The Burden of Diabetes in Washington

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 Washington.

Washington’s diabetes epidemic:

- Approximately 582,006 people in Washington, or 9.7% of the adult population, have diagnosed diabetes.
- An additional 164,000 people in Washington have diabetes but don’t know it, greatly increasing their health risk.
- There are 1,938,000 people in Washington, 33.7% 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 53,166 people in Washington 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 Washington were estimated at $5 billion in 2017.
- In addition, another $1.7 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 $47,106,495 in diabetes-related research projects in Washington. The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC provided $2,717,510 in diabetes prevention and educational grants in Washington 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