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The Long Island Association for AIDS Care will be observing World Diabetes Day.

November 14, 2014 is World Diabetes Day, a globally celebrated event created to raise awareness about diabetes: its causes, its prevention and the devastating effects it has on human lives and healthcare systems worldwide. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, and as of 2010, 25.8 million Americans have the disease.

The burden of diabetes is much greater for minority populations than the white population. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 12.9 percent of non-Hispanic blacks, 13.2 percent of Hispanics, 9.1 percent of Asian Americans and 16.3 percent of American Indians have diabetes, compared with 7.6 percent of non-Hispanic whites. Certain minority groups also have much higher rates of diabetes-related complications and death, in some instances by as much as 50 percent more than the total population. You must consider both environmental and genetic factors for why minorities are more at risk for diabetes. Knowing your risk factors is a crucial step toward an early diagnosis, which can give people the tools to prevent the disease from progressing.

The Long Island Association for AIDS Care's Tri Care Systems offers individual care coordination, linkage to support groups, referrals to health care, housing and transportation, for people living with a chronic illness such as diabetes. If you or someone you know is on Medicaid and has diabetes, or another chronic illness, call our toll free hotline at 1-855-492-6887.

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