

The Collapse of Medicare Is Happening Faster Than Expected

We've known for a while that Medicare is collapsing, but a [new report](#) from the Medicare and Social Security trust fund indicates the timeline for Medicare's go-broke date has been moved up three years from 2036 to 2033 — less than a decade away. One of the biggest contributors to the Medicare solvency crisis is chronic disease. The CDC estimates that diabetes is costing the US economy \$413 billion this year, with Alzheimers at \$360 billion and cancer at \$240 billion. These are costs we are incurring now, with the costs set to escalate each year.

CDC estimates of the costs of chronic disease to the US economy	
Diabetes	\$413 billion
Alzheimers	\$360 billion
Cancer	\$240 billion

From last fall's [Ways and Means Health Subcommittee hearing](#) on chronic disease,

- *75% of Medicare funds are spent on 40% of beneficiaries who have been diagnosed with 4+ chronic conditions.*
- *129 million Americans have at least one chronic disease.*
- *Nearly 90% of the 4.1 trillion America annually spends on health care goes to treat chronic disease.*

From our [research for the Better Medicare Alliance](#), voters recognize the role that chronic disease plays in higher costs.

- *Patients with chronic health conditions like diabetes and heart disease have higher health care costs than patients who do not have those conditions. (84-9 believe-do not believe)*
- *Voters understand the connection between better health and lower costs: The healthier that a person is, the less that person costs in the health care system, 73-18 believe-do not believe.*
- *By about 3:1, voters see the greater contributor to health care costs as health conditions that go untreated or undiagnosed and turn into serious illnesses (70%) rather than too many tests and treatments (23%).*

As Congress confronts the nation's fiscal crisis, addressing chronic disease must be a key part of the national strategy.

Have a good week.

David & Myra