



Special Diabetes Program for Indians:

Saving lives in Tennessee 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 CHEMODIALYSIS

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

Diabetes in Tennessee

FY 2021 SDPI funding in Tennessee totaled \$130,002 for a Community Directed Grant Program at the United South and Eastern Tribes

According to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 730,416 people in Tennessee – 13.6 % 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 1.8 million people—34.3 % of adults— have prediabetes. In addition to the human toll diabetes places on the people of Tennessee, it also places a large financial burden on the state’s healthcare system. The staggering estimate of cost of diabetes in Tennessee is approximately \$7.3 billion each year.

SDPI Impact

SDPI provides a strong return on federal investment and is saving lives in Tennessee. 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. Nationwide 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/>

Prevalence of Diabetes Among Adults in Tennessee, 2019*

Race/Ethnicity	Prevalence
AI/AN	15.1%
White	13.7%

*Data from America’s Health Ranking: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2020