

Policy Action is Needed to Improve the State of Kidney Care



THERE IS NO CURE FOR KIDNEY DISEASE AND MOST PATIENTS LIVING WITH KIDNEY DISEASE FACE BARRIERS TO PRECISE DIAGNOSIS, SPECIALIZED CARE, AND EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS.

Chronic Kidney Disease vs. Rare Kidney Disease

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) and rare kidney disease (RKD) are two types of kidney disease affecting millions of patients that can lead to progressive, irreversible damage and the need for dialysis and/or kidney transplant.

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

If left untreated, patients with CKD experience gradual damage to their kidneys leading to loss of kidney function that may cause them to lose their ability to filter waste and fluid in their blood. About 5% of CKD patients progress to end-stage kidney disease (ESKD).¹

Rare Kidney Disease (RKD)

RKDs have low patient incidence and often have unidentified causes. RKDs are defined by a persistent and aggressive decline of the kidneys that lead to the need for complex medical care. Up to 50% of patients with RKD will progress to ESKD.²

The Patient Impact & Economic Cost of Kidney Disease

Top 10

leading causes of death in the U.S. include kidney disease.³

1 in 7

U.S. adults live with chronic kidney disease.⁴

150

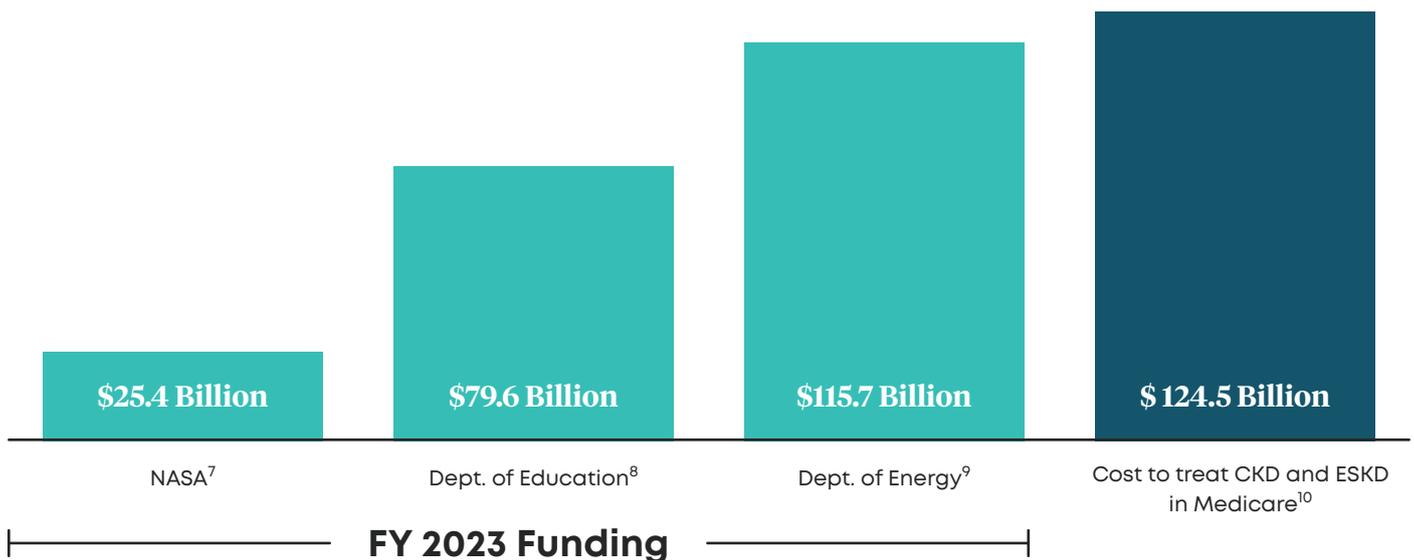
different rare kidney diseases.⁵

9 of 10

adults with CKD are unaware of their condition.⁶

5x

The cost to treat CKD and ESKD in Medicare is 5x greater than the entire FY 2023 budget for NASA.



Treatment & Care Challenges Impact Kidney Disease Patients



Diagnosis

Gaps in early, affordable detection programs for chronic and rare kidney disease lead to higher health care costs and worse health outcomes.



Treatment

The lack of FDA-approved and cost-effective therapies for RKD leaves patients without options to treat their disease. Over 90% of rare diseases have no cure.¹¹



Specialized Care

Patients with kidney disease face barriers to access specialized care, which negatively impacts their health, treatment costs, and quality of life.

Policy Opportunities to Address Barriers to Kidney Care

Policymakers have the power to make a positive impact on the lives of rare kidney disease patients and strengthen our health care system.



Early Diagnosis

Increase access to nephrologists, specialty care, and telehealth services to secure early and precise diagnosis and shift the paradigm away from ESKD.



Treatment Access

Eliminate harmful insurance barriers and invest in kidney disease research to expand patient access to innovative treatments.



Education & Awareness

Educate kidney disease patients and their providers about disease risk and options for care to address inequities for vulnerable communities.

Sources

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