The Burden of Diabetes in Hawaii

Diabetes is an epidemic in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 30 million Americans have diabetes and face its devastating consequences. What’s true nationwide is also true in Hawaii.

HAWAII’S DIABETES EPIDEMIC:
Approximately 142,000 people in Hawaii, or 12% of the adult population, have diabetes.

- Of these, an estimated 46,000 have diabetes but don’t know it, greatly increasing their health risk.
- In addition, 442,000 people in Hawaii, 41.5% 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 8,000 people in Hawaii 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 Hawaii were estimated at $1 billion in 2017.
- In addition, another $460 million was spent on indirect costs from lost productivity due to diabetes.

IMPROVING LIVES, PREVENTING DIABETES AND FINDING A CURE:
In 2018, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health invested $3,059,624 in diabetes-related research projects in Hawaii.

The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC provided $951,823 in diabetes prevention and educational grants in Hawaii in 2018.

Diagnosed diabetes costs an estimated $1.5 billion in Hawaii each year. The serious complications include heart disease, stroke, amputation, end-stage kidney disease, blindness—and death.

Sources include:
- Diabetes Incidence: 2015 state diabetes incidence rates, cdc.gov/diabetes/data