

## Diaper Need Is Associated with Pediatric Care Use: An Analysis of a Nationally Representative Sample of Parents of Young Children.

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**Background:** Diaper need is the gap between the number of diapers required for infants to stay clean and the number of diapers a family can afford without cutting back on other basic needs. Diapering an infant is a primary parental activity, but for low-income families, diapering imposes a significant financial burden.

**Objective:** To examine the possible association between diaper need, difficulty affording an adequate amount of diapers, and pediatric care visits for urinary tract infections and diaper dermatitis

**Design :** Cross-sectional online survey (15 min to complete) from July–August 2017.

**Inclusion criteria:** > 18 years with children 0–3 yrs. (981 parents, response rate, 94%)

**Measures:** *Covariates:* 1.Sociodemographics 2. Diaper Need 3.Diaper Receipt.

*Outcome Variables:* 1.Diaper Dermatitis 2. UTI

*Statistical analysis:* The association between sociodemographic and diaper variables, and diaper rash or UTI, chi square and t tests were used. Multivariate logistic regression models including significant covariates from bivariate analyses ( $P < .05$ ) were used to examine the association between variables and use of pediatric care for diaper rash and UTI

# ACADEMIC P.E.A.R.L.S

Pediatric Evidence And Research Learning Snippet



## Association of Diaper need and Pediatric care need: An analysis of A Nationally Representative Sample of Parents of Young children

**Results : Demographic and Clinical Characteristics :** Parent Females–55.9%, Race: White 72.9%, African–Americans 11.3%, Asian 5.8%, and Native American 2.1%.

**Nationally, 35.9% reported diaper need. 32.1% & 11.7% of parents brought their child to a healthcare provider for diaper rash and a UTI respectively.**

**Associations with Diaper Need and Use for Child Diaper Rash and UTIs :**

- **Parents who endorsed diaper need/visited an organization had greater proportions of care visits for both diaper dermatitis and UTI (all  $P < .001$ ).**
- Partnered parents had greater rates of child with diaper dermatitis compared to non-partnered parents ( $P = .007$ ).
- **Fathers ( $P < .001$ ) and employed parents ( $P = .001$ ) had greater rates of UTI care visits compared with women and unemployed, respectively.**
- Geographic location - living in urban areas had the greatest rates of care visits ( $P = .02$ ).
- Both diaper need (OR 2.37, 95% CI 1.69–3.31,  $P < .001$ ) and visiting organizations to get diapers (OR 2.14; 95% CI 1.43–3.21,  $P < .001$ ) were strongly associated with greater odds of diaper dermatitis
- Participants who completed some college/associate's/technical school and bachelor's degree were less likely to bring their child in for diaper dermatitis (OR 0.31; 95% CI 0.12–0.78,  $P = .01$  and OR 0.36; 95% CI 0.14–0.92,  $P = .03$ , respectively).
- For UTI care visit also , diaper need (OR 2.63; 95% CI 1.54– 4.49,  $P < .001$ ) and visiting an organization to get diapers (OR 4.50; 95% CI 2.63–7.70,  $P < .001$ ) were the most important factors.
- Employment status and geographic location were not associated UTI visits.

**Conclusion:** Diaper need is common and associated with increased pediatric care visits.

### EXPERT COMMENT

“Lack of a sufficient supply of diapers and healthcare expenses are all possible ways for diaper dermatitis and UTIs which negatively affect the economic security of families which in turn is associated with poor parental mental health. The above study did not find an association between diaper type and diaper rash, but exclusive use of cloth diapers was associated with visits for UTI. This finding should also be explored in future studies.

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With warm regards,

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### Reference

Sobowale K, Clayton A, Smith MV. Diaper Need Is Associated with Pediatric Care Use: An Analysis of a Nationally Representative Sample of Parents of Young Children. J Pediatr. 2021 Mar;230:146-151.