



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
**Joint State Government Commission**  
Room 108 Finance Building, 613 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-4397

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## SUMMARY of the Staff Report on Diabetes Programs in Pennsylvania

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Released: March 2015

The report under 2014 House Resolution 936 to be issued in March 2015 is responsive to the following portion of the resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission provide the initial report on the estimated number of individuals with diabetes, pre-diabetes or related diabetes who are served by each department or agency and any additional information the commission deems appropriate to the General Assembly by March 1, 2015.

As background, the report includes a description of Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, and gestational diabetes. The report emphasizes that the prevalence of diabetes is almost certain to increase as the average age of Pennsylvania's population increases. The following statistics indicate the magnitude of the challenge posed by this condition:

- 1.2 million people in Pennsylvania are living with diabetes, and almost 0.9 million have prediabetes or borderline diabetes.
- Diabetes doubles the death rate of those who have it. It kills about nine people in Pennsylvania every day, or 3,184 in 2010. It is the seventh leading cause of death nationwide and in Pennsylvania.
- The prevalence of diabetes in Pennsylvania has nearly doubled since 1995—from 57 per 1,000 in that year to 103 per thousand in 2010.
- In 2014, there were about 25,000 hospital admissions in Pennsylvania or of Pennsylvania residents for diabetes and 347,000 admissions of people with diabetes.

The lion's share of the responsibility for addressing this condition is with the Department of Health. The Department works primarily through health care providers rather than individual patients. The following are its major programs under the general designation Diabetes Prevention and Control Program (DPCP):

- The Juvenile Diabetes Cure Research Tax Check-Off Program applies funds from the income tax check-off to fund research into Type 1 diabetes.
- Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) supports regional or local lifestyle change intervention programs to help persons at risk for developing diabetes to avoid becoming victims of it. An especially well-developed program of this kind is provided by the Diabetes Prevention Support Center of the University of Pittsburgh.
- Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) funds accredited programs to assist persons living with diabetes to manage the condition and its complications.
- Increasing diagnoses and referrals through Health Information Technology, focusing on the use of electronic health records.

The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council has collected a wealth of information about diabetes, including a report on hospitalizations arising from ten potentially preventable conditions, including four that relate to diabetes: long-term complications, short-term complications uncontrolled diabetes, and lower extremity amputations on diabetes patients.

The Department of Aging assisted over 83,000 persons with diabetes to defray prescription medication costs through its PACE and PACENET programs. The OPTIONS program assisted eligible residents with a wide array of home- and community based services.

The Department of Human Services assisted over 48,500 Medicaid recipients with diabetes through the Medical Assistance program. **The full report is available on our website:** <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/>