



## For more information

### National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP)

Toll free at 1-866-4 KIDNEY  
(1-866-454-3639)  
[www.nkdep.nih.gov](http://www.nkdep.nih.gov)

### National Diabetes Education Program

Toll free at 1-800-438-5383  
[www.ndep.nih.gov](http://www.ndep.nih.gov)

### National High Blood Pressure Education Program

1-301-592-8573  
[www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/nhbpep](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/nhbpep)

To order this brochure, call  
1-866-4 KIDNEY (1-866-454-3639)  
or visit [www.nkdep.nih.gov](http://www.nkdep.nih.gov).

## Take these steps to keep your kidneys healthy

1. Manage your diabetes and keep your blood pressure below 130/80 mmHg.
  - Eat healthy and cut back on salt
  - Be active
  - Take medicines as prescribed
2. Get blood and urine tests to check for kidney disease.
3. Ask your provider about blood pressure medicines that can help slow down kidney disease.



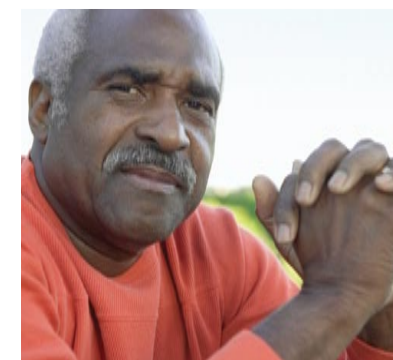
U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health



**NKDEP**  
National Kidney Disease  
Education Program

# Diabetes & High Blood Pressure

The two leading causes  
of kidney disease



## Make the Kidney Connection

NKDEP, a program of the National Institutes of Health, aims to improve early detection of kidney disease, help identify patients at risk for progression to kidney failure, and promote interventions to slow progression of kidney disease.

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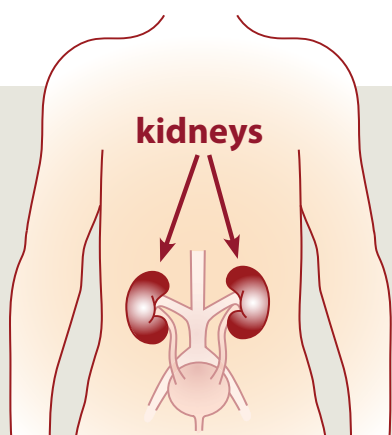
## Have you been checked for kidney disease?

Diabetes and high blood pressure can damage your kidneys and lead to kidney disease.

**Early kidney disease has no signs or symptoms.** The only way to know if you have kidney disease is to get checked.

Kidney disease does not go away. It may get worse over time and can lead to kidney failure. If the kidneys fail, **the only options are dialysis or a kidney transplant.**

Kidney disease can be treated. The sooner you know you have it, the sooner you can take steps to keep your kidneys healthy longer.



## Risk factors for kidney disease

Diabetes and high blood pressure are the leading causes of kidney disease.

Diabetes and high blood pressure can damage your kidneys over time, without you knowing it. These conditions cause about 70 percent of kidney failure cases.

You are also at risk for kidney disease if you have:

- heart disease or
- a mother, father, sister, or brother with kidney disease

If you have **any** of these risk factors, get checked for kidney disease.

**You have two kidneys located near the center of your back. Their main job is to filter waste and extra water from the blood and make urine. When the kidneys are damaged, waste can build up in the body.**



## Two tests for kidney disease

- 1. A blood test measures your GFR, which tells you how well your kidneys are working.** GFR stands for glomerular (glow-MAIR-you-lure) filtration rate.
- 2. A urine test measures the amount of protein in your urine.** Protein can leak into the urine when the kidneys are not working well.

## Make sure you know:

- your GFR
- if you have protein in your urine
- your blood pressure
- your blood glucose