



International
Diabetes
Federation

BLUE CIRCLE VOICES

Perspectives on Barriers to Access
to Diabetes Care, Medicines and Supplies

Executive Summary, October 2017





Three quarters of BCVs have experienced at least one barrier in accessing diabetes care



Affordability of care and medicines remains the number one barrier to care

The challenge was particularly serious in South and Central America, Africa, and North America and the Caribbean, whereas few issues were reported in the Middle East and North Africa. Europe and Western Pacific were somewhere in the middle, with 60%-70% of respondents having faced at least one issue.

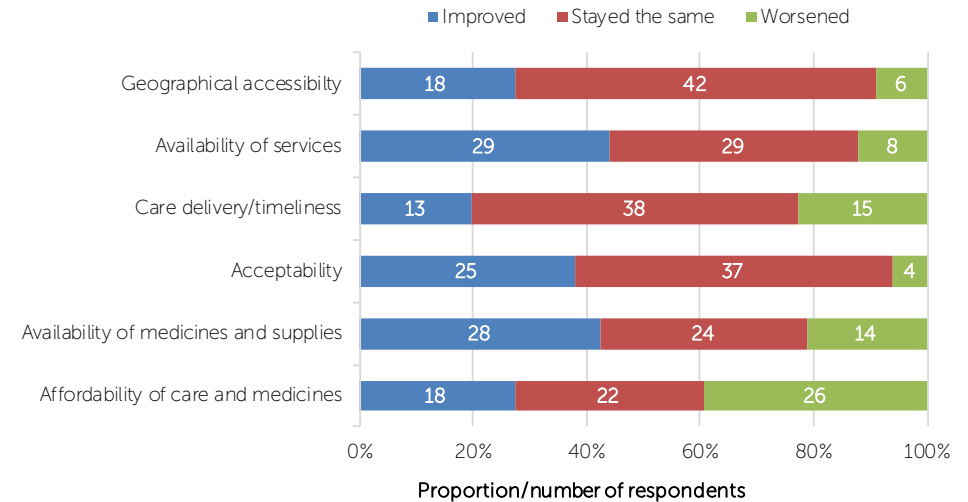
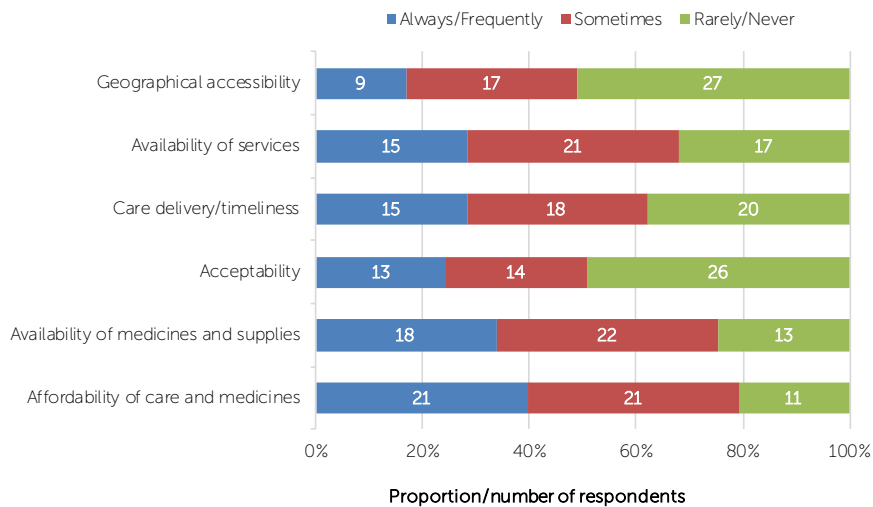
Underlining the size of the challenges, all individual barriers (except geographical accessibility) were each faced "always or frequently" by at least 20% of BCVs, rising to about 34-40% for issues around the availability and affordability of diabetes medicines and care.

Evolving government policies and the general (economic) environment have meant that there have been clear improvements in the availability of diabetes services and issues linked to acceptability of care.

Forty per cent of BCVs also reported improvements in the availability of medicines, although here one fifth of BCVs also reported a deterioration. One major black spot remains though: the affordability of medicines and care, which has deteriorated for 40% of BCVs over the past five years.

How has your access to care, medicines and supplies changed over the past five years?

How frequently are you experiencing difficulties with the following barriers?



“In my country, the healthcare system is not patient friendly and accessing medication is beyond the reach of ordinary citizens.”

(BCV member, Nigeria)



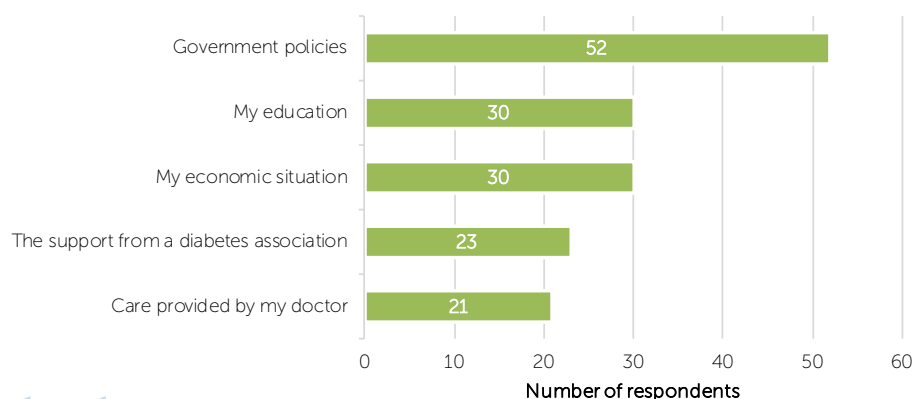
Optimism for the future hinges on appropriate government policies

With the exception of NAC, a sense of optimism prevailed among BCVs regarding their ability more easily to access care and medicines over the next five years.

Generally, governments were seen as the centrepiece of any change. BCVs stressed the need for governments not just to guarantee access to affordable, essential diabetes care and medicines but also to raise awareness of diabetes among the general population to prevent T2D and discrimination, and to provide education to HCPs and people living with diabetes and their carers.

BCVs also urged governments to empower people with diabetes and their carers. This is seen as critical in helping stem the epidemic and its complications.

What will influence the change in your diabetes care over the next five years?



“Stop leaving the person with diabetes out of the conversation!”
(BCV member, USA)

Background

The Blue Circle Voices (BCV) is an International Diabetes Federation (IDF) initiative that aims to represent the interests of people living with, or affected by, diabetes, through a worldwide network of members and other stakeholders. It comprises adults living with all types of diabetes, as well as carers and relatives of people with diabetes, of all ages and from all IDF regions. The BCV network draws upon the experiences of people with diabetes, acts as their global voice and provides them with an opportunity for expression. This network focuses on a variety of issues and challenges that people with diabetes encounter in our world today.

Between June 6 and June 30, 2017, IDF organised an online consultation with the BCVs, aiming to provide some insights into the key issues and challenges linked to Access to Care faced by the BCV members. For that purpose, those barriers were divided into six categories: availability of care, medicines and supplies; affordability of care, medicines and supplies; acceptability; care delivery/timeliness; availability of services; and geographical accessibility. It does not set out to present a fully representative global picture of all issues and challenges encountered by people with diabetes worldwide. Seventy BCVs took part in this survey, of which 61% were women; 70% had T1D and 57% were between 25 and 44. Representation was well spread globally, with the exception of South East Asia.

For more information, please contact bluecirclevoices@idf.org or visit the [IDF website](#).



**International
Diabetes
Federation**

International Diabetes Federation

166 Chaussee de La Hulpe

B-1170 Brussels, Belgium

P: +32-2-538 55 11

F: +32-2-538 51 14

bluecirclevoices@idf.org