

Direct costs



Field of action 4: Reducing the burden and costs of disease



All age groups

Background

Data on the direct treatment costs of diabetes are key for planning diabetes care.

Key messages

- ▶ According to conservative estimates by the Federal Statistical Office, the direct costs of diabetes in 2020 totaled EUR 7.4 billion.
- ▶ The costs of diabetes are lower for women than for men.
- ▶ The proportion of diabetes-related costs relative to the total costs of all diseases is comparable in 2015 and 2020.

Figure 1: Temporal comparison of the direct costs for diabetes (all age groups) in million euro by sex between 2015 and 2020.

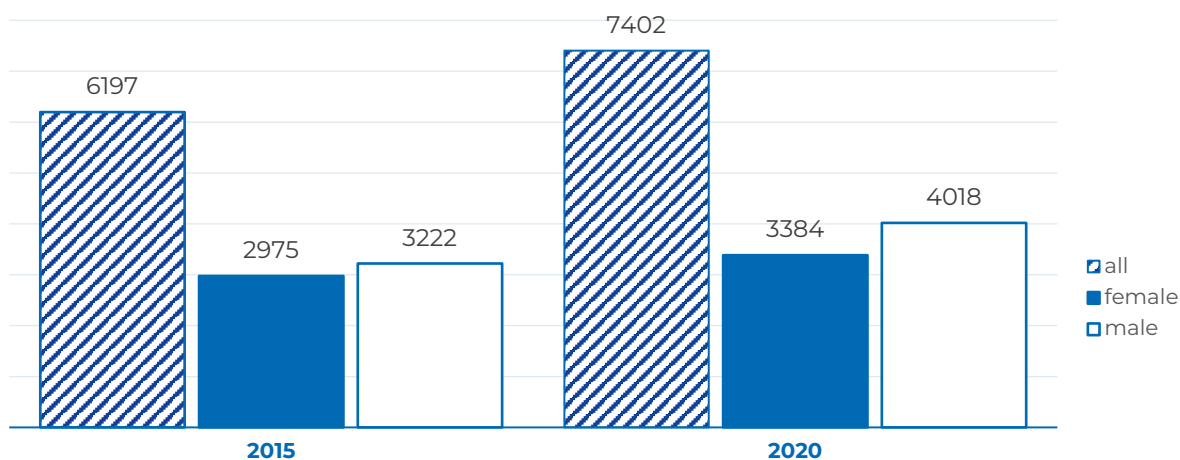
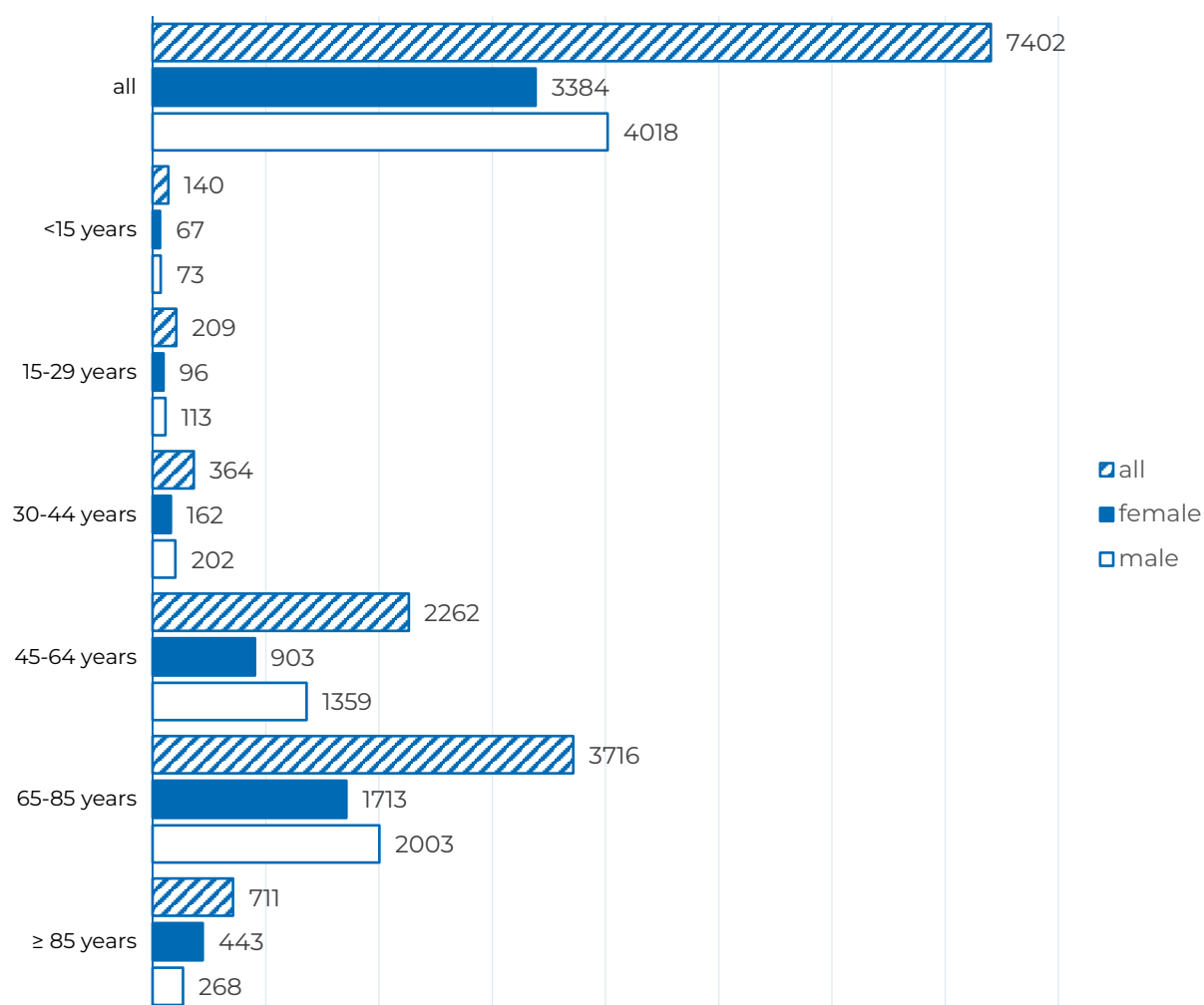


Figure 2: Direct costs for diabetes (all age groups) in million euro by age and sex in 2020.



Results

Direct costs for persons with diabetes are estimated at EUR 7.4 billion in 2020 (women: EUR 3.4 billion; men: EUR 4.0 billion). This equates to 1.7% of the total direct costs of all diseases (women: 1.4%; men: 2.1%). Both the direct costs of diabetes, as well as their proportion in relation to the direct costs of all diseases, are highest in the 45- to 64-year (2.1%) and 65- to 84-year age groups (2.3%). Compared to 2020, the direct costs for persons with diabetes in 2015 were lower with EUR 6.2 billion (women: EUR 3.0 billion, men: EUR 3.2 billion). In relation to total direct costs, the relative share of diabetes costs in 2015 (1.8%) and 2020 (1.7%) is comparable.

Conclusion

The direct costs of diabetes in 2020 were estimated by the Federal Statistical Office at EUR 7.4 billion [1]. With comorbidities and secondary diseases taken into account, estimates based on 2009 Statutory Health Insurance (SHI) data calculate that diabetes patients incurred at least EUR 21 billion more additional costs than people without diabetes [2, 3].

Methodology and data sources

Definition

The indicator direct costs is defined as the proportion of total health care expenditure related to diabetes care. Direct costs include the cost of outpatient and inpatient treatment, rehabilitation and medication.

Reference population

Resident population in Germany, all ages.

Data source

Calculations of illness-related costs made by the Federal Statistical Office, which uses the total costs of health care to allocate the individual costs to particular sectors and then using medical diagnoses (top-down approach) for 2015 and 2020.

Data quality

The Federal Statistical Office's calculation of medical expenses provides information on medical expenses in Germany. Different data collections, for example with regard to claims and billing modalities, lead to variation between data sources in terms of the number and quality of diagnoses.

Data download

Robert Koch Institute. (2024). Results of the National Diabetes Surveillance 2015 – 2024 [Data set]. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14935276> (in German)

References

1. Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis). Qualitätsbericht – Krankheitskostenrechnung 2020. 2022 [cited 07.02.2025]. Available from: https://www.destatis.de/DE/Methoden/Qualitaet/Qualitaetsberichte/Gesundheit/krankheitskostenrechnung.pdf?__blob=publicationFile.
2. Jacobs E, Hoyer A, Brinks R, Icks A, Kuss O, Rathmann W. Healthcare costs of Type 2 diabetes in Germany. *Diabet Med*. 2017;34(6):855-61. Epub 2017/02/16. doi: 10.1111/dme.13336.
3. Köster I, Schubert I, Huppertz E. Fortschreibung der KoDiM-Studie: Kosten des Diabetes mellitus 2000–2009. *Dtsch Med Wochenschr*. 2012;137(19):1013-6. doi: 10.1055/s-0032-1304891.

External links

- ▶ Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis). Krankheitskosten für Diabetes mellitus für das Jahr 2015 und 2020. 2023 [cited 13.04.2023]. Available from: <https://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis/online?sequenz=tabelleErgebnis&selectionname=23631-0003&sachmerkmal=ICD10Y&sachschlüssel=ICD10-E10-E14&transponieren=true>.

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