Diabetes and prediabetes cost an estimated $5.9 billion in Wisconsin each year. The serious complications include heart disease, stroke, amputation, end-stage kidney disease, blindness – and death.

The Burden of Diabetes in Wisconsin

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 Wisconsin.

Wisconsin’s diabetes epidemic:

Approximately **541,523 people in Wisconsin**, or 11.2% of the adult population, **have diabetes**.

- Of these, an estimated **142,000 have diabetes but don’t know it**, greatly increasing their health risk.
- In addition, **1,550,000 people in Wisconsin**, 36.1% 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 **21,000 people in Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin was estimated at **$4.6 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 **$20,901,590** in diabetes-related research projects in Wisconsin. The **Division of Diabetes Translation** at the CDC spent **$1,381,233** on diabetes prevention and educational programs in Wisconsin in 2016.

Sources include:

- Cost: Dall et al.