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## **NYS Office for the Aging: The Implementation of A Preventive Health Initiative.**

Author (s)

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**Background:** The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) is a state agency that was created to advocate for rights of senior citizens and develop programs and initiatives in NYS, which ensure that seniors have access to ongoing quality healthcare. A related project that I worked on was the development of a diabetes screening program.

**Objectives:**

-Increase awareness of diabetes benefits that are available. -Increase the use of preventive health screening and testing. -Expand and increase the use of evidence-based chronic disease management and health promotion programs. -Eventually decrease morbidity and premature mortality associated with preventable chronic diseases.

**Methods:** For this project, I wrote a literature review that describes best-practices related to diabetes prevention. This was coupled with a report I compiled which documents focus areas, strategies, strengths and gaps in preventive medicine as identified by local health departments throughout NYS.

**Results:** NYSOFA's initiative will:

-Increase diabetes awareness and screenings among older persons at risk. -Increase collaborations among various health and human services networks that address diabetes in this population -Use our data and information to identify trends and changes, and share them with Area Agencies for the Aging (AAA's). -Increase usage of the American Diabetes Association's Diabetes Risk Assessment Test among older persons receiving services within the AAA network. - Expand utilization and access to diabetes screening and testing programs, and self-management programs for people with diabetes. -Increase early diagnosis of diabetes. -Prevent and reduce diabetes related morbidity and mortality.