The Real Picture

Recognising the high prevalence of diabetes in Kimberley Communities

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Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd "An Organisation of Atoriginal people, for Atoriginal people, controlled by Atoriginal people"



Don't we know this already?



500 km

- Not a "high prevalence" area according to NDSS registration
- Increases to 8.39% if looking at denominator 15+ only

The National Diabetes Services Scheme is an initiative of the Australian Government administered with the assistance of Diabetes Austra

Powered by:

Source: National Diabetes Services Scheme Diabetes Map https://map.ndss.com.au/#!/

Methods

- Cross-sectional audit of Aboriginal regular attendees aged 15 years and over, using electronic medical records (n= 1763)
- HbA1c and / or diabetes care plan
- Estimation of prevalence and screening for diabetes in five remote Kimberley Aboriginal Communities
- 1 Jan 2019 31 Dec 2020



Diabetes Type II in Adults

Results

Diabetes Prevalence

In people aged 15 and over:

- Diabetes prevalence was **29.2%**
- By community, up to **1 in 3** people had diabetes

T2DM Screening

In people aged 15 and over without known diabetes:

- 60.4% screened with HbA1c in previous 24 months
- (42.4% screened in last 12 months)



T2D Status

Using diabetes prevalence and 12-month screening results, approximately: —

3 in 10 have <mark>diabetes</mark>

4 in 10 were unscreened (status unknown)

2 in 10 were screened and had a **normal HbA1c**

1 in 10 were screened and had **pre-diabetes**



Key Findings

- Prevalence increased with age, however prevalence was high even in young age groups e.g. 14.3% in 25-34 year olds
- One quarter of people without diabetes had never been screened at the clinic
- Screening was lowest in 15-24 year olds (60% unscreened in previous 12 months)

What does other data show?

- Lower estimates from other sources:
 - National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS): 5.8% of total Australian population (registration dependent)
 - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ABS) (self-report)
 - **12%** for people living in remote areas, **3%** for 25-34 year olds
- Diabetes prevalence increasing over time
 - E.g. US, diabetes **7.7%** in 1999-2000 up to **13.3%** in 2015-2016
- Increasing prevalence of young-onset diabetes:
 - US increase in T2DM from 0.34 to 0.46 per 1000 between 2001 and 2009 (10 20 years)
 - Northern Australia (including the Kimberley region) prevalence 6.7 per 1000 in 2016-2017



Why does it matter?

Prevalence estimates required for...

- Targeting preventive measures
 - Young-onset diabetes, gestational diabetes and lifecourse approach to health (DOHAD)
 - Underscreened population groups
- Service and workforce planning
 - GP
 - Preventive health staff (nurses, AHW)
 - Allied health
- Tracking progress over time



What now?

- ORCHID study
- Diabetes Across the Lifecourse: Northern Australia Partnership
- HOT NORTH partnership
- Coverage of diabetic eye care



- Acknowledgements
- Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services and our patients
- Co-authors Dr Lorraine Anderson and Dr Kimberley Seear
- Professor David Atkinson