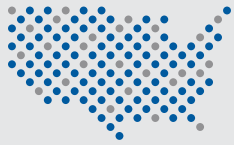


Reimagining kidney care: From crisis to opportunity

We are facing an **underrecognized kidney disease crisis** that places a serious societal and economic burden on our nation. Policy opportunities exist to **improve care for patients** and **save billions in taxpayer dollars**.

KIDNEY DISEASES HAVE A DEVASTATING IMPACT ON MILLIONS OF AMERICANS AND THEIR FAMILIES



37 million Americans

are currently living with chronic kidney disease (CKD)



9 in 10 Americans

are unaware they have CKD

CKD death rates have grown significantly in the U.S.

The age-adjusted death rate in the U.S. is **14.6 per 100,000**,

rising by 63%

between 1990 and 2017

Compared to white Americans, **members of racial and ethnic minorities are**

more likely to develop kidney failure



4.2X *Black Americans*

2.3X *Americans of Hispanic Ethnicity*

1.9X *Native Americans*

1.5X *Asian Americans*



Rural Americans

with kidney failure face higher mortality rates than their urban counterparts

KIDNEY DISEASE PLACES A SIGNIFICANT STRAIN ON THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND ECONOMY

CKD accounts for

\$126 billion



in direct health care spending each year, with later stages of the disease driving higher spending

Medicare spends

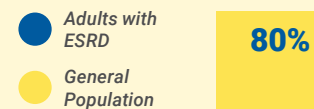
\$80,000

per end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patient each year –

6x

what is spent on the average Medicare beneficiary

Kidney disease can **significantly impact** a person's ability to work



Employment rate for adults 18-54 with ESRD compared to similarly aged adults in the general population

TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY OF KIDNEY DISEASE

Our current approach to kidney care delivery faces **several challenges** that are contributing to poor outcomes for individuals living with CKD.

Opportunities exist to reduce the burden of this disease and its inequities through **improved upstream care**, such as earlier diagnosis and access to innovative therapies.

Pressing challenges in our current kidney care delivery system:



Diagnosis: limited disease awareness, lack of screening, challenges accessing diagnostic tools (e.g., genetic testing, biopsy)



Care Delivery: provider shortages, limited quality measures, reimbursement challenges



Treatment: limited coverage for innovative treatments, utilization management

WE CAN REALIZE SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS BY CHANGING INCENTIVES

Evolving our current system to **incentivize interventions that reduce the number of people that progress to the later stages of the disease** can result in **significant savings for Medicare, commercial payers and employers** and help change the dire trajectory of CKD in the U.S. Such interventions could include preventive measures, earlier diagnosis as well as better access to upstream care and treatment.

\$9 billion/year
in Medicare savings

\$2.8 billion/year
in Commercial savings

POLICY CHANGES THAT ALIGN INCENTIVES TOWARD PREVENTION, EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT CAN DRIVE SAVINGS AND IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOMES

The American Kidney Fund encourages policymakers to explore provisions that:



Improve **education** for people living with kidney disease and their caregivers



Support **earlier and complete diagnosis**



Enable **better access to kidney disease treatment**

The economic analysis included in the report was conducted by the Health Capital Group. The report was published in part thanks to support from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Refer to the full report for references: American Kidney Fund, Reimagining Kidney Care: From Crisis to Opportunity, June 2023.