The Burden of Diabetes in Rhode Island

Diabetes is growing at an epidemic rate in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 30 million Americans have diabetes and face its devastating consequences. What's true nationwide is also true in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island’s diabetes epidemic:
Approximately 106,210 people in Rhode Island, or 11.5% of the adult population, have diabetes.

- Of these, an estimated 27,000 have diabetes but don’t know it, greatly increasing their health risk.
- In addition, 294,000 people in Rhode Island, 36.4% of the adult population, have prediabetes with blood glucose levels higher than normal but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as 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 Rhode Island was estimated at $841 million in 2012.
- In addition, another $287 million 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 $4,506,885 in diabetes-related research projects in Rhode Island.

The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC spent $2,503,752 on diabetes prevention and educational programs in Rhode Island in 2016.

Sources include:
- Cost: Dall et al.