

Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Chronic diseases are leading causes of disability and death in the United States, and they account for more than 70.0 percent of the nation's annual medical care costs.¹ Diabetes, a chronic disease, is indicated by high levels of blood glucose resulting from defects in insulin production, insulin action, or both.² In 2004, the Office of Women's Health sponsored questions in the annual California Women's Health Survey (CWHS) asking respondents ages 18 and above whether they had ever been told by a health care professional that they had diabetes.

About 6.1 percent of 4,271 respondents reported that they had been told they had diabetes (excluding pregnancy-related diabetes). Diabetes rates varied significantly by race/ethnicity, age group, activity limitation status, and weight.³

- Black/African American women reported highest diabetes rates at 10.5 percent, followed by Hispanic (8.0 percent), White

(5.2 percent), and Asian/Other women (3.9 percent).

- A larger proportion of respondents with diabetes said that they had a physical, mental, or other emotional problem resulting in activity limitation (46.7 percent), compared with respondents who did not have diabetes (18.0 percent).
- A larger proportion of respondents with diabetes were classified as obese (assessed by weight and height) (52.2 percent), compared with respondents who did not have diabetes (21.4 percent).
- Overall, proportions of respondents with diabetes increased with age (see graph).
- More than 17.0 percent of respondents with diabetes, who were younger than 65, had no access to health insurance. This proportion was similar to the proportion of all respondents who lacked health insurance.

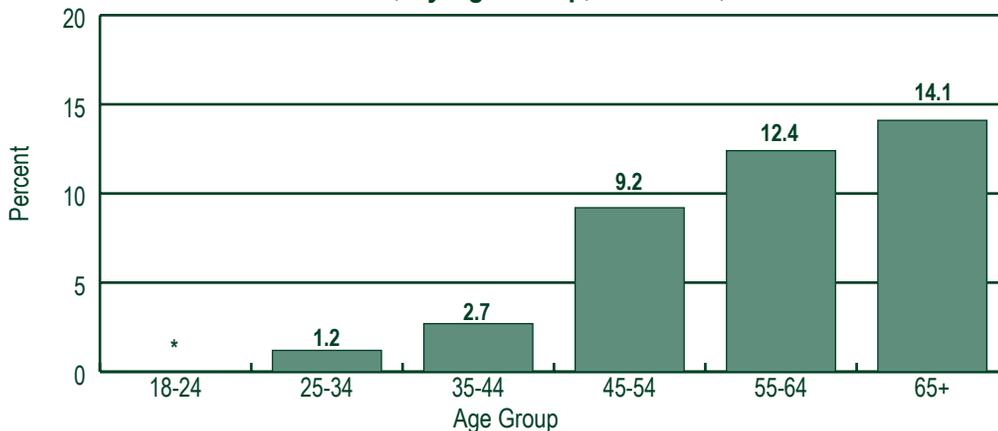
Diabetes Among California Women, 2004

California Department of Health Services
Office of Women's Health

Public Health Message:

More than six percent of the respondents indicated a lifetime diagnosis of diabetes. Diabetes was positively related to respondent's age, weight, and limited activity. Among the race/ethnicity groups, Black/African American women reported highest rates of diabetes. Almost one in five California women younger than 65 who had a lifetime diagnosis of diabetes lacked health insurance. Lack of health insurance likely reduces diabetes prevention activities for women at risk, and adversely affects health care for women with diabetes.

Proportion of Women Reporting Ever Being Told That They Have Diabetes, By Age Group, California, 2004



* Sample size too small - finding may be unreliable
Source: California Women's Health Survey

Diabetes Among California Women, 2004

- 1 Centers for Disease Control. The burden of chronic diseases and their risk factors: national and state perspectives. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Humans Services, CDC, 2004.
- 2 http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/pdf/ndfs_2005.pdf.
- 3 Chi-square test $p < 0.01$.

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