American Diabetes Association®
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The Burden of Diabetes in Rhode Island

Diabetes is an epidemic in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 37 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 **88,467 people in Rhode Island**, or 10% of the adult population, **have diagnosed diabetes**.
- An additional **23,000 people in Rhode Island have diabetes but don't know it**, greatly increasing their health risk.
- There are **280,000 people in Rhode Island**, 33.1% 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 **6,453 people in Rhode Island** are diagnosed with diabetes.

Diagnosed diabetes costs an estimated $1.1 billion in Rhode Island each year.

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

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 Rhode Island were estimated at **$778 million in 2017.**
- In addition, another **$283 million** was spent on **indirect costs** from lost productivity due to diabetes.

Improving lives, preventing diabetes and finding a cure:

In 2023, the **National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases** at the National Institutes of Health invested **$873,295** in diabetes-related research projects in Rhode Island.

The **Division of Diabetes Translation** at the CDC provided **$1,731,798** in diabetes prevention and educational grants in Rhode Island in 2021.

Sources include:

- Diabetes Prevalence: 2020 state diagnosed diabetes prevalence, cdc.gov/diabetes/data; 2017 state undiagnosed diabetes prevalence, Dall et al., "The Economic Burden of Elevated Blood Glucose Levels in 2017", Diabetes Care, September 2019, vol. 42.
- Diabetes Incidence: National Diabetes Statistics Report—2022, cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics-report/index.html
- Cost: American Diabetes Association, "Economic Costs of Diabetes in the U.S. in 2017", Diabetes Care, May 2018.
- Research expenditures: 2023 NIDDK funding, report.nih.gov/award/index.cfm; 2021 CDC diabetes funding, fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/FundingProfiles/FundingQuery