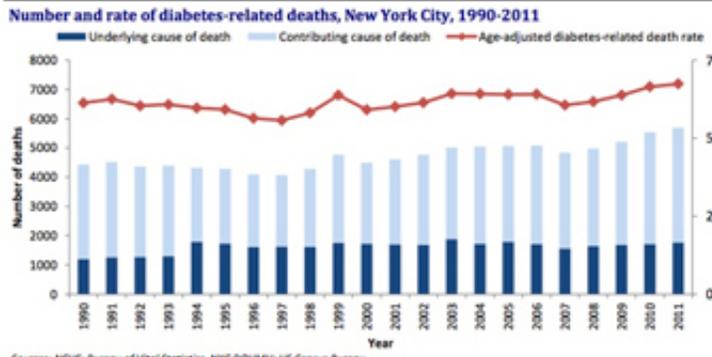


Diabetes Dangerously On the Rise in New York



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The New York City Department of Health released a report Monday, June 10, which revealed that diabetes-related deaths have reached a new high, despite a decrease in the city's overall mortality rate.

The number of diabetes related deaths in New York City was 5,695 in 2011--- a number that includes those for which diabetes is classified as the underlying cause of death as well as those for which diabetes is classified as a contributing cause.

Since 1990, the proportion of all New York City deaths related to diabetes nearly doubled, from 6.0% in 1990 to 10.8% in 2011. Overall, this means that one person dies of diabetes related causes every 90 minutes, adding up to 16 deaths a day in New York City. In addition, an estimated

The number of diabetes related deaths in New York City was 5,695 in 2011, which the New York City Department of Health is considering as a wake up call. 230,000 adults likely had the disease but were unaware of it.

The disease is twice as common among obese New Yorkers, and people with diabetes are at increased risk of heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, nerve damage, and amputations.

“As the obesity rate continues to rise in New York City, diabetes is becoming a health crisis,” says Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley. “Diabetes is a condition that too many people live with and die from. It is linked to our epidemic of obesity, and like obesity, it can be prevented.”

Demographically speaking, African Americans are the hardest hit--- 116 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Hispanics with 81 percent per 100,000 in comparison to 45 per 100,000 for non-Hispanic whites. The disease is also more likely to affect the poor (114/100,000) and men more so than women (80/100,000 compared to 58/100,000 for women).

“What’s most alarming is that more than 200,000 New Yorkers are walking around with this serious disease and don’t even know it,” Farley adds. “They’re at risk for blindness, amputation or even worse – premature death. We must work to end this crisis.”

To counter these findings, the Health Department has launched several education campaigns and proposed citywide initiatives, such as the portion size cap, to help reduce sugary drink consumption – and help address both the obesity and diabetes epidemics – in New York City.

Specifically, several months ago Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s administration tried to ban the sale of soft drinks bigger than 16-ounces at fast food restaurants, theatres and other dining establishments.

A day before the regulations were scheduled to go into effect, State Supreme Court Justice Milton Tingling ruled against the soda ban calling the rules “invalid” and denying the New York City Board of Health from enforcing them.

Since then, the department has appealed the ruling.

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