The Burden of Diabetes in Utah

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 Utah.

Utah’s diabetes epidemic:

- Approximately 186,706 people in Utah, or 8.0% of the adult population, have diagnosed diabetes.
- An additional 51,000 people in Utah have diabetes but don’t know it, greatly increasing their health risk.
- There are 652,000 people in Utah, 30.1% 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 19,694 people in Utah 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 Utah were estimated at $1.3 billion in 2017.
- In addition, another $498 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 $15,183,353 in diabetes-related research projects in Utah. The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC provided $1,970,368 in diabetes prevention and educational grants in Utah in 2018.

Sources include:

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