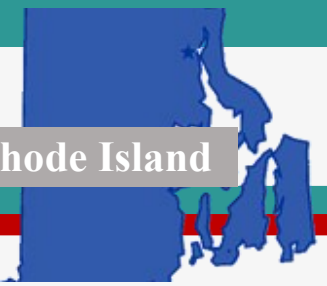


# National Indian Health Board



Rhode Island



## Special Diabetes Program for Indians:

*Saving lives in Rhode Island and providing a strong return on federal investment*

### History

Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) in 1997 to address the growing epidemic of diabetes in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Nations. By allowing Tribes to determine their own approach, the program has become the nation’s most effective federal initiative to combat diabetes and serves as a useful model both for diabetes programs nationwide and public health programs in Indian Country. SDPI is currently authorized through Fiscal Year 2023.

### SDPI Outcomes

**301**  
AI/AN DIABETES PROGRAMS IN 35 STATES

**5.5%**  
DECREASE IN PREVALENCE OF DIABETES  
Between 2013 and 2017

**15.4%**  
↓  
**14.6%**

**END STAGE RENAL DISEASE REDUCED BY 54%**  
Between 1999 and 2013- the greatest decline of any racial or ethnic group.

**\$88,000 IN SAVINGS FOR MEDICARE FOR EACH PATIENT KEPT OFF CHEMOTHERAPY**

**TRIBES COLLECT DATA AND HAVE DOCUMENTED THAT THIS INVESTMENT IS BOTH SAVING LIVES AND THE FEDERAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM MONEY!**

### Diabetes in Rhode Island

**FY 2023 SDPI funding in Rhode Island totaled \$113,475 for the Community Directed Grant Program at Narragansett Indian Tribe**

According to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 92,821 people in Rhode Island – 10.5 % of the population – have diagnosed diabetes, and many suffer from serious diabetes-related conditions such as heart disease, neuropathy, and eye, foot and skin complications. An additional 280,000 people—33.1% of adults— have prediabetes. In addition to the human toll diabetes places on the people of Rhode Island, it also places a large financial burden on the state’s healthcare system. The staggering estimate of cost of diabetes in Rhode Island was approximately \$1.1 billion.

There is no AI/AN specific data on diabetes prevalence or mortality available for Rhode Island.

### SDPI Impact

SDPI provides a strong return on federal investment and is saving lives in Rhode Island. Since the beginning of SDPI, blood sugar levels have decreased, risk factors of cardiovascular disease have been reduced, diabetes-related kidney disease has been cut by more than half, and primary prevention and weight management programs for Native youth have increased. Nation-wide AI/AN diabetes prevalence decreased from 15.4% to 14.6% between 2013 and 2017. National data reflect the excellent outcomes in Native Nations resulting from innovative local level programs.

For more information, visit <https://www.nihb.org/sdpi/>

**“I truly believe that Diabetes is robbing us as a community of our elders’ wisdom, as they die too young. The SDPI Healthy Traditions program, by concentrating on prevention, not only gives people hope of a healthier future for all our Nations, but it also gives us the tools to fulfill that future.”**

**– Amy Lemmer**