

Health Equity Bill of Rights **Fact Sheet**

Diabetes is pervasive.

- **Over 34 million Americans**, or 10.5 percent of the U.S. population, have diabetes. 1 in 5 don't know they have it.
- **122 million Americans**, or 37 percent of the U.S. population, live with diabetes or prediabetes.
- **1.5 million Americans** are diagnosed with diabetes every year.
- Diabetes, including prediabetes, is the **most common underlying chronic condition** in the U.S.
- Diabetes and other related chronic conditions are **nearly twice as common** among communities of color than among white Americans.

For Americans with diabetes, the cost of care is staggering and increasingly out of reach.

- Diabetes is the most expensive chronic condition in the U.S., **costing \$327 billion** annually.
- The cost of health care is nearly **two and a half times higher** for Americans with diabetes than those without.
- People with diabetes account for **\$1 of every \$4** spent on health care in the United States.
- **One in four** insulin-dependent people with diabetes ration their insulin due to financial difficulty.
- In the past decade, the **cost of insulin alone has tripled**.
- **Nearly one third** of diabetes patients report not self-monitoring blood glucose levels because test strips are too expensive.

Lack of preventative care has grave consequences for people with diabetes.

- Diabetes is the primary cause of death for more than **80,000 Americans each year**.
- **Every four minutes** in America, a limb is

amputated due to diabetes.

- **More than 60 percent** of nontraumatic lower-limb amputations occur in people with diabetes.
- Minorities experience amputation at a rate **twice as high** as non-minorities.
- **Nearly 60,000 Americans** begin treatment for kidney failure due to diabetes every year.
- Diabetes is a **major cause** of blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke, and more.

People with diabetes face social, economic, and environmental barriers that leave them at a higher risk.

- Diabetes prevalence is **inversely related** to household income level.
- Living in poverty in the two years prior to diagnosis increases the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by **nearly 25 percent**.
- **Low-income communities** in America have fewer grocery stores, more convenience stores, and less transportation access to reach supermarkets than higher income areas. Low-income census tracts have half as many supermarkets as wealthy tracts.
- **In Chicago and Detroit alone**, residents who live farther from grocery stores than from convenience stores and fast food restaurants have significantly higher rates of premature death from diabetes.
- Diabetes risk is **inversely related** to the amount of green space in a person's neighborhood.
- **One in five** chronic disease patients report having experienced discrimination in health care.
- Clinical trial participants are predominantly white – sometimes **80 to 90 percent** – despite minority populations seeing higher rates of chronic diseases that many new drugs are used to treat.