



## How Expensive is MS?

The National MS Society recently sponsored [research](#) to investigate the cost of MS. As anyone living with the disease can attest to, results (listed below) confirm that the disease is very expensive. Investigators divided the cost of MS into three categories: direct medical costs (medications and medical appointments), indirect medical costs (job loss or lost productivity at work) and non-medical costs like healthcare not covered by insurance, caregiving and expenses for necessary home or vehicle modifications.

### Cost to People with MS

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| The average cost of living with MS is \$88,487 per year.                               |
| Medical costs for a person with MS are \$65,612 more per year than someone without MS. |
| The largest proportion of medical cost is for medications.                             |
| The annual cost of MS disease modifying therapy ranged from \$57,202 to \$92,719.      |
| The average cost for an MS caregiver is \$4,333 per year.                              |

### Cost to the U.S. economy

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| The annual <b>economic burden</b> of MS (EB) is \$85.4 billion. |
| The EB is expected to rise to \$105.5 billion by 2039.          |
| The direct medical costs of MS are \$63.3 billion per year.     |
| The indirect medical costs of MS are \$21 billion per year.     |
| The non-medical costs of MS are \$1.1 billion per year.         |

**In response to your suggestions, our May newsletter also features an article on heat sensitivity and MS. Click [here](#) to learn more and find ways to beat the heat!**



Dealing with the costs of healthcare and MS treatments can be stressful. Take heart! There are a number of programs available to help with the [cost of MS medications](#), [finances](#), [health insurance](#), [employment](#), and [other challenges](#) that may be unique to a given individual or situation.