The Burden of Diabetes in South Carolina

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 South Carolina.

South Carolina’s diabetes epidemic:

- Approximately 531,143 people in South Carolina, or 13.2% of the adult population, have diagnosed diabetes.
- An additional 123,000 people in South Carolina have diabetes but don’t know it, greatly increasing their health risk.
- There are 1,361,000 people in South Carolina, 34.9% 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 35,317 people in South Carolina 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 South Carolina were estimated at $4.3 billion in 2017.
- In addition, another $1.6 billion 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 $12,501,310 in diabetes-related research projects in South Carolina.

The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC provided $2,351,511 in diabetes prevention and educational grants in South Carolina in 2018.

Sources include:

- Diabetes Incidence: 2016 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