

DIABETES FACTS

THE AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

The American Diabetes Association is the nation's leading nonprofit health organization providing diabetes research, information and advocacy. Founded in 1940, the American Diabetes Association conducts programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, reaching more than 800 communities.

The mission of the organization is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. To fulfill this mission, the American Diabetes Association funds research, publishes scientific findings, provides information and other services to people with diabetes, their families, health care professionals and the public, and advocates for scientific research and for the rights of people with diabetes.

Volunteer Power

The moving force behind our work is a network of more than one million volunteers, including a membership of 430,000 diabetes patients and their families, and a professional society of more than 18,000 physicians, scientists, nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, social workers, and educators.

Diabetes Patient Activities

The American Diabetes Association's national Call Center is a network of trained operators who provide information and referrals to people with diabetes and their loved ones. Available by calling 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383), callers can receive information about all aspects of diabetes management and local diabetes programs and services, including:

- Diabetes education classes
- Year-round youth programs
- Counseling and support groups
- Advocacy services
- Information and referral services

Professional Activities

Education and other informative materials provided for health care professionals, health plans and employees to improve care for people with diabetes include:

- Annual scientific sessions
- Annual postgraduate course
- Other medical and scientific programs
- Medical care guidelines and recommendations
- Diabetes patient education program accreditation
- Diabetes Control Network
- Provider Recognition Program

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Advocacy

Advocating on behalf of people with diabetes is one of the three tenets of the American Diabetes Association. The Association fights to:

- Increase the federal commitment to cure, prevent and control diabetes
- End discrimination against people with diabetes
- Improve access to and the quality of health care for people with diabetes

In the last decade, successful advocacy efforts have furthered each of these goals. Successes include:

- More than tripling the NIH research budget devoted to diabetes research (from 294 million in 1994 to \$920 million in 2003)
- 46 states and the District of Columbia now mandate comprehensive insurance coverage of diabetes supplies and education
- Successful legal actions that have reduced discrimination against people with diabetes at school, work, correctional institutions, and places of public accommodation such as airplanes and concert venues

In 2003, over 140,000 e-mails and faxes were sent to elected officials from diabetes advocates. To become a Diabetes Advocate go to <http://advocacy.diabetes.org> and click on the link that says, "Sign Up for Advocacy E-Alerts."

Research

To date, the Association has invested over \$300 million in diabetes research throughout the nation. Recent advances in research have resulted in:

- More precise methods to identify people who are at risk for diabetes and potential treatments to prevent the onset of the disease
- Improved techniques for islet cell transplantation
- Laser therapy to prevent diabetes-related blindness
- Better understanding of the importance of nutrition and psychosocial factors in diabetes treatment
- Researchers moving ever-closer to identifying the "diabetes genes"

Publications

The American Diabetes Association is the authoritative source of information for people with diabetes and health-care professionals who care for them. The Association is the world's foremost publisher in the field of diabetes literature including:

For people with diabetes:

- *Diabetes Forecast*, a monthly magazine to help people with diabetes live fuller, healthier lives
- A comprehensive library of cookbooks, meal-planning guides and food exchange lists
- Books, brochures and pamphlets on every aspect of living with diabetes

For health care professionals:

- *Diabetes*, the prestigious journal of basic diabetes research
- *Diabetes Care*, the journal for clinicians treating people with diabetes
- *Diabetes Spectrum*, practical interpretations of diabetes research for those involved in diabetes education and counseling
- *Clinical Diabetes*, current medical information about diabetes and its treatment for the primary care provider
- A comprehensive library of medical management guides covering all facets of diabetes care

**For more information, contact the American Diabetes Association 1-800-DIABETES
or visit our web site at www.diabetes.org**

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