

Diabetes-related foot complications: understanding the global impact



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Diabetes foot-related complications

The IDF Diabetes Atlas report 'Diabetes foot-related complications' looks at the prevalence of these complications around the world and makes recommendations to support future research on the topic.

[Download the full report here](#)

Chronic ulcers on the feet and amputations of the lower limb are among the most common, costly and serious complications affecting people with diabetes. They significantly reduce quality of life and increase the risk of early death.

In some countries, standardised and structured diabetes foot care has led to a reduction in lower-limb amputations. However, the risk of amputations remains high in others, particularly in Africa, the Middle-East, and South and Central America.

Data from the IDF Diabetes Atlas show that:

Countries in Africa and the Middle East present the highest number of people with diabetes and foot ulcers or amputations, with more than one in five people affected.

Countries in Africa and South and Central America appear to have the highest prevalence of diabetes-related peripheral neuropathy.

Studies on diabetes-related foot complications vary widely, so it is challenging to present the global impact accurately. **International registries need to use similar definitions** to enable direct comparisons between and within countries, and support wider understanding and prevention of these complications.

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