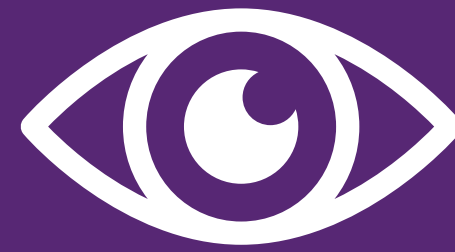


The Diabetic Retinopathy Barometer Project

Canadian Report 



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



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.

MYTH Canadians still think vision loss is part of normal aging and there is NO way to protect their vision.

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.

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.



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 diseases.

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

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.

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.**

DIAGNOSIS - Lack of understanding of diabetes-related eye complications, long wait times for appointments and high costs prevent patients from accessing timely eye screenings.



Diabetic-related vision loss is preventable by addressing barriers to eye screening and advancing policies and programs that address the high costs of exams, long wait times and a fear of treatment or results.

DIABETES IN CANADA

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

