

Type 1 Diabetes Workgroup



Background

The Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) workgroup was created in 2022 to provide more support to families of children with T1D. The workgroup was prompted by an increase in diagnoses, hospital admissions, near fatalities, and Child Protective Services involvement during COVID-19. It includes 55 passionate individuals from diverse backgrounds, from parent voices to endocrinologists.

Data Matters

Studies show increased rates of newly diagnosed T1D in children and youth during COVID-19 compared with prior periods.

A CDC study published in Diabetes Care considers this as an emerging issue and estimates the number of people in the **US younger than 20 with T1D could rise to 65%**.

Workgroup Progress

- Designed [Diagnosis: Diabetes - Family to Family Health Information Center](#) – a dedicated resource to share local and national resources.
- Established a Statewide T1D Coordinator role in partnership with PAVE and P2P, funded by Washington State Department of Health. [A T1D family support program is underway.](#)
- Created an educational document for providers to [improve use of Managed Care Organizations \(MCO\) benefits and services](#) for children with Medicaid who have T1D.
- Began and continue ongoing support for a virtual [T1D Teen Connect support group](#) led by a young adult volunteer with T1D.
- Prioritized **Guidelines for Care of Students with Diabetes** in partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to align with the American Diabetes Association's **Helping the Student with Diabetes Succeed: A Guide for School Personnel**.
- Developed an [Eating Disorders handout for health care providers](#) with mention of Diabulimia.

Future Direction

Monthly meetings will continue into 2024 with exciting projects ahead. The workgroup has identified these goals:

- Improve the MCO referral process.
- Grow the T1D family support program.
- Develop a poster for health care offices and social media to identify new-onset T1D symptoms.

Questions? Please contact Clinical Nutrition Consultant, Khimberly.Schoenacker@doh.wa.gov.



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