

PREDIABETES

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT CAN I DO?



American Diabetes Association.

What is prediabetes?

Prediabetes is a condition that comes before diabetes. It means your blood glucose levels are higher than normal but aren't high enough to be called diabetes. There are no clear symptoms of prediabetes. You can have it and not know it.

If I have prediabetes, what does it mean?

It means you might get type 2 diabetes soon or down the road. You are also more likely to get heart disease or have a stroke.

The good news is that you can take steps to delay or prevent type 2 diabetes.

How can I delay or prevent type 2 diabetes?

You may be able to delay or prevent type 2 diabetes with:

- physical activity, like walking
- weight loss if needed – losing even a few pounds will help
- taking medication, if your doctor prescribes it

If you have it, these steps may bring your blood glucose to a normal range. But you are still at a higher risk for type 2 diabetes.



Regular physical activity can delay or prevent diabetes

Being active is one of the best ways to delay or prevent type 2 diabetes. It can also lower your weight and blood pressure, and improve cholesterol levels. Ask your health care team about safe ways of being active for you.

One way to be more active is to try to walk for half an hour, five days a week. If you don't have 30 minutes all at once, take shorter walks during the day.

Weight loss can delay or prevent diabetes

Reaching a healthy weight can help you a lot. If you're overweight, any weight loss, even 7% of your weight (for example, losing about 15 pounds if you weigh 200) may prevent or delay your risk for diabetes.



MORE THAN 1 IN 3 AMERICAN ADULTS HAS PREDIABETES

Make healthy choices

Here are some steps you can take to change the way you eat. Small steps add up to big rewards.

- Cut back on regular soft drinks and juice. Have water or try calorie-free drinks.
- Choose lower-calorie snacks, such as popcorn instead of potato chips.
- Eat salad with low-fat dressing and at least one vegetable at dinner every night.
- Choose fruit instead of cake, pie, or cookies.

Cut calories by cutting serving sizes

- Eat smaller servings of your usual foods.
- Share your main course with a friend or family member when you eat out. Or take half home for later.

Cut down on bad fat

- Roast, broil, grill, steam, or bake instead of deep-frying or pan-frying.
- Use a small amount of oil for cooking instead of butter, lard or shortening.
- Try plant based proteins like beans instead of meat and chicken
- Choose fish at least twice a week
- Eat lean meats such as the round or loin cuts, or chicken without the skin.
- Cut back on high fat and processed meats like hot dogs, sausage, and bacon.
- Eat less high fat desserts such as ice cream, cake with frosting, and cookies.
- Avoid margarine and other foods with trans fat.

Track your progress

Write down what and how much you eat and drink for a week. Writing things down makes you more aware of what you're eating and helps with weight loss.



Summing it up

- Diabetes is a serious disease – if you delay or prevent it, you'll enjoy better health in the long run.
- Diabetes is common – but you can reduce your risk by losing a small amount of weight.
- Changing the way you eat and increasing your activity can delay or prevent type 2 diabetes.

Get checked

If you are at increased risk for diabetes, ask your doctor about getting tested at your next visit. Take our risk test at diabetes.org/risktest to find out if you are at risk.

Get started

- Be physically active.
- Make a plan to lose weight.
- Track your progress.

