

# The Burden of Diabetes in Alaska

Diabetes is an epidemic in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 38 million Americans have diabetes and face its devastating consequences. What's true nationwide is also true in Alaska.

## Alaska's diabetes epidemic:

- Approximately 48,500 adults in Alaska, or 8.3% of the adult population, have diagnosed diabetes.
- Every year, an estimated 3,000 adults in Alaska are diagnosed with diabetes.

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

## Diabetes Is Expensive

Americans with diabetes have medical expenses approximately 2.6 times higher than those without. The total estimated cost of diagnosed diabetes in the U.S. was \$412.9 billion in 2022, including \$306.6 billion in direct medical costs and \$106.3 billion in reduced productivity attributable to diabetes.

In Alaska, diagnosed diabetes costs an estimated \$3 billion each year. In 2022:

- Total direct medical expenses for diagnosed diabetes in Alaska were estimated to be \$610 million
- In addition, there were \$3 billion in estimated indirect costs from lost productivity due to diabetes

## In addition to the work of the American Diabetes Association® to improve lives, prevent diabetes, and find a cure:

In 2024, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health did not invest in diabetes-related research projects in Alaska.

The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC provided \$1,616,642 in diabetes prevention and educational grants in Alaska in 2023.

Sources can be found at [diabetes.org/SFSSources](https://diabetes.org/SFSSources).  
Find more statistics at [diabetes.org/Statistics](https://diabetes.org/Statistics).

- 136 million Americans have diabetes or prediabetes
- 1.2 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes every year
- About 1 in 3 seniors in the United States has diabetes
- Diabetes contributes to the death of nearly 400,000 Americans annually