



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Kirsten L. Johnson, Secretary

April 23, 2024

Ms. Linsay Hale
Acting Senate Chief Clerk
Room B20 Southeast, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Mr. Edward A. Blazel
Assembly Chief Clerk
12 West Main Street, Room 401
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Ms. Hale and Mr. Blazel:

I am pleased to submit to the Legislature the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) report on Wisconsin's Diabetes Action Plan. Wisconsin Stat. § 255.085 was enacted on March 3, 2020, requiring that the Diabetes Action Plan report be submitted to the legislature biennially.

This report was prepared by the Bureau of Community Health Promotion and the Office of Health Informatics in the Division of Public Health and was done in consultation with the Department of Employee Trust Funds to update the plan to reduce the incidence of diabetes in Wisconsin, improve diabetes care, and control complications associated with diabetes.

This report includes:

- An assessment of the impact and reach of diabetes in Wisconsin.
- An overview of the implemented programs, activities, and funding aimed at preventing and controlling diabetes.
- A range of actionable items for consideration by the Legislature as well as other partners to reduce the number of new cases of diabetes, improve diabetes care, and manage diabetes-associated complications.

Diabetes is on the rise across Wisconsin and across the nation. National estimates are that annual health care expenditures for people with diabetes are 2.3 times greater than for those without diabetes. Diabetes is the eighth leading cause of death in Wisconsin, and it is the fifth leading cause of death for Hispanic and Asian people, sixth for Native American/American Indian people, and the seventh leading cause of death for Black people.

While there is a robust network of public and private sector partners working across Wisconsin to prevent and address diabetes and its consequences, more must be done. This report lays out DHS' recommendations for action. We look forward to engaging the legislature and other partners in this vitally important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirsten L. Johnson".

Kirsten L. Johnson
Secretary-designee