

# 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 38 million Americans have diabetes and face its devastating consequences. What's true nationwide is also true in Kentucky.

## Kentucky's diabetes epidemic:

- Approximately 519,100 adults in Kentucky, or 12.90% of the adult population, have diagnosed diabetes.
- Every year, an estimated 40,000 adults in Kentucky 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 Kentucky, diagnosed diabetes costs an estimated \$6.4 billion each year. In 2022:

- Total direct medical expenses for diagnosed diabetes in Kentucky were estimated to be \$4.6 billion
- In addition, there were \$1.8 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 invested \$1,803,328 in diabetes-related research projects in Kentucky.

The Division of Diabetes Translation at the CDC provided \$1,000,000 in diabetes prevention and educational grants in Kentucky 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 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