

Summary

The *National Diabetes Register Statistical Profile, December 2000* describes the 13,347 people who began to use insulin between 1 January 1999 and 31 December 2000, and consented to be on the National Diabetes Register. This information will assist planners of diabetes services, and government and non-government organisations. It will provide a statistical reference point for diabetes researchers wishing to access the Register for epidemiological studies, after obtaining appropriate peer review and ethics committee protocol approvals.

The main features of the people on the Register were:

- There were 6,847 males and 6,500 females who registered in 1999 and 2000.
- The sex ratio varied with age. For ages less than 25 years, numbers of males and females were similar. At ages 25–44 years, females strongly outnumbered males, reflecting the effect of gestational diabetes in women from this group. For older age groups (45–74 years), there were 37% more male registrants than females.
- More than 60% of registrants were aged 45 and over, compared with 10% aged under 15 years.
- The peak ages for diagnosis with insulin-treated diabetes for males were between 45 and 64 years (40% of all male registrants), whereas the effect of gestational diabetes made the ages between 25 and 64 years the peak ages for diagnosis for females (34% of all female registrants).
- The median age at diagnosis was 14.5 years for registrants diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, and 53.7 years for registrants diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes.
- The number of registrants across metropolitan, rural and remote zones as a proportion of the population living in each zone was generally similar.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander records make up almost 2% of all records. However, this percentage does not reflect the higher prevalence of diabetes reported among the Indigenous population. This is largely because the Register is not currently sourcing information for many Indigenous people with diabetes who use Aboriginal Medical Services.
- Death rates for registrants in 1999 and 2000 were three and a half times that of the general Australian community.
- The incidence of diabetes among children aged 0–14 years (predominantly Type 1) in 2000 was estimated at 18.9 new cases per 100,000 population. The rates were similar for males and females, and between metropolitan and rural areas.
- Australian residents born in North Africa and the Middle East (Lebanon is the largest source country in this group), and Southern and Central Asia (India and Sri Lanka are the largest source countries in this group) have the highest registration rates among birthplace groups. Both groups have registration rates around 50% higher than the male Australian-born rate and more than double the female Australian-born rate.