



# The Kidney Disease and Diabetes Connection

Each year, more than 100,000 Americans are diagnosed with kidney failure. The most common cause for kidney failure is diabetes. More research is needed to prevent premature death and improve quality of life for people with these conditions. Congress must direct resources to kidney screening and kidney disease awareness programs for the 24 million Americans with diabetes.

- African Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanics/Latinos (particularly Mexican Americans) develop diabetes, chronic kidney disease (CKD), and kidney failure at higher rates than whites. Scientists do not fully understand why.
- African Americans with diabetes are 3 to 5 times more likely to develop kidney disease when compared to the general population.
- Mexican Americans and Native Americans with diabetes are 6 times more likely to develop kidney failure than the general diabetic population.
- High levels of blood sugar make the kidneys filter too much blood, and can lead to CKD or kidney failure. When diagnosed early, kidney disease as a result of diabetes can be slowed by nephrologists (kidney specialists). When diagnosed later, kidney failure usually results and dialysis or a transplant is necessary.

## ASN's Policy Priorities for 2010

- ✓ Address profound health disparities
- ✓ Improve the success of kidney transplants
- ✓ Fund medical research that improves kidney health for Americans
- ✓ Fix the sustainable growth rate formula

Diabetes (even when controlled) is the most common cause of kidney failure, accounting for nearly **44 percent** of new cases.

For more information about the ASN or kidney disease, visit [www.asn-online.org](http://www.asn-online.org) or call 202-659-0599.