

The Diabetic Retinopathy Barometer Project

Canadian Report



WHAT IS THE DR BAROMETER STUDY?

The International Federation on Ageing (IFA), the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) undertook a comprehensive, two-phase, multi-country study to investigate the global and specific country issues surrounding diabetic eye disease (DED) primarily, diabetic retinopathy (DR) and diabetic macular edema (DME).

The study sought to assess awareness of DED and understand access and barriers to diabetes management, including screening and timely treatment.

WHAT DO THE RESULTS TELL US?

The DR Barometer results provide new evidence reflecting concerns from the voices of adults with diabetes and health care professionals around the world. This study provides unique insights into real-life experiences, and is a powerful tool for current and future generations of people with diabetes.

UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE

In Canada, 58 adults with diabetes and 120 health care professionals provided insight about their experiences of living with, managing and treating diabetes, DR and DME.

Canada continues to be in the top ten countries for diabetes-related health expenditures, with an estimate of **\$22 billion USD by 2040.**

MYTH

Canadians still think vision loss is part of normal aging and there is NO effort to prevent problems.

AWARENESS

Patients report high awareness of eye complications but feel they are not managing their diabetes well and may not be doing everything they can to prevent vision loss.



There was a relatively high awareness of the complications associated with diabetes. **50%** indicated that vision loss was much more concerning than kidney and cardiovascular disease.

Canadians were most often informed about their condition by health professionals such as the nurse, and nutritionist.

DIAGNOSIS - Lack of understanding of diabetes-related eye complications as well as long wait times for appointments and high costs are preventing patients from accessing timely eye screenings.



DIABETES IN CANADA

The prevalence of people with diabetes is climbing rapidly. Today, Canada has over 2.5 million people living with diabetes.

MANAGEMENT - Late diagnosis is the biggest reported barrier to improving patient outcomes. Others include limited access to patient materials, poor referral pathways and lack of multidisciplinary integration.



54%

of Canadians reported diabetic complications including neuropathy, kidney disease and vision loss. Stigma and discrimination significantly impacted a person's ability to manage their diabetes.

IMPACT - Vision loss affects individuals, families, communities and indirectly the social and economic fabric of Canada.



71%

-of those with DED experienced days where their activities were limited due to poor physical or mental health.

25%

- of health care professionals said that the written information on diabetes and eye complications was not sufficient.

Nearly three out of every four of those with DED or DME said that their vision was slightly or significantly affected which then impacted their health, lifestyle, and life choices.

Only one third of respondents with DED had mentally unhealthy days compared with half of those without DED.

Knowing that diabetic-related vision loss is preventable addressing barriers to eye screening is an important policy issue. While most respondents had received an eye exam, there remained many barriers including the high costs of exams, a fear of treatment or results, and long wait times.

For more information on the study findings, please visit drbarometer.com