



# Kidney Disease: A Serious Threat to Public Health

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.

- Although nearly **30 million** Americans—**13%** of the population—have chronic kidney disease (CKD), most people are unaware they have it.
- CKD progresses and often leads to kidney failure, which is also called end-stage renal disease (ESRD).
- More than **500,000** Americans have kidney failure and need dialysis or a transplant. This number will grow by 50% during the next 20 years.
- Two-thirds of dialysis patients die within five years of starting treatment, a lower survival rate than most cancer patients.
- CKD is **15% more prevalent in African Americans** than Caucasians, and African Americans are four times more likely to develop kidney failure.
- CKD is **17% more prevalent in Hispanics and Latinos** than in Caucasians, and Hispanics/Latinos are twice as likely to develop kidney failure.
- Native Americans are twice as likely as Caucasians to develop kidney failure.
- More than **25% of Medicare spending** (\$42 billion) goes to treating kidney disease.

## 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

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