Diabetes is currently one of the 10 leading causes of death in North Carolina. In 2015, **1,077 million** people in North Carolina were estimated to have diabetes, and the disease was estimated to affect the health of 12.9 percent of the adult population.\(^1\) Not only does diabetes cause detriment to the well-being of North Carolina’s citizens, but it also puts a tremendous financial burden on the state.

In 2014, **108,000** non-traumatic lower limb amputations were performed in the US due to diabetes.\(^3\) The average cost of each amputation is **$70,434**.\(^4\) Research shows yearly visits to a podiatrist by those with diabetes can decrease the risk of lower limb amputation by up to 80 percent.\(^5\) North Carolina projects a total of **1.86 million** people living with diabetes at a cost of **$17.9 billion** by 2025.\(^6\) For more information, visit [www.apma.org/diabetes](http://www.apma.org/diabetes).

### Investing in Care by Podiatrists

- While diabetes is the leading cause of non-traumatic lower limb amputation, these amputations can be prevented.
- Every $1 invested in care by a podiatrist results in $27 to $51 of savings for the health-care system among patients with commercial insurance. For Medicare-eligible patients, every $1 invested in care by a podiatrist results in $9 to $13 of savings.\(^7\)
- The inclusion of care provided by podiatrists for those with diabetes alone will save the health-care system **$3.5 billion** per year.\(^7\)
- As a cost-cutting measure, Arizona removed patient access to DPMs in June 2010. However, after data indicated Arizona actually increased Medicaid spending by $48 for every $1 in projected savings, Arizona reinstated DPMs in the Medicaid program in 2016.\(^8\)

---