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Journal of Pediatric Psychology Advance Access originally published online on January 31, 2008

Journal of Pediatric Psychology 2008 33(3):227-231; doi:10.1093/jpepsy/jsn003

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Introduction to the Special Issue: Sleep in Pediatric Medical Populations

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Children and adolescents with acute and chronic medical conditions such as asthma, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, and sickle cell disease (SCD) are reported to have more frequent and severe problems with sleep than their healthy peers (Passarelli *et al.*, 2006▣; Yuksel *et al.*, 2007▣). Multiple factors, including both acute and chronic pain (Palermo, 2000▣), underlying disease processes, concurrent medications, the impact of hospitalization, and comorbid psychiatric conditions such as depression and anxiety, are clearly important to consider in assessing the bi-directional relationship of sleep problems and acute and chronic illness in children (Lewin & Dahl, 1999▣). Sleep disorders that affect the quantity and quality of sleep can have salient effects on children's daytime functioning, health, and well-being (Palermo & Kiska, 2005▣; Smaldone, Honig, & Byrne, 2007▣) as well as caregiver health and well-being (Meltzer & Mindell, 2006▣). Furthermore, the relationship between sleep . . . [[Full Text of this Article](#)]

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Online ISSN 1465-735X - Print ISSN 0146-8693

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