



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Joint State Government Commission
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Short summary in response to 2014 House Resolution 936
Diabetes in Pennsylvania: Prevention and Maintenance Programs (2021)

This is the fifth of a series of reports by the Joint State Government Commission (JSGC) written in response to House Resolution No. 936 of 2014. HR 936 provides for an ongoing study of the public health problem posed by diabetes in Pennsylvania and directs the JSGC, in collaboration with certain other state departments and agencies, to describe, evaluate, and make recommendations for the Commonwealth's response. This report describes the relevant programs run by the entities charged with implementing public health policy and with assisting persons with diabetes. The broad purposes of public health policies aimed at controlling diabetes and preventing the disease are "to reduce the incidence of diabetes, improve diabetes care, and control complications associated with diabetes."

The introduction contains a general discussion of diabetes as a public health problem nationwide and in Pennsylvania and the latest available data regarding incidence and prevalence of diabetes, prediabetes, and obesity in the United States and in Pennsylvania as well as the projection of the future diabetes burden.

The first chapter includes the definition and classification of diabetes mellitus.

The second chapter describes the current ADA guidelines on diabetes medical care and prevention. It also includes recent position statements from key stakeholders.

The third chapter analyzes the complex, multifactorial interaction between COVID-19 and diabetes, severe COVID-19 outcomes in patients with diabetes, and changes in diabetes care during the pandemic.

The fourth chapter lists the programs administered by the Department of Health, which is the lead agency on public health issues. These programs include the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), the Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support Program (DSMES), type 1 diabetes activities, and obesity prevention and wellness activities.

The fifth chapter covers the programs administered by the Department of Aging: the Health & Wellness Program, the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, the Diabetes Self-Management Program, and PACE.

The sixth chapter outlines the diabetes-related activities of the Department of Human Services: Medical Assistance (Medicaid) and Community HealthChoices (CHC).

The seventh chapter covers YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program.

The eighth chapter describes the Cities Changing Diabetes program, a public/private initiative currently active in Philadelphia.

The report concludes with a list of recommendations aimed at increasing the awareness of diabetes and prediabetes, facilitating early diagnosis, improving access to care and quality of care, developing tailored approaches to risk factor control, and expanding evidence-based prevention programs and diabetes self-management education.

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