengths
- ✓ Understanding community culture and context
- ✓ Extensive Salesforce analytics

Key Partnerships:
Allergy & Asthma Network
AmeriGroup
AmeriHealth Caritas D.C.
Children's National Medical Center
Centene Corporation
D.C. Department of Health (DOH)
D.C. Department of the Environment (DDOE)
Community Wellness Alliance
Department of Health Care Finance
Health Services for Children (HSC)
MedStar Health
Trusted Health Plan
United Medical Center (UMC)

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