

One adult in ten has diabetes in North America

51.2 million people in North America and the Caribbean will be living with the disease by 2030

BRUSSELS NOVEMBER 14, 2011 World Diabetes Day 2011 marks the release of the International Diabetes Federation's 5th edition of the Diabetes Atlas. New figures indicate that the number of people living with diabetes is expected to rise from 366 million in 2011 to 552 million by 2030. In the North America and Caribbean region in 2011, an estimated 37.7 million people live with diabetes and this is expected to increase by more than a third by 2030. IDF also estimates that 11.9 million people are living with diabetes in the region but are yet to be diagnosed.

The USA, with an estimated 23.7 million people, has the highest number of people with diabetes followed by Mexico, Canada and Haiti. The USA also has one of the highest number of deaths due to diabetes of any country in the world (180,000). In addition, the prevalence of diabetes in the Caribbean islands is generally high and consistently above the global average.

Lurline Less, Chair of IDF's North America and Caribbean region said "In our region we are really suffering at the hands of this silent killer. We need to encourage a multi-sectoral approach to this burgeoning epidemic and at the same time encourage governments to invest in healthcare systems, especially in low income, high prevalence areas such as Haiti".

The regional figures echo the shocking increase in diabetes on a global level. "In every country and in every community worldwide, we are losing the battle against this cruel and deadly disease" said Jean Claude Mbanya, President of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) "We want World Diabetes Day 2011 to bring these alarming diabetes facts into the global spotlight. We demand that public and world leaders act on diabetes now".

The release of these figures follow the September meeting of 193 Heads of State and government at the UN in New York to agree on a Political Declaration on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) including diabetes.

The UN Summit sparked groundswell from the local diabetes communities rallying for the public and government to unite in the face of the spiralling epidemic. The Diabetes Online Community has mobilized to advocate for better access to essential medicines and an end to the discrimination of people with diabetes.

It is hoped that campaigns such as today's World Diabetes Day and action undertaken by the diabetes civil society will continue to raise the voice of people with diabetes and move advocacy to action on a global scale.

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For more information on country and region specific data, please

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About World Diabetes Day

World Diabetes Day (WDD) is celebrated every year on November 14. The World Diabetes Day campaign is led by the [International Diabetes Federation \(IDF\)](http://www.idf.org) and its member associations. It engages millions of people worldwide in diabetes advocacy and awareness. World Diabetes Day was created in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organization in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat that diabetes now poses. World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations Day in 2007 with the passage of United Nation Resolution 61/225. The campaign draws attention to issues of paramount importance to the diabetes world and keeps diabetes firmly in the public spotlight. This year sees the third of a five-year campaign that will address the growing need for diabetes education and prevention programmes.

www.worlddiabetesday.org

About the International Diabetes Federation (IDF)

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) is an umbrella organisation of over 200 national diabetes associations in over 160 countries. It represents the interests of the growing number of people with diabetes and those at risk. The Federation has been leading the global diabetes community since 1950. IDF's mission is to promote diabetes care, prevention and a cure worldwide. Led by the International Diabetes Federation, the Unite for Diabetes campaign secured a United Nations Resolution on diabetes in December 2006. www.idf.org

For more information on the 5th edition **Diabetes Atlas** and country-by-country statistics visit:

<http://www.idf.org/diabetesatlas/>

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