



DIABETES FACT SHEET: FOCUS ON DISPARITIES

I. Impact:

- Diabetes mellitus is the 4th leading cause of death in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI).

II. Frequency of Diabetes in the USVI

- It is estimated that 8.8 % of the USVI population age 18 and older have been diagnosed with diabetes.¹
- Among age groups, 26.3 % of those 65 and older have been told by a doctor that they have diabetes compared to only 2.3% of those ages 25-34.¹
- The frequency of diabetes in USVI women (10.4%) is slightly higher than the frequency among men (7%).¹
- In the USVI people of color have a 3.4 times higher frequency of diabetes (9.5%) compared to non-Hispanic Whites (4.7%).¹

III. Diabetes-Related Outcomes

- Approximately 18.9% of diabetic patients in the USVI are using insulin to control their blood sugar.
- In 2007, approximately 19% of persons with diabetes in the USVI indicated that the disease had affected their eyes¹.
- Compared to women with diabetes, men with the disease were 1.8 times (8.8% vs 16%, respectively) more likely to have a foot ulcer¹.
- Among diabetic persons admitted to the Hospital on St. Croix, the percent of persons receiving lower extremity amputations was slightly higher among Hispanic persons (13.7%) than Non-Hispanic Black persons (9.5%)².

¹BRFSS Diabetes Module, 2007; ² Hospital Discharge Summary, Governor Juan F. Louis Hospital, 2007.

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