



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW ANALYSIS FINDS MAJOR GAPS IN ACCESS TO  
DIABETES EDUCATORS IN NEW YORK**

*Study Shows Small Certified Diabetes Educator Workforce,  
Unequal Geographic Distribution, and Lack of Racial, Ethnic, and Linguistic Diversity*

**January 22, 2010 (NEW YORK)** – The New York State Health Foundation’s Diabetes Policy Center, in collaboration with the Center for Health Workforce Studies, today released the initial findings of a study that examined the state of the Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) workforce and revealed an unusually small and unequally distributed CDE presence across New York State.

The initial findings of the study showed that there are only 1,000 CDEs in New York State and more than two-thirds (68%) of those CDEs only provide diabetes education services to patients part-time—fewer than 25 hours per week. The analysis also found that CDEs are predominantly located in urban areas, and that many rural areas have few or no CDEs at all. Finally, the study found that although diabetes disproportionately affects racial and ethnic minorities more than whites, 90% of the State’s CDEs are white and less than 17% speak a language other than English.

“These findings are very troubling,” said Deborah Zahn, Director of the Diabetes Policy Center. “The 1.8 million New Yorkers who have diabetes need access to diabetes education to help them manage their disease and avoid costly and life-threatening complications.”

“This study showed that, relative to the magnitude of the diabetes crisis in New York, the number of CDEs available to service them is small,” said Jean Moore, Center for Health Workforce Studies. “Yet we know that CDEs play a vital role in helping people with diabetes live longer, healthier lives.”

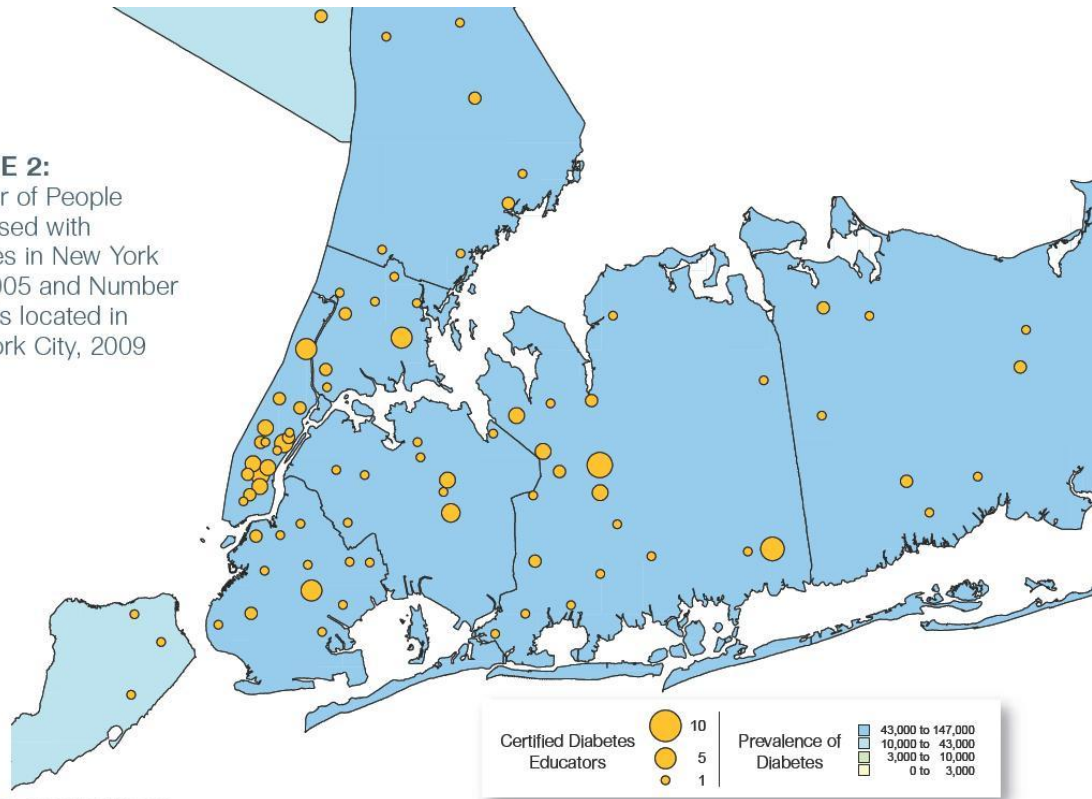
“New York State Medicaid has made a commitment to reimbursing for CDE services because we know they improve patient outcomes,” said Dr. James Figge, Medical Director, New York State Department of Health’s Office of Health Insurance Programs. “This study gives us the information we need to continue to improve access to diabetes services.”

“Access to diabetes self-management services is essential for New Yorkers with diabetes,” said Maureen Spence, Program Director, New York State Department of Health’s Diabetes Prevention and Control Program. “This study helps us understand the gaps in access to these critical services so that we can work together to fill them.”



**Figure 2: Number of People Diagnosed with Diabetes in New York City, 2005 and Number of CDEs located in New York City, 2009**

**FIGURE 2:**  
Number of People  
Diagnosed with  
Diabetes in New York  
City, 2005 and Number  
of CDEs located in  
New York City, 2009



Sources: CDC, 2005, NCBDE, 2009

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*The New York State Health Foundation is a private Foundation dedicated to improving the health of all New Yorkers. NYSHealth has a three-part mission: expanding health insurance coverage, increasing access to high-quality health care services, and improving public and community health by educating New Yorkers about health issues and empowering communities to address them.*

*NYSHealth launched the \$35 million five-year New York State Diabetes Campaign to reverse the diabetes epidemic in New York. The statewide Campaign is working to improve clinical care among primary care providers; mobilize communities to help people manage and prevent diabetes in places where people live, work, and worship; and promote policies that will sustain high-quality diabetes care.*