

# Pointers For Parents

## Survey Shows Allergies Taking A Toll On America's Youth

(NAPSA)—Kids are feeling tired, miserable and irritable. They're underperforming at school. And all because of...allergies?

The findings of the landmark *Pediatric Allergies in America*™ Survey report that far too many of our children are putting up with bothersome allergy symptoms like stuffy noses, coughing and sneezing that are getting in the way of daily life.

This, the largest, most comprehensive national survey of its kind, is sounding an alarm among experts. It turns out that better management of allergic rhinitis (commonly known as "hay fever") is just what the doctor ordered.

"Our nation's children are being sidelined by allergies," said Michael Blaiss, M.D., Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at the University of Tennessee and consultant for Sepracor Inc. "This survey is a wake-up call for parents and health care providers that our kids need effective and safe allergy symptom relief so they can get on with the business of being kids."

The survey suggests that allergy symptoms unnecessarily:

- **Limit children's activities.** Parents of children with allergies are twice as likely to say that allergies limit their children's activities compared to parents whose children did not suffer from allergies.

- **Interfere with school.** Forty percent of children with allergic rhinitis report their condition interferes with their performance at school compared to only



10 percent of children without allergic rhinitis.

- **Disrupt children's sleep.** Forty percent of parents indicated that their child's allergies interfere "a lot or somewhat" with their sleep.

"This survey shows that kids, just like adults, are not happy with the allergy relief they are currently getting. This is one reason why nasal allergy sufferers sometimes stop or switch medications," said Dr. Blaiss. "Having a treatment that works—and is safe—is important to children and adults whose nasal allergy symptoms interfere with everyday life."

The *Pediatric Allergies in America* Survey, conducted by the national public opinion research organization Schulman, Ronca and Bucuvalas, Inc. (SRBI), is sponsored by Sepracor Inc., U.S. distributors of OMNARIS™ (ciclesonide) Nasal Spray.

The survey findings were presented at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Annual Meeting and endorsed by the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

For more information, visit [www.myallergiesinamerica.com](http://www.myallergiesinamerica.com).