

The London Evening Standard features CLAHRC research in [a story on the impact of air pollution on the capital's younger asthma sufferers](#).

Our [newly published research highlights poor asthma control and knowledge among London secondary school pupils](#) and is referenced in the piece, which also includes contributions from CLAHRC researchers Professor Jonathan Grigg and Kate Harris.

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Toxic air warnings 'must include reminder for children to use inhalers'

ROSS LYDALL | an hour ago | 0 comments



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Londoners were warned of 'very high' pollution levels earlier this year *AFP/Getty Images*

A call was made today for the Mayor's "toxic air day" warnings to include a reminder to schoolchildren to take their asthma medication.

A pioneering study of secondary school pupils with asthma in the capital found almost half were not treating themselves properly – putting themselves at risk of a more severe attack.

The UK already has a "disproportionately high" rate of child asthma deaths, and one in 11 children in the country suffers from the lung condition.



The paper has campaigned extensively on the quality of London's air, and the health impact on young and developing lungs. Poor asthma control, [as highlighted in our work](#), can make things worse for those already living with respiratory conditions.

Professor Jonathan Grigg, CLAHRC child health theme and Principal Investigator on the study runs a severe asthma clinic at the Royal London hospital, said: *"If you have asthma and it is not well-controlled, you are going to be more likely to suffer from these days of high pollution. If you have poor control, you run a risk of having a severe episode. The number of children who die is very small, but we are not really treating asthma as seriously as we should. In other countries, they say, 'If you have got asthma, make sure you take your medication on the next few days'. That is what I would do. I would say, 'There is an air pollution event. Make sure you take it.' "*

Another researcher on the project Katherine Harris was quoted in the ES story, saying it was the first childhood asthma study carried out in schools: *"We know from previous work about asthma in children that there were high levels of hospitalisation and asthma-related deaths were higher than Europe. One reason could be due to poor levels of asthma control in children. What we concluded is that there is a prevalence of poor control in children. There are also low levels of knowledge. A lot of children don't understand what their medication does or how it was helping them."*