



## Message from EDC President: Applauding Groundbreaking Report on the Economic Impact of Eating Disorders in the United States

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 26, 2020) — The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) applauds the publication of the first report in the United States analyzing the social and economic costs of eating disorders by coalition members the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED) at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Boston Children's Hospital, and the Academy for Eating Disorders (AED), in partnership with Deloitte Access Economics. The report, entitled "Social and Economic Cost of Eating Disorders in the United States of America," represents the most comprehensive analysis to date of the impact of eating disorders on individuals, families, loved ones, and society as a whole. The full report can be read [here](#).

This report, which is the product of a year of research and collaboration between the above entities, was presented on Wednesday, June 24 during the International Conference on Eating Disorders. A recording of the press conference can be viewed [here](#).

According to the report, eating disorders cost the American economy \$64.7 billion every year, the majority being in the form of productivity losses to the US economy, representing a staggering \$48.6 billion per year. Using burden of disease methodology, the report calculated a further economic impact of reduced quality of life due to impaired functioning and premature death that result from eating disorders in America—a sobering \$362.5 billion each year.

Additionally, the report provides updated prevalence and mortality rates, estimating that 9% of the US population, or 28.8 million Americans, will be affected by an eating disorder in their lifetime. Further, approximately 10,200 deaths per year—1 death every 52 minutes—can be directly attributed to an eating disorder in the US. These findings serve to highlight continued efforts to push for eating disorder prevention, early intervention, access, and coverage for comprehensive treatment.

The EDC joins the following eating disorders organizations in their support of this report: F.E.A.S.T.; International Association of Eating Disorder Professionals; International Federation of Eating Disorder Dietitians; Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association; National Association for Anorexia Nervosa and Related Disorders; National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders; National Eating Disorders Association; Project HEAL; Residential Eating Disorders Consortium; and The Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness.

The treatment and prevention of eating disorders must be made a public health priority in the United States in order to reduce the economic burden on Americans across the nation. This report will serve as a powerful tool in our collective mission to advocate on behalf of millions with eating disorders and all those who care for them, research for them, offer treatment for them, and love them.

Let's get to work,

Chase Bannister, MDIV, MSW, LCSW, CEDS  
President, Board of Directors  
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action

*The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is a Washington, DC-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of advocacy organizations, academics, treatment providers, family/loved ones of children with eating disorders and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States. Additional resources can also be found at [eatingdisorderscoalition.org](http://eatingdisorderscoalition.org).*

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