

PRESS RELEASE

CITING SKYROCKETING NUMBERS OF DIABETES-LINKED LOWER LIMB AMPUTATIONS, HEALTH ACTIVISTS CALL ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO DECLARE A STATEWIDE DIABETES EMERGENCY

"We know that these amputations are highly preventable, as are all the other health pathologies afflicting those with diabetes," said Chris Norwood, Executive Director of Bronx-based Health People which saw dramatic improvements in diabetic symptoms in 2,000 people who took part in the Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP) DSMP before state and federal funding for the average \$900 per patient cost ended just as the COVID pandemic hit.

Norwood released a report entitled "New York State Diabetes-Related Amputations: A Horror Story" which will be submitted to the governor along with a petition from community-based health groups calling on Hochul to declare the diabetes health emergency, along the lines of earlier emergency declarations covering COVID, mpox, polio and HIV-AIDS.

And it is not only amputations that provide evidence of dire health consequences from the preventable and reversible chronic disease.

- With the state failing to assure people with diabetes receive the early self-care education to lower blood sugar that is the strongest preventive of blindness, New York is facing an unprecedented tsunami of vision impairment and blindness cases as, over time 60% of these patients develop eye disease
- There has been an increase in diabetes cases requiring costly and draining dialysis treatment, which at upwards of \$60,000 annually in cost, is covered by government-backed insurance programs while the less costly community-delivered self-management is not. Lower-limb amputations, costing upwards of \$200,000 per patient, are also covered by government-based insurance, while clinical reforms and patient education that can slash the number of amputations receive no state funding.
- Doctors are seeing a shocking rise in Type 2 diabetes – which is generally called adult-onset diabetes – in teenagers, far younger than previously seen with what has traditionally been called "adult-onset diabetes."

New York City alone saw a 356 percent increase in diabetes-linked deaths in the early months of the pandemic, increases which were the highest in the nation.

Under the emergency, the state would be prior to the 13 (s) 37 (b) (3) (s) 6 (e) (1) (s) 16 (e) (3) (b) (c) (4) (e) (f) (4)

“Diabetes has been the worst health emergency in New York’s low-income communities for 20 years