American Diabetes Association®

News Release

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New Polling Highlights That Diabetes Impacts 3 in 5 Americans; High Costs of GLP-1-Based Medications, Underfunded Research, and AI seen as Complex, Costly, and Confusing Challenges

The American Diabetes Association is taking action

ARLINGTON, Va. (Nov. 17, 2026) – More than 3 in 5 Americans say someone close to them has been diagnosed with diabetes or prediabetes, according to a new national survey conducted by Ipsos on behalf of the American Diabetes Association® (ADA). During American Diabetes Month®, the survey offers a closer look at how diabetes touches everyday Americans, from the people they love to the treatments they hope for to the barriers they see standing in the way.

The survey findings shine a light on the deeply impactful work done by the ADA and its longstanding commitment to scientific research. The charge of the ADA is to lead the fight to end diabetes and help every person affected by it live a healthy, full life. Its dedicated staff, scientists, and volunteers advance research, expand education, and champion advocacy every day to bring us closer to a cure.

“Far too many Americans don’t have access to the tools they need to thrive with diabetes, and we will relentlessly pursue our mission until every American living with diabetes has affordable access to the care they deserve and there is a cure for diabetes,” said Charles “Chuck” Henderson, the ADA’s chief executive officer.

Key findings include:

- **Diabetes touches most American lives.** Over 63% say at least one of their closest family members, friends, or coworkers has been diagnosed with diabetes or prediabetes.
- **Cost stands in the way of accessing medications.** In an ADA poll earlier this year, 72% of respondents reported paying more than $35 per month for insulin while nearly 40% reported paying more than $150 per month for insulin. In this latest poll, a majority (56%) say the cost of GLP-1-based medications, treatments for obesity and diabetes, is a barrier for people who may benefit from them, including 26% who call it a very significant barrier.
- **More than 50% of Americans say the government is not investing enough in diabetes research.** 52% say the government invests too little, compared with just 3% who say it invests too much.
- **Half of Americans are optimistic about progress on type 1 diabetes.** Fifty percent say a major advance in type 1 diabetes treatment is likely within the next 10 years.

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- **Americans are divided on AI in diabetes management.** Thirty-two percent say they would be comfortable with AI tools providing real-time diabetes recommendations, while 37% would be uncomfortable. The largest split is seen across generations: Boomers are the most uncomfortable (44%) compared to Millennials (30%).

How the ADA is working to close the gaps Americans identified in the survey:

- **Cost and access to treatment.** The ADA champions healthcare access, obesity treatment, affordable insulin, access to device technology, and other care for everyone living with diabetes**,** obesity, or both.
- **Research investment.** The ADA has funded about $1 billion in diabetes research since 1952 and opposes harmful federal cuts to research funding.
- **Care close to home.** Ninety percent of Americans with diabetes are treated in primary care settings, so the ADA equips those clinicians with the resources they need. The ADA's community hubs across the country offer education, screenings, and referrals for care, and some also run food distribution events.
- **Support for families touched by diabetes.** ADA Camp gives kids with diabetes a medically safe place to build community. More than 100,000 campers and their families have been served.
- **Trusted nutrition guidance.** Diabetes Food Hub® offers free diabetes-friendly recipes and tips, and Everyday Health recently named it a Trusted Health Resource.

The ADA is asking Americans impacted by diabetes to share their stories throughout American Diabetes Month to help raise awareness and share what they appreciate the most about the work of the ADA. Visit diabetes.org/ShareYourStory to participate.

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About the American Diabetes Association

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) is the nation's leading voluntary health organization fighting to end diabetes and helping people thrive. For 86 years, the ADA has driven discovery and research to treat, manage, and prevent diabetes while working relentlessly for a cure. Through advocacy, program development, and education we work to improve the quality of life for the over 155 million Americans living with diabetes or prediabetes. To learn more or to get involved, visit us at diabetes.org or call 1-800-DIABETES (800-342-2383). Join us in the fight on Facebook (American Diabetes Association), Spanish Facebook (Asociación Americana de la Diabetes), LinkedIn (American Diabetes Association), and Instagram (@AmDiabetesAssn). To learn more about how we are advocating for everyone affected by diabetes, visit us on X (@AmDiabetesAssn).

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Methodology

These findings are based on an American Diabetes Association survey, with data collection provided by Ipsos, conducted between October 29 and October 30, 2026. For this survey, a nationally representative sample of 1,005 U.S. adults aged 18 and older were surveyed online in English as part of the Ipsos omnibus. The results of this research have a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.8 percentage points for all respondents.

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