

Research in context

Evidence before this study

Several countries or regions within countries have developed effective asthma strategies, which, when consistently implemented, resulted in early detection and, subsequently, the reduction of the burden and cost of asthma to individuals and society. There has been no systematic appraisal of the extent of asthma strategies in the world.

Added value of this study

This study surveyed Global Asthma Network investigators in more than half the world's countries and found only about one in four had a national asthma strategy.

Implications of all the available evidence

There is potential for a large reduction in the global burden of asthma if more countries developed and implemented effective asthma strategies.