

# **National Diabetes Register**

**Statistical profile 1999–2005**

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# **National Diabetes Register**

**Statistical profile 1999–2005**

**Louise Catanzariti, Katherine Faulks, Anne-Marie Waters**

**2007**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

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# Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
APEG	Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group
DA	Diabetes Australia
DoHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
GDM	Gestational diabetes mellitus
LADA	Latent autoimmune diabetes in adults
NDDWG	National Diabetes Data Working Group
NDI	National Death Index
NDR	National Diabetes Register
NDSS	National Diabetes Services Scheme

# Symbols

..	Not available
n.a.	Not applicable
–	Rounded to zero



# Highlights

This report presents the latest results from Australia's National Diabetes Register (NDR). The NDR aims at recording all new cases of people who use insulin to treat their diabetes, whether Type 1, Type 2, gestational or other forms (see Box 2.1). This means the NDR should cover all new cases of Type 1 diabetes because they all require insulin treatment. However, only a proportion of Type 2 and gestational diabetes cases require insulin treatment so those that do not are excluded from the NDR.

Diabetes is one of the leading threats to the health of Australians – it is a large health, social and economic burden for individuals with the disease, their families and the community. It is associated with many complications and has a major impact on quality of life and life expectancy.

The NDR plays an important role in monitoring the levels and trends of diabetes in Australia and as a resource for research. It now has seven years of data on over 76,000 people who began using insulin to manage their diabetes over the period 1999–2005.

## *Type 1 diabetes*

- The rate of new cases of Type 1 diabetes in children is increasing in Australia and is high compared with that of other countries. Over 6,000 children aged 0–14 years developed Type 1 diabetes over the 7 years with the rate of new cases increasing significantly between 2000 and 2005 from 19 to 23 per 100,000 population.
- Type 1 diabetes does not develop just in childhood but can arise at any age – there were over 6,200 new cases in 15–39 year olds during 1999–2005. The average annual rate of new cases was 17 per 100,000 for 15–19 year olds, around 13 per 100,000 for people in their twenties and 9 per 100,000 for people in their mid-to-late thirties.

## *Type 2 diabetes*

- In line with recent evidence that people are developing Type 2 diabetes at younger ages, there were 150 new cases of insulin-treated Type 2 diabetes in 0–14 year olds and over 700 cases among 15–24 year olds over the 7-year period.

## *Mortality of NDR registrants*

- Overall death rates among NDR registrants were significantly higher than rates in the Australian population – three times as high among both males and females.
- The death rate for NDR registrants from respiratory diseases was four times that of the Australian population, and those from cancer and coronary heart disease were around three times as high.
- Adding to the evidence suggesting that diabetes is underreported on death certificates, just under half of the deceased NDR registrants (people known to have diabetes) had diabetes listed on their death certificates. This makes it difficult to assess the full contribution of diabetes to death rates.