

WHAT IS TYPE 1 DIABETES?

Simply stated, Type 1 diabetes develops in children and young people when their own body's immune system mistakenly attacks and destroys pancreatic beta cells. These beta cells produce the life sustaining insulin required by the body to fulfill its most essential function of converting food into energy to fuel the body's organs.

Without daily intensive treatment consisting of insulin therapy and carefully monitored medical attention, organs would fail, eventually causing blindness, kidney failure, heart disease and death. To stay alive, people with Type 1 diabetes are required to have multiple daily injections or continually infuse insulin through a pump, and test to monitor their blood sugar numerous times a day, in order to attempt to keep it within safe levels. Children and young people with this form of diabetes must be prepared at all times for serious reactions and complications, all of which are life-changing and life-threatening. *To give you some idea*, in one year alone these children must endure around 5,000 shots and finger sticks in order to maintain and sustain life.

Type 1 diabetes is widely misunderstood by our society. There's nothing a child or their parents did that caused them to develop this disease. Children become life-long patients. Type 1 diabetes is difficult to manage.

Approximately 1 in 450 children have Type 1 diabetes. Each year, in the United States over 15,000 children are diagnosed.

Alarming news—A new study projects that the number of new cases of Type 1 diabetes will double by year 2020. Doctors and scientists DO NOT know why.

There is no cure!

