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Brief Report: Glycemic Control, Quality of Life, and School Experiences Among Students with Diabetes

Julie Wagner, PhD¹, Alicia Heapy, PhD², Amy James, PhD¹ and Gina Abbott, PhD¹

¹ Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Connecticut Health Center, and ² VA Connecticut Healthcare System, Yale University School of Medicine

All correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Julie Wagner, PhD, Department of Behavioral Sciences and Community Health MC3910, University of Connecticut Health Center, 263 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, CT 06410. E-mail: juwagner@uchc.edu.

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Objective To investigate the relationships among perceived school experiences, diabetes control, and quality of life (QOL) in children with diabetes. **Methods** Fifty-eight children with type 1 diabetes and their parents participated. The typical child was 12 years old, had diabetes for 5 years, and attended public, suburban, middle/junior high schools with 300–500 students. **Results** Children whose parents reported that school personnel received diabetes training showed significantly better diabetes control than those who reported untrained school personnel. Children who reported their classmates received diabetes training had significantly better QOL than those who reported untrained classmates. Children who reported greater flexibility in performing diabetes care tasks at school had significantly better diabetes control than children who reported less flexibility. **Conclusions** Students with diabetes continue to face challenges at school. Training staff and classmates and allowing students the maximum appropriate flexibility in diabetes care appears beneficial for disease control and QOL.

Key words: type 1 diabetes; children; school; education; glycemic control; quality of life.

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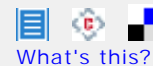
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