Diabetes and prediabetes cost an estimated $2.5 billion in West Virginia each year. The serious complications include heart disease, stroke, amputation, end-stage kidney disease, blindness – and death.

West Virginia’s diabetes epidemic:
Approximately 255,695 people in West Virginia, or 15.3% of the adult population, have diabetes.
- Of these, an estimated 48,000 have diabetes but don’t know it, greatly increasing their health risk.
- In addition, 518,000 people in West Virginia, 35.9% 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 13,000 people in West Virginia 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 West Virginia was estimated at $1.9 billion in 2012.
- In addition, another $627 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 $607,688 in diabetes-related research projects in West Virginia.

The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC spent $430,866 on diabetes prevention and educational programs in West Virginia in 2016.

Sources include:
- Cost: Dall et al.