

# DIABETES FACTS

## What Is Diabetes?

Diabetes is a chronic, genetically determined, debilitating disease affecting every organ system. Insulin is not a cure, but merely life support. There are two major types of diabetes: Type 1 and Type 2. Type 1 (juvenile) is caused by the autoimmune destruction of the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas and is usually, though not always, diagnosed in childhood. People with Type 1 must take insulin to live. People with Type 2 produce insulin, but their bodies do not use it effectively. Type 2 is usually diagnosed in adulthood.

## Affects Millions

- Diabetes kills one American every three minutes.
- Sixteen million Americans have the disease; of these, 5.4 million are undiagnosed.
- Diabetes afflicts 120 million people worldwide, and the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates this number will skyrocket to 300 million by the year 2025.
- A new case of diabetes is diagnosed every 40 seconds.
- Taking insulin does not cure the disease nor prevent the development of complications.

## Leading Cause of Death

- Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, adult blindness, and nontraumatic amputations.
- People with diabetes are two to four times more likely to have a heart attack or stroke.
- Life expectancy of people with diabetes averages 15 years less than that of people without diabetes.
- Diabetes is a leading cause of nerve damage.
- Death rate among infants born to mothers with diabetes is two to three times as high as for women without diabetes.

## Single Most Costly Chronic Disease

- Diabetes accounts for \$98 billion in annual U.S. health-care costs.
- One of every five Medicare dollars goes to pay for health care of people with the disease.
- Average lifetime cost of diabetes care for a person diagnosed at age three is calculated at \$600,000 in today's dollars.

*Everyone knows someone with diabetes. Help us find a cure. For more information contact the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation at 1-800-JDF-CURE or visit our website: [www.jdfcure.org](http://www.jdfcure.org)*

*The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International (JDF), a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization, was founded by parents of children with diabetes who promised to find a cure within their children's lifetimes. JDF's mission is to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research.*

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