The Burden of Diabetes in Wisconsin

Diabetes is an epidemic in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 34 million Americans have diabetes and face its devastating consequences. What’s true nationwide is also true in Wisconsin.

**Wisconsin’s diabetes epidemic:**

- **Approximately 439,000 people in Wisconsin**, or 9.8% of the adult population, **have diagnosed diabetes**.
- **An additional 135,000 people in Wisconsin have diabetes but don’t know it**, greatly increasing their health risk.
- **There are 1,560,000 people in Wisconsin**, 34.4% of the adult population, who have **prediabetes** with blood glucose levels that are higher than normal but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes.
- **Every year** an estimated **34,000 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 diabetes in Wisconsin were estimated at **$4.1 billion** in 2017.
- **In addition, another $1.4 billion** was spent on **indirect costs** from lost productivity due to diabetes.

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

In 2019, the **National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases** at the National Institutes of Health invested **$20,835,363** in diabetes-related research projects in Wisconsin. The **Division of Diabetes Translation** at the CDC provided **$2,495,689** in diabetes prevention and educational grants in Wisconsin in 2018.

Sources include:

- Diabetes Incidence: 2016 state diabetes incidence rates, cdc.gov/diabetes/data
- Research expenditures: 2019 NIDDK funding, projectreporter.nih.gov; 2018 CDC diabetes funding, cdc.gov/fundingprofiles

Diagnosed diabetes costs an estimated **$5.5 billion in Wisconsin each year**.

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