

**Kentucky****Kentucky Diabetes Network****Public Health Problem**

Kentucky ranks seventh in the Nation for the highest percentage of the adult population diagnosed with diabetes. Approximately 8.9 percent of the adult population, or an estimated 274,000 Kentucky adults, have been diagnosed with diabetes. It is estimated that 29 percent of diabetes cases, or an additional 111,900, are undiagnosed. Based on these estimates, approximately 385,900 (about 12.5 percent, or 1 in 8) adult Kentuckians have diagnosed or undiagnosed diabetes (2005 BRFSS). Individual organizations were working to combat Kentucky's diabetes epidemic, but a more coordinated approach was needed to create synergy and prevent duplication of efforts. In response to this need, the Kentucky DPCP convened partners in 1999 to establish a statewide coalition to combine efforts and resources.

**Taking Action**

The Kentucky Diabetes Network (KDN) is a statewide partnership of organizations, associations, and individuals who have a professional or personal connection with diabetes. KDN secured 501(c3) status and has grown to a membership of more than 300 partners. It strives to improve the treatment and outcomes for Kentuckians with diabetes, to promote early diagnosis, and ultimately to prevent the onset of diabetes.

KDN consists of six workgroups (Public Awareness, Primary Prevention/Risk Reduction, Professional Education, Patient Education, Advocacy, Public Relations) whose work is guided by a diabetes strategic plan. KY DPCP serves as administrative coordinator for KDN and liaison to the board, and KY DPCP staff participates on the various committees. The primary source of funding for comes from pharmaceutical partners and donations from individuals and groups.

**Implications and Impact**

KDN demonstrated success in leveraging resources to address the burden of diabetes in Kentucky, especially in policy. KDN sponsors an annual "Diabetes Day at the Capitol" to educate legislators about diabetes. This resulted in greater recognition of the burden of diabetes by policymakers and a \$2.4 million increase in funding for KY DPCP since 2006. A portion of these funds support six new developing Diabetes Centers of Excellence that provide care coordination and diabetes education targeting Medicaid recipients. It also led to the establishment of a Diabetes Research Board that receives \$200,000 per year in State funds.

KDN won the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors' 2006 Public Policy Award for its outstanding work. KDN partners have made strides in patient, professional, and public awareness education. Partners developed and distributed a variety of diabetes materials and tools, a professional newsletter (Kentucky Diabetes Connection), a lending library, and also sponsored continuing education on diabetes management and prevention. KDN collaborated with the Kentucky Obesity and Physical Activity Programs, Partnership for a Fit Kentucky, the Primary Care Association, and the Kentucky Heart Disease and Stroke Program to provide learning sessions to universities and health centers participating in the Chronic Care Collaborative. KDN also hosted a media campaign in support of National Diabetes Month and Diabetes Alert Day including press releases, and billboard displays, and it hosted events promoting the message "Move It, Lose It, Prevent Type 2 Diabetes."

**Kentucky (continued)**

To complement this work in diabetes education, KDN integrates cultural competency through presentations at KDN meetings to encourage sensitivity, develops materials in both English and Spanish, and offers a Certified Diabetes Educator scholarship for qualifying people who either represent or serve a minority population.

Overall, KDN has played a vital role in strengthening the Kentucky State diabetes health system infrastructure through better coordination and collaboration of resources and efforts to reduce the burden of diabetes. Since 2000, KDN has generated \$3,155,946 in cash and in-kind resources for its diabetes prevention and control efforts.