

Diabetes in Britain nearing a "health emergency"

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Diabetes is becoming a "national health emergency" in Britain with 280,000 people a year diagnosed with the disease, risking unsustainable strain on health services, charity Diabetes UK said on Monday.

The charity said 738 people each day are told that they have type 2 diabetes, which is linked to being overweight.

"This clearly shows the frightening scale of what is fast becoming a national health emergency," the charity's Chief Executive Barbara Young said, warning of a strain to [health services](#) and [disastrous consequences](#) for patients.

"As the number of people with diabetes grows, we are likely to see even more people endure devastating health complications such as amputation and [kidney failure](#) and more people die tragically young."

Health authorities advise [healthy eating](#) and exercise to prevent developing the condition. Over a third of the British population have borderline diabetes and nearly four million people in Britain suffer from the condition, the charity said.

Almost a quarter of those aged over 15 in Britain were obese in 2012, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, compared to an average of 18.4 percent across the group of 34 wealthy countries.

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