



**Wespath**

BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS

a general agency of The United Methodist Church

# Prediabetes—Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is prediabetes?**

**A:** Prediabetes is a condition in which blood glucose (sugar) is higher than normal, but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes. People with prediabetes are moving toward developing Type 2 diabetes and are at increased risk for serious health problems such as stroke and heart disease.<sup>1</sup>

**Q: How do I know if I have prediabetes?**

**A:** Most people who have prediabetes do not know it. Your primary care provider (PCP) can diagnose whether you have the condition through a blood test. And you can take a simple test at [www.DoiHavePrediabetes.org](http://www.DoiHavePrediabetes.org) to see if you are at risk or likely to have the condition.

**Q: Prediabetes isn't as bad as diabetes, right?**

**A:** Yes, but within five years, 15-30% of those with prediabetes develop Type 2 diabetes with higher risks of heart disease, stroke, and other health problems. At the stage of prediabetes, you can **reverse** the process with simple lifestyle changes. With such changes you may **never develop** diabetes or **delay** its development.<sup>1</sup>

**Q: But doesn't that require losing a lot of weight or major lifestyle changes?**

**A:** Losing just 5-7% of your body weight can prevent or delay the development of diabetes. That's about 10 to 15 pounds for a 200-pound individual. Sounds more manageable, right?

**Q: Although I may be at risk, what if I don't have any symptoms and feel fine?**

**A:** Most people with prediabetes don't have any symptoms. One in three Americans already has prediabetes and approximately 90% of them are not aware.<sup>1</sup>



Among United Methodist clergy, spouses and lay employees, the rate is even higher! In a group of 6,455 UMC clergy, spouses and lay employees who had their blood tested in the 2019 Blueprint for Wellness (BFW), **19%** met criteria for prediabetes. This does not include the 10% who already have diabetes. The good news is that those who completed BFW at least know their risk!

**Q: What are the prediabetes indicators?**

**A.** Most often a fasting blood glucose or hemoglobin A1C test is used to screen for prediabetes. The A1C test provides information about your average blood glucose levels over the past three months. A standard blood glucose test only measures your blood glucose at one point in time. Your health care provider may use one or both of these tests to check for diabetes or prediabetes.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [www.doihaveprediabetes.org/faq.html](http://www.doihaveprediabetes.org/faq.html)

<sup>2</sup> [www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-topics/Diabetes/insulin-resistance-prediabetes/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-topics/Diabetes/insulin-resistance-prediabetes/Pages/index.aspx)

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# Prediabetes Q&A

**Q: I've also heard of "metabolic syndrome" and "insulin resistance." Are these similar or related to prediabetes?**

**A.** Yes. Although each condition has a different specific definition, they often occur together and mean an increased risk of heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes and/or other health problems. All of these conditions can be improved with moderate exercise and a healthy diet.<sup>2</sup>

**Q: Where can I get more information about prediabetes?**

**A.** Visit [DoIHavePrediabetes.org](http://DoIHavePrediabetes.org) to see if you are at risk, and find more information and helpful resources. You can also talk to your primary care provider and the Wellness Team at [welnessteam@wespath.org](mailto:welnessteam@wespath.org) for support on this and other wellness topics.

**Q: What resources are available to help in making needed lifestyle changes?**

- A.** A number of different resources are available, regardless of your health plan.
- A National Diabetes Prevention Program may be offered in your community—visit [DoIHavePrediabetes.org](http://DoIHavePrediabetes.org) and click on "Join the National DPP" or explore other programs available on the site. (Check with your health insurer regarding program coverage.)
  - Sign up for text message tips—on the [DoIHavePrediabetes.org](http://DoIHavePrediabetes.org) homepage, click on the cell phone icon at the top right of the page.
  - Your local YMCA may offer the National Diabetes Prevention Program. Check it out at: [www.ymca.net/diabetes-prevention](http://www.ymca.net/diabetes-prevention).
  - Check out the American Diabetes Association website at [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org) or call at **1-800-DIABETES (800-342-2383)**.
  - Use the resources on the [www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov) website for information and tips on how to eat healthier.
  - Your health plan/carrier may offer other programs and services. You can call your benefits administrator for information or call your health plan carrier directly (e.g., UnitedHealthCare, Blue Cross Blue Shield).

**And, since you are in HealthFlex:** Good news! You also have access to the following resources **and** you can earn cash incentives or save money for participation:

- **Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness**—blood screening and a few quick measurements provides information on 30 factors to share with your primary care provider.
- **Omada Health**—HealthFlex covers the full cost of this online diabetes prevention program, go to [omadahealth.com/wespath](http://omadahealth.com/wespath) to take a short risk screener to find out if you qualify.
- **Health Coaching**—log in to your Personify Health account to set up a time to talk with a health coach about lifestyle goals that will work for you as an individual.
- **Personify Health well-being program**—sign up to receive a free activity tracker, have fun with walking challenges, and earn incentives by practicing healthy habits.
- **WW—WeightWatchers**—a 50% subsidy for online, local and at work meetings is available to those covered by HealthFlex.

Get more information on any of these programs by logging in to your Personify Health account.

