The Burden of Diabetes in Rhode Island

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 Rhode Island.

Rhode Island’s diabetes epidemic:

- Approximately 88,467 people in Rhode Island, or 10% of the adult population, have diagnosed diabetes.
- An additional 23,000 people in Rhode Island have diabetes but don’t know it, greatly increasing their health risk.
- There are 280,000 people in Rhode Island, 33.1% 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 6,453 people in Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island were estimated at $778 million in 2017.
- In addition, another $283 million was spent on indirect costs from lost productivity due to diabetes.

Improving lives, preventing diabetes and finding a cure:

In 2023, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health invested $873,295 in diabetes-related research projects in Rhode Island. The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC provided $1,731,798 in diabetes prevention and educational grants in Rhode Island in 2021.

Sources include:

- Research expenditures: 2023 NIDDK funding, report.nih.gov/award/index.cfm; 2021 CDC diabetes funding, fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/FundingProfiles/FundingQuery