

THE PREVALENCE & BURDEN OF DIABETES IN SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan Diabetes Cost Model

In 2009, the Canadian Diabetes Association commissioned “*An Economic Tsunami: the Cost of Diabetes in Canada*,” a report to determine the cost of diabetes in Canada, including the impact of lost productivity on the economy as a whole. The model has since been adapted to provide an analysis of the costs of diabetes at the provincial level.

The Prevalence of Diabetes in Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Diabetes Cost Model provides a sobering view of diabetes in the province. It estimates that 75,000 people in the province have been diagnosed with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes in 2010 – representing approximately 7 per cent of the population. By 2020, that number is expected to reach 111,000 or 9.9 per cent of the population. The 36,000 increase represents a 48 per cent rise in prevalence over the next 10 years.

When combining these numbers with those living with prediabetes - a condition where a person’s blood glucose levels are higher than normal but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes – our Model indicates that over 1 in 4 people in Saskatchewan will be living with either diabetes or prediabetes by 2020.

The Economic Burden of Diabetes in Saskatchewan

The economic burden of diabetes in Saskatchewan is estimated to be approximately \$419 million in 2010 (measured in 2009 dollars). This cost is expected to increase 27 per cent over the next decade to \$532 million by 2020.

The direct costs of diabetes, which account for 18 per cent of the total cost (\$75 million) in 2010, are led by hospitalization costs. Indirect mortality and disability costs account for 83 per cent of the total cost attributed to diabetes by the Saskatchewan Diabetes Cost Model.

The Solution

In order to offset the burden caused by diabetes, the Canadian Diabetes Association has recommended that the government’s approach to diabetes be refocused to reflect a broad-based secondary prevention approach that includes greater access to medical specialists, such as endocrinologists, diabetes medications, devices and supplies in order to prevent or delay costly diabetes complications. It further calls of the provincial government to enhance its insulin pump program to include all people living with diabetes in Saskatchewan, where medically prescribed.

Visit diabetes.ca to see the Saskatchewan Diabetes Cost Model.