

The Burden of Diabetes in Kentucky

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 Kentucky.

Kentucky's diabetes epidemic:

- Approximately **450,340 people in Kentucky**, or 12.9% of the adult population, have **diagnosed diabetes**.
- An additional **101,000 people in Kentucky have diabetes but don't know it**, greatly increasing their health risk.
- There are **1,168,000 people in Kentucky**, 33.8% 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 **26,623 people in Kentucky** are diagnosed with diabetes.

Diagnosed diabetes costs an estimated **\$5.2 billion in Kentucky each year.**

The serious complications include heart disease, stroke, amputation, end-stage kidney disease, blindness—and death.

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 Kentucky were estimated at **\$3.6 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 2023, the **National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases** at the National Institutes of Health invested **\$3,237,955** in diabetes-related research projects in Kentucky.

The **Division of Diabetes Translation** at the CDC provided **\$2,213,178** in diabetes prevention and educational grants in Kentucky in 2021.

Sources include:

- Diabetes Prevalence: 2020 state diagnosed diabetes prevalence, [cdc.gov/diabetes/data](https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data); 2017 state undiagnosed diabetes prevalence, Dall et al., "The Economic Burden of Elevated Blood Glucose Levels in 2017", *Diabetes Care*, September 2019, vol. 42.
- Diabetes Incidence: National Diabetes Statistics Report—2022, [cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics-report/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics-report/index.html)
- Cost: American Diabetes Association, "Economic Costs of Diabetes in the U.S. in 2017", *Diabetes Care*, May 2018.
- Research expenditures: 2023 NIDDK funding, report.nih.gov/award/index.cfm; 2021 CDC diabetes funding, fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/FundingProfiles/FundingQuery