Potential Exposure to Stimuli, Demographic Characteristics, Disease Characteristics, and Participation in Life Activities

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Purpose: The purpose is to examine relationships between potential exposure to stimuli, demographic characteristics, and disease characteristics for participation in life activities, as a measure of quality of life, in students with asthma. The Acceptance of Asthma Model served as the theoretical framework. Methods: This secondary descriptive analysis used data from two studies: A cross-sectional survey design, and a longitudinal, pre-test, intervention, and post-test design. A new method for exploring the impact of exposure to identified stimuli was developed. Exposure scores were computed for each of the activities, and then a grand mean was computed across all five activities. Findings: Statistically significant differences in exposure to stimuli scores for participation in life activities were identified based on gender and race. Statistically significant correlations were identified between exposure to stimuli scores for participation in life activities and age, socioeconomic status, number of stimuli, and types of stimuli. Conclusions: Findings suggested that younger participants, males over females, and Black over White students were more likely to be exposed to stimuli while participating in their favorite activities. Potential exposure to stimuli should be considered when planning to participate in activities.

Key Words: Asthma, Exposure Scores