

Diabetes & Native Americans



The American Diabetes Association— Working to Improve the Lives of Native Americans with Diabetes.

Advocacy

Advocacy at the American Diabetes Association (ADA) works to improve health care, fight discrimination, and increase the federal commitment to diabetes. ADA is a leader in supporting the Diabetes Prevention and Access to Care (DPAC) Act. This legislation seeks to promote and improve care, prevention, treatment and education of diabetes within racial and ethnic minority groups, including the Native American community.

Books

Our publications remain the nation's most authoritative resources on diabetes, they include *Diabetes Forecast*, a monthly consumer magazine. ADA is also the world's leading publisher of books for people with diabetes and health care professionals, with more than 160 titles in print.

Community-based Activities Awakening the Spirit: Pathways to Diabetes Prevention & Control

Awakening the Spirit maintains a solid presence in the advocacy arena. Nationally and locally, volunteers work to encourage Members of Congress to continue funding grassroots diabetes education programs in Native American communities throughout the country. Writing, faxing, calling and visiting congressional members are several strategies employed at the community level to lobby for issues of concern specifically addressing diabetes needs in the Native American community. Recently, ADA spearheaded an effort wherein several Native American communities, representing 17 states, shared personal stories illustrating the critical role diabetes funding plays in their local efforts to create healthy communities. These stories were shared with various Members of Congress.

Call Center

Our trained staff at 1-800-DIABETES are dedicated to answering thousands of calls and e-mails every day from people with diabetes, their families, friends and health care providers. Information representatives serve as a source the public can count on to provide support, encouragement, and education on diabetes management; our Call Center is available M-F 8:30am-8:00pm. Information packets are tailored to meet the specific needs of each caller.

Research

The American Diabetes Association funds medical research to help people with diabetes live longer, healthier, and happier lives. ADA is currently supporting projects specifically targeting the Native American community. Topics include:

- The role of the primary care clinician in the prevention of diabetes among Native American adolescents and young adults in Southwestern communities
- Translator education and the translation of diabetes terms and concepts into Navajo

The Association recently began funding fellowships for under-represented minority postdoctoral candidates in an effort to increase the number of investigators of color pursuing careers in diabetes research.

Web Site

Our Web site, diabetes.org, widely regarded as one of the most informative diabetes and nutrition resources on the Web, averages more than 26 million page views each year. Persons seeking information specifically targeting the Native American community can visit our program pages as well as connect with others through our Native American Community Forum. Diabetes.org also offers a variety of free e-newsletters to keep you up to date on the latest diabetes information.