Brief Explanation of Methodology

IAF Model for Diabetes 2025 Forecasts

This is a brief overview of the data sources and methodology used in developing the 2010 baseline and 2015 and 2025 diabetes forecasts for the U.S., states, and metro areas. A detailed paper of the methodology is being submitted for publication.

The prevalence of diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes for the U.S. in 2010, 2015, and 2025 are based on the latest diabetes forecasting model created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – and published by Boyle and colleagues in October 2010 – for projecting diabetes prevalence to 2050.1 Prevalence rate trend lines for non-Hispanic whites, Hispanics, and blacks are from a previous version of the CDC 2050 projections by Narayan2 and adjusted to fit the latest projections by Boyle. These are important for minority diabetes forecasts. Population projections out to 2025 for the U.S., states and metropolitan areas, including minority subgroups, come from the U.S. Census Bureau.3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 The future risks of pre-diabetes, major complications, and deaths are projected from current CDC trends as reported in several source documents.10, 11, 12, 13, 14 Minority specific data comes from the Department of Health and Human Services.15, 16, 17, 18, 19 The future estimates of medical and non-medical (societal) costs of diabetes are based on research by the American Diabetes Association and by the Lewin group.20, 21, 22, 23 Prevalence rates for seniors are based on the recent CDC National Diabetes Fact Sheet, 2011.6

The prevalence of diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes estimated for 2010 are higher than those presented in the recently released 2011 CDC National Diabetes Fact Sheet. This is because the Boyle study is based on another CDC methodology designed to make forecasts from 2010 to 2050. The National Diabetes Data Sheet does not go beyond 2010. Basing estimates for all three reported time periods – 2010, 2015, and 2025 – on the Boyle study methodology provides for consistency and easy comparisons. The 2000 diabetes statistics are from historical records.

The forecasts factor in progressive, but modest, improvements in early diagnosis and treatment between 2010 and 2025 based on the trends of the last 10 years.


