

Issue Brief

Diabetes



The Issue

- More than 29 million adults and children in America have diabetes, and almost 86 million Americans have the risk factors of pre-diabetes.
- One of four Americans does not know that they have diabetes or pre-diabetes.
- Over 9 percent of Illinois residents have been diagnosed with diabetes.
- Diabetes accelerates other conditions such as heart disease, kidney disease and stroke.

Impact

- Diabetes accounts for 20 percent of health care spending, making this chronic disease a top concern for Presence Health.
- Patients with diabetes have medical costs twice as high as someone without the condition.
- Diabetes disproportionately impacts certain racial and ethnic minorities as well as poor and vulnerable populations.

Our Position

- **Presence Health leads with diabetes prevention programs.** We see an opportunity for change with the implementation of Diabetes Prevention Programs (DPPs) and coordinate several DPPs throughout the system including a propriety program called A-List. A Diabetes Prevention Program is a lifestyle change program that empowers participants to eat healthy, increase physical activity and lose weight. Presence Health is focused on hosting this program for no cost or minimal cost to participants who live in low-income areas.
- **Incentivizing healthy behaviors.** Presence Health supports the concept of taxing sugary beverages as long as those proceeds are reinvested into wellness and health-related community programming and services. Cook County passed a penny per ounce tax on sugary beverages with the proceeds going to public safety and public health. In 2017, similar legislation has been introduced at the state level dedicating the majority of funds to a Medicaid Provider Relief Fund, with a smaller amount to be dedicated to a new Illinois Wellness Fund and chronic disease programs in the state.