

Millions of People Need **Better Care for NCDs in the Americas**



People living with noncommunicable diseases require continuous access to diagnosis, treatment and follow up care to control their condition.

PAHO is working with Member States to achieve quality and equitable care for everyone living with NCDs.

TOBACCO USE

17% of adults and 10% of adolescents use tobacco and can benefit from tobacco cessation support offered through primary care



DIABETES

13% of adults are living with diabetes and require drug therapy and counseling to control their condition and require support for lifestyle changes, nutrition counselling, medications and continuous care to control their condition



OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY



67% of adults are overweight or obese and can benefit from primary care support with nutrition counselling, physical activity promotion, among others to better manage their weight and improve their health

HYPERTENSION



35% of people aged 30-70 have hypertension and require support for lifestyle changes, nutrition counselling, drug therapy and ongoing monitoring to achieve hypertension control

- **30%** have not yet been diagnosed
- **10%** do not receive adequate treatment
- **24%** of people living with hypertension are not controlled

ASTHMA

Asthma affects **62 million people** (6% of the population of the Americas) who require access to continuous treatment to prevent complications and premature death



CANCER



Cervical cancer: Millions of adolescent girls need vaccination against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) before aged 15 years, and millions of women, especially those aged 30 to 49 years, need screening with the recommended HPV test to prevent cervical cancer.

Breast cancer: Millions of women aged 50 and older need access to breast cancer screening, linked to timely diagnosis and effective treatment.

Better care for people with NCDs can be achieved through integration of NCDs into primary health care (PHC)



What is needed

- Strengthen governance and leadership of NCDs in PHC
- Ensure appropriate financing of health services, human resources, and infrastructure required to deliver NCD care
- Assess population health needs for NCDs, with a focus on equity and a lifecourse approach
- Ensure that human resources for health are sufficient in quantity and capacity to deliver NCD care
- Ensure that medicines and technologies essential for NCD screening, diagnosis and treatment are available at the primary health care facility level
- Include core NCD indicators in health information systems to monitor care and health outcomes

How to do it

- Expand access and availability of primary health care (PHC) services for people with NCDs
- Organize health services to facilitate continuity of comprehensive NCD care, with clear referral systems
- Update NCD guidelines and clinical management pathways, and train healthcare providers in their use
- Implement quality improvement methods to optimize the provision of care for NCDs

Expected results

- Increase in the proportion of people with NCDs screened, diagnosed, treated and controlled
- Reduction in avoidable hospitalizations
- Reduction in the rates of complications due to poorly controlled NCDs
- Reduction in rates of premature mortality



For further information please access here
<https://www.paho.org/en/better-care-ncds-initiative>