The Burden of Diabetes in West Virginia

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 West Virginia.

West Virginia’s diabetes epidemic:

- Approximately 232,336 people in West Virginia, or 16.2% of the adult population, have diagnosed diabetes.
- An additional 45,000 people in West Virginia have diabetes but don’t know it, greatly increasing their health risk.
- There are 502,000 people in West Virginia, 34.8% 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 12,377 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 diabetes in West Virginia were estimated at $1.7 billion in 2017.
- In addition, another $638 million was spent on indirect costs from lost productivity due to diabetes.

Improving lives, preventing diabetes and finding a cure:

In 2021, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health invested $412,213 in diabetes-related research projects in West Virginia. The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC provided $926,068 in diabetes prevention and educational grants in West Virginia in 2018.

Sources include:

- Diabetes Incidence: 2018 diabetes incidence rate, cdc.gov/diabetes/data
- Research expenditures: 2021 NIDDK funding, report.nih.gov/award/index.cfm; 2020 CDC diabetes funding, fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/FundingProfiles/FundingQuery