

TITLE: Family Impact of Childhood Chronic Health Conditions

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: The audience is health policy makers and researchers.

ABSTRACT: Childhood chronic health conditions can lead to family stress including both emotional and health impacts for children and parents. The aim of this study was to estimate the incremental differences in family impacts for families of children with two chronic health conditions (Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Asthma (ATA)) in comparison to families of children without a chronic health concern. We conducted an online survey with families in four large health systems in Oregon, Washington, California, and Hawaii. Of the 1461 families who responded to the survey, 45% of respondents were from either Hispanic or non-white racial groups. Children with chronic health conditions had significantly lower overall quality of life scores on the Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory compared to children without chronic health conditions. Parents of children with chronic health conditions had significantly lower quality of life scores and increased parenting stress scores compared to parents whose children did not experience chronic health concerns. Understanding which components of a child's life are affected by chronic health conditions and understanding the types of stress parents experience when caring for a child with a chronic health condition could provide important information for development of clinical care and health care policy.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe the impact of two childhood chronic health conditions, Autism and Asthma, on child and parent quality of life and parenting stress.
