

Care and Medication Access

Diabetes is the most expensive chronic disease in the U.S. Currently, one out of every four health care dollars is spent on caring for people with diabetes, who often face economic challenges associated with the cost of medications, equipment, and treatments needed to remain healthy. Access to health care coverage and treatments allows individuals living with prediabetes, diabetes, and obesity to more effectively manage their condition, improving their health and quality of life and ultimately lowering health care spending.

The American Diabetes Association® (ADA) Urges Congress to Ensure People Have Access to Care and Treatments

Affordable Insulin



- Spending on insulin has tripled in the past 10 years—increasing from \$8 billion in 2012 to \$22.3 billion in 2022. One in six Americans with diabetes reports rationing their insulin to pay for other life essentials like rent, utilities, daycare, and food.
- Important bipartisan progress toward insulin affordability was made in 2022 when Congress established a \$35 Medicare cost-sharing limit for insulin.
- **The ADA supports extending the Medicare Part D cost-sharing limit to commercial insurance plans** so people with diabetes with private health insurance can also access affordable insulin. We also urge Congress to consider those without insurance as part of this approach, as they would not benefit from a commercial cost-sharing limit for insulin.

Insurance Access



- Access to health care coverage is vital for people with diabetes. Research shows that adults with diabetes with health insurance have better glucose and cholesterol management than those without.
- Almost 24% of people with diabetes rely on Medicaid to provide access to diabetes care, medications, and technology.
- The ADA urges Congress to **preserve access to Medicaid and coverage through the Affordable Care Act**, as these programs are vital for individuals and families living with diabetes who rely on them to access their care and manage their condition.

Obesity



- There is an urgent need to address the obesity epidemic in America. Research has shown that obesity affects nearly 42% of the adult population and accounts for up to 53% of new cases of type 2 diabetes every year.
- Congress can help prevent and treat obesity by **removing barriers to and providing coverage of evidence-based treatment—including nutrition intervention and obesity medications**.