

Diabetes

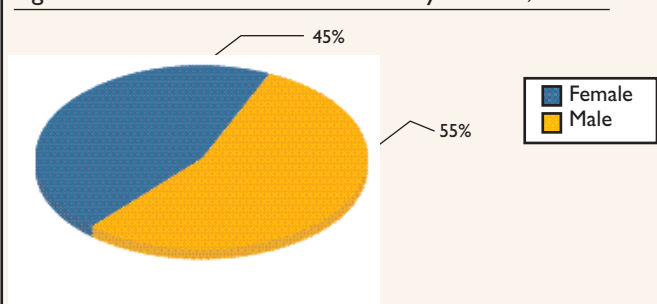
Prescriptions for Type 2 Increase by 46%

Insight and Outlook from IMS HEALTH

The following is a look at the facts and figures surrounding diabetes consultations and treatment options in 2002.

- An estimated 8.2 million visits for Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes were made to office-based physicians in 2002.
- Type 2, which affects approximately 90% of the 2 million Canadians with diabetes, occurs when the body does not properly use the insulin it produces or does not produce enough insulin to control blood sugar levels.
- The remaining 10%, usually diagnosed in childhood, are affected by Type 1 or juvenile diabetes. Type 1 diabetes occurs when the body can no longer produce insulin or produces very little insulin.
- The most consulted physicians were GPs (73%), followed by internists (23%).

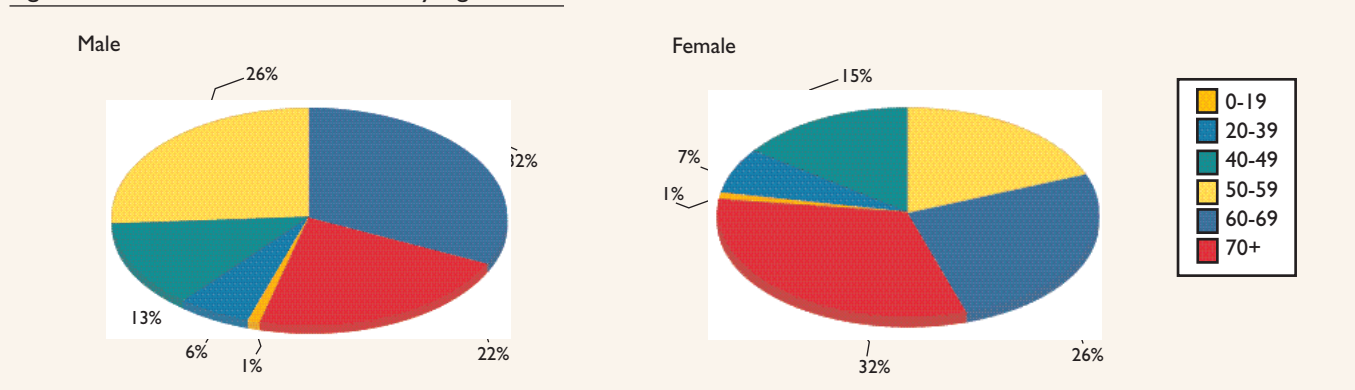
Figure 1. Consultations for Diabetes by Gender, 2002.



Source: IMS Health, Canadian Disease and Therapeutic Index (CDTI).

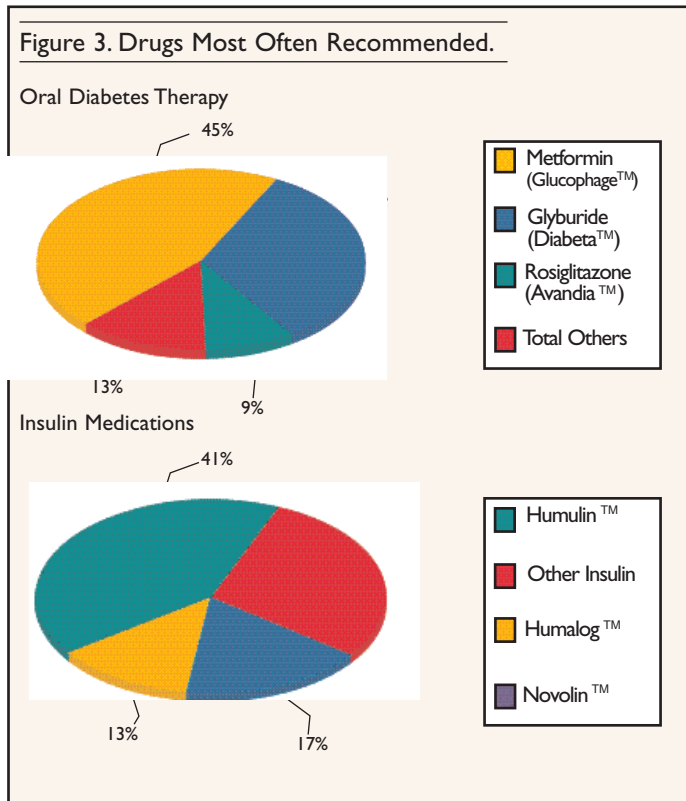
- The majority (55%) of visits to office-based physicians in 2002 were made by men; 45% were made by women (Figure 1).
- The age breakdown is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Consultations for Diabetes by Age, 2002.



Source: IMS Health, Canadian Disease and Therapeutic Index (CDTI).

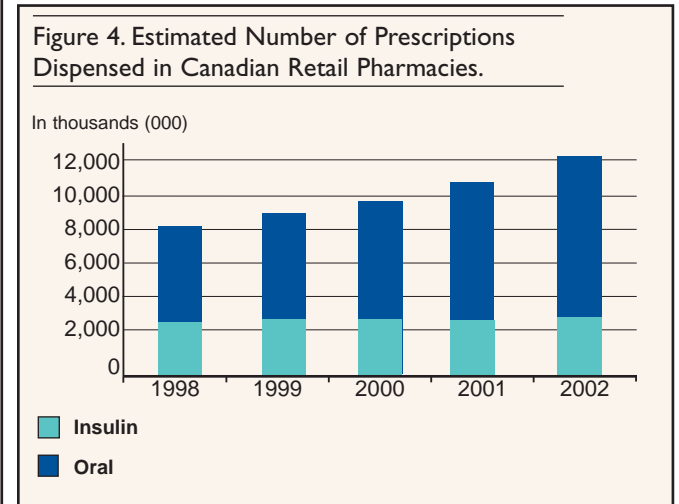
- In 69% of visits, a drug therapy was recommended. The most often recommended oral and insulin medications are shown in Figure 3.



Source: IMS Health, Canadian Disease and Therapeutic Index (CDTI).

- Canadian retail pharmacies dispensed an estimated 12.1 million prescriptions for diabetes in 2002—a 46% increase from the 8.3 million prescriptions dispensed in 1998.
- Of the 12.1 million prescriptions, 9.5 million (79%) were for oral medications, which are mostly used for Type 2 diabetes; and 2.6 million were for insulin products, which are predominantly used for Type 1 diabetes.

- Figure 4 shows the increase in the estimated number of prescriptions dispensed for oral and insulin diabetes therapy since 1998. While oral prescriptions have increased, insulin prescriptions have remained constant. [CPM](#)



Source: IMS Health, CompuScript.

Source: IMS HEALTH Canada, CompuScript and CDTI
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