Diabetes and prediabetes cost an estimated $5.4 billion in Louisiana each year. The serious complications include heart disease, stroke, amputation, end-stage kidney disease, blindness – and death.

**Diabetes and prediabetes cost an estimated $5.4 billion in Louisiana each year.**

**The serious complications include heart disease, stroke, amputation, end-stage kidney disease, blindness – and death.**

**Louisiana’s diabetes epidemic:**

Approximately 521,294 people in Louisiana, or 13.9% of the adult population, have diabetes.

- Of these, an estimated 124,000 have diabetes but don’t know it, greatly increasing their health risk.
- In addition, 1,272,000 people in Louisiana, 37.5% of the adult population, have prediabetes with blood glucose levels higher than normal but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes.
- Every year an estimated 32,000 people in Louisiana are diagnosed with diabetes.

**Diabetes is expensive:**

People with diabetes have medical expenses approximately 2.3 times higher than those who do not have diabetes.

- Total direct medical expenses for diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes, prediabetes and gestational diabetes in Louisiana was estimated at $4.1 billion in 2012.
- In addition, another $1.3 billion was spent on indirect costs from lost productivity due to diabetes.

**Improving lives, preventing diabetes and finding a cure:**

In 2015, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health invested $9,446,235 in diabetes-related research projects in Louisiana.

The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC spent $483,802 on diabetes prevention and educational programs in Louisiana in 2016.

**Sources include:**

- Cost: Dall et al.