

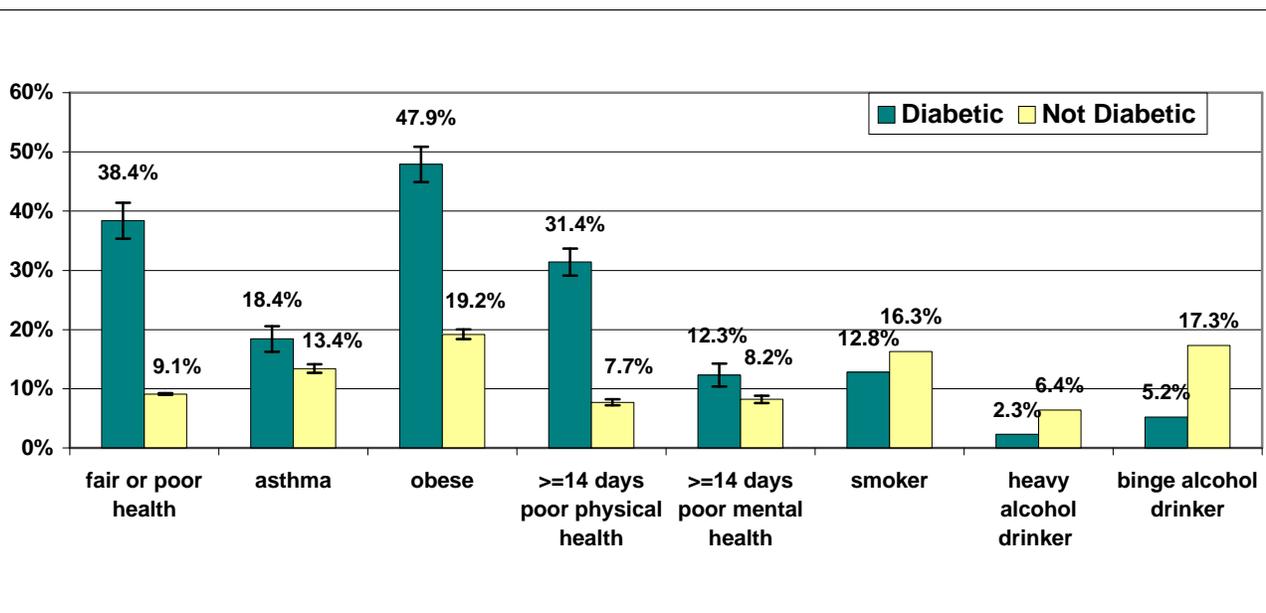
Diabetes Partners in Prevention: A Publication of the Connecticut Department of Public Health Spring 2010



Health Status of People with Diabetes in CT, Diane Aye, PhD, BRFSS Coordinator

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) allows us to look at the presence of diabetes and other health factors. Using data from the combined 2006-2008 BRFSS we have learned that persons with diabetes are more likely to report that they have fair or poor health (38.4%) in comparison to persons who do not have diabetes (9.1%). Persons with diabetes are also more likely to have asthma (18.4% vs 13.4%) and to be obese (47.9% vs 19.3%). Persons with diabetes are also more likely to report having 14 or more days of poor physical health during the past month (21.4% vs 7.7%) and 14 or more days of poor mental health (12.3% vs 8.2%) during the past 30 days than persons who do not have diabetes.

Persons with diabetes however, are less likely to smoke (12.8% vs 16.3%) and drink alcohol (see graph). This is good news but the prevalence of smoking among people with diabetes is still too high as the synergistic effects are debilitating.



A new handout, "Smoking and Diabetes" is available in English and Spanish. To order bulk copies contact Cindy Kozak at 860-509-7737 or cindy.kozak@ct.gov

“EQual Healthcare Project.”

Michele Kelvey-Albert, Manager, Outpatient Consulting Services

In 2009, the Connecticut Health Foundation funded Qualidigm for a two year project, Equity and Quality in Healthcare (EQual). EQual’s goal is to improve patient-provider interactions, and to enhance quality improvement knowledge and systems of primary care practices that serve diverse patient populations. Through this innovative project clinicians and staff of nine Connecticut practices are working to improve diabetes care in a culturally appropriate and linguistically sensitive patient-centered environment.

A key component of the project is implementation of a practice-specific electronic Diabetes Patient Registry, which assembles key patient-care data and generates actionable reports. These reports provide the practice with time-trended, condition-specific information. Qualidigm assisted the practices with the technology implementation and also provides one-on-one consultation including: assistance with implementing clinician/patient reminders to improve care; support in reviewing and acting upon feedback of patient data; guidance re-designing team care and office workflow; as well as local community resources for patients and interactive workshops on cultural and linguistic competence.

As an organization, Qualidigm has been long involved in quality improvement work addressing both diabetes and disparities of care. For the past 10 years, Qualidigm’s work as a Medicare Quality Improvement Organization has successfully included efforts to improve the delivery of important diabetes preventive services in the primary-care office setting and to reduce disparities in preventive services in the community.

CAO Optometrists Evaluate 101 Patients At Diabetes Expo

Mark R. Chasse, O.D.

Twelve optometrists from the Connecticut Association of Optometrists (CAO) and eight assistants conducted 101 eye health screenings at the ninth annual Diabetes Expo on April 17, 2010. The Diabetes Expo took place at the Connecticut Expo Center in Hartford and was sponsored by the American Diabetes Association (ADA). This is the ninth year CAO optometrists have been asked to organize and run the screening. The optometrists also educated people about the importance of receiving annual eye health examinations that include dilation of the pupils.

The following tests were performed:

- Visual acuity, Tonometry, Visual Fields, Ophthalmoscopy, Fundus Photography and OCT.

The results of the evaluations are as follows: 101 patients were evaluated ranging in age from 8 to 89. The median age was 62. There were 62 patients who had diabetes; 33 were Type 2 and 29 were Type 1.

The highlight of a successful screening is finding those individuals who need further testing. Twenty such individuals will receive the extended care they require because of this screening and because of the ADA’s commitment to continue sponsoring this wonderful event. We look forward to the tenth annual Diabetes Expo next April.

J. Robert Galvin, MD, MPH, MBA, Commissioner
Norma D. Gyle, RN, PhD, Deputy Commissioner
Cindy Kozak, RD, MPH, CDE, Diabetes Program Coordinator
860-509-7737 cindy.kozak@ct.gov

Diabetes Prevention & Control Program
410 Capitol Avenue, MS11APV
P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134-0308