

Chagas Disease Costs \$7B Annually

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Chagas disease, a tropical insect-borne disease, is estimated to cost the world about \$7 billion a year, according to a study published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* and reported by NPR. The disease was labeled “the new HIV/AIDS of the Americas” [in 2012](#). Most Chagas cases occur in Latin America, but the disease is moving north. The two diseases are similar in that they are chronic conditions requiring long-term, expensive treatment and get transmitted through blood transfusions and during pregnancy.

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