



A program of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DIABETES and your HEART



2 out of **3** people with diabetes die of heart disease or stroke.¹

According to the CDC, up to

20%

of deaths from heart attack



and

13%

of deaths from stroke are related to diabetes or prediabetes.



If you have diabetes, you are **2-4 times** more likely to have heart disease or a stroke than if you do not have diabetes.¹

Smoking doubles the risk of heart disease in people with diabetes.²

ABCs of Diabetes

A for the A1C test.

The **A1C test** shows you what your blood sugar (glucose) has been over the last three months. High blood sugar levels can harm your heart and blood vessels, kidneys, feet, and eyes.



B for blood pressure.

High blood pressure makes your heart work too hard. It can cause heart attack, stroke, and kidney disease.

C for cholesterol.

One kind of **cholesterol**, called LDL, can build up and clog your blood vessels. It can cause heart attack or stroke. Ask what your cholesterol numbers should be.

Ask your health care team:

What your A1C, blood pressure, and cholesterol numbers are;

What your ABC numbers should be; and

What you can do to reach your ABC goals.

Tips to reduce your risk for heart disease.



Maintain a Healthy Weight



Make Healthy Food Choices

Stay Active



Quit Smoking



Know Your **ABCs** of Diabetes

Talk to your health care team about how to manage your A1C, blood pressure, and cholesterol. This will help lower your chances of having a heart attack, a stroke, or other diabetes problems.

To learn more, visit www.YourDiabetesInfo.org or call 1-888-693-NDEP (1-888-693-6337).

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *National Diabetes Fact Sheet: National Estimates and General Information on Diabetes and Prediabetes in the United States, 2011*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011.

²National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. *Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Stroke*. Bethesda, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, 2012.