

Practical Applications of Systems Thinking as a Decision Support Tool for DPCP Partnership Networks

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Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions in this presentation have not been formally disseminated by the CDC and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.



Outline

- Background & Purpose
- Overview of Systems Thinking (ST)
- Methods
- State DPCP engagements
- Summary
- Next steps



Background

- CDC & DPCP Cooperative Agreement
- Needs identified in our work with DPCPs:
 - Lack of unified state diabetes public health system working toward common goals
 - Decision making largely intuitive
 - Need for better understanding of dynamics of diabetes at population level



Purpose

Determine the utility of systems thinking as a tool in strengthening the capacity of state DPCP partners in strategic planning and decision making.

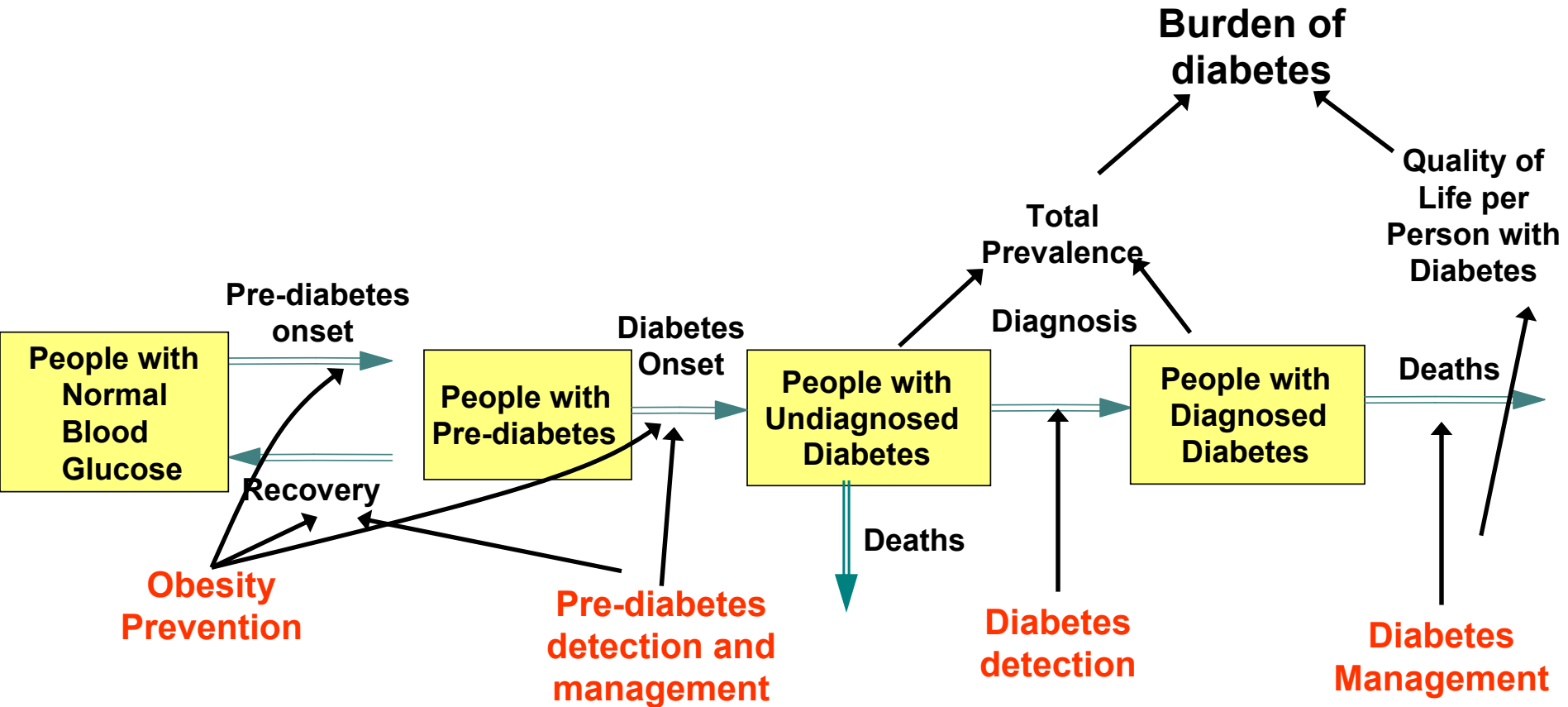


Operational Terms

- **Systems Thinking:** methods of diagramming relationships to understand drivers of change in a system to influence future outcomes
- **Systems Dynamic Modeling:** computer driven simulation tool to test theories



Diabetes Population Flows Map



Methods

- Train-the-trainer
- Presentations on ST/SDM
- Practical exercises
- Small group dialogue



State DPCP Engagements

- Alabama
- Tennessee
- Florida



Summary

- Better understanding of the dynamics of diabetes at a population level
- Clarity about types of interventions with most leverage in reducing diabetes burden



Summary

- Insights of basic competencies needed to engage groups in strategic discussions
- New insights influenced partners to rethink their approaches to diabetes prevention and control
- ST holds promise as decision making tool



Next Steps

- Finish DPCP partner engagements
- Assess progress toward achievement of outcomes
- Refine competencies
- Share results
- Explore expansion to other DPCPs



For More Information

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