The Economic Impact of Health
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Measuring economic costs of health identifies both impact and priorities. Medical and productivity costs represent significant economic costs for people, businesses and cities.

**IMPACT ON NASHVILLE**

- Total incremental medical cost for diabetes, hypertension, depression, COPD, and asthma cost $1.2 billion.
- Economic and annual productivity costs exceed $1.5 billion for chronic conditions.
- Obesity-related productivity losses cost $158 million each year.
Comparative health metrics provide data for tracking and priority – Nashville ranks below peers for many and below national average for 8 out of 10 chronic conditions and health behaviors: Obesity, Hypertension, Depression, Asthma, COPD, Heart Attack, Physical Activity, and Smoking.
Obesity and depression affect Nashville’s younger & older workers at above national average rates – hypertension has particularly high rates for older workers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Obesity</th>
<th>Diabetes</th>
<th>Hypertension</th>
<th>Depression</th>
<th>Asthma</th>
<th>COPD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Ages</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medical costs from workforce use of inpatient, outpatient, and prescription care represent significant and increasing economic costs to employers – $1.2B in Nashville.
Employers play a special role in driving change for employees and communities. They need actionable data on the **total economic costs** for their workforce including productivity costs (presenteeism & absenteeism).

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presenteeism</strong></td>
<td>$129.8 M</td>
<td>$183.6 M</td>
<td>$70.8 M</td>
<td>$429.6 M</td>
<td>$245 M</td>
<td>$188 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Absenteeism</strong></td>
<td>$28.2 M</td>
<td>$39.3 M</td>
<td>$55.6 M</td>
<td>$205.4 M</td>
<td>$55.4 M</td>
<td>$18.5 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Annual Costs</strong></td>
<td>$158.0 M</td>
<td>$222.9 M</td>
<td>$126.4 M</td>
<td>$635.0 M</td>
<td>$300.3 M</td>
<td>$206.8 M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Nashville region is recognized for our economic vitality and quality of life. *Vital Signs* is a collaborative process led by the Chamber that allows us to identify what’s working and forecast emerging issues and challenges, while we still have time to develop regional solutions.

The collaboration between FTI, the Chamber and community stakeholders has established a unique collaborative of cross-sector participants focused on building a baseline of actionable data on the health status of the Nashville area, including the chronic conditions and behaviors that raise medical and productivity costs, along with an assessment of the assets available to address healthcare challenges.

Broad collaboration between business and health care providers can have a profound impact on population health and worker productivity. **Through our partnership with FTI, we hope to create a replicable model for other communities interested in creating solutions for a more productive, healthy workforce.**

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**Community Partners**

- BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
- Community Health Systems
- Greater Nashville Regional Council
- The HCA Foundation
- The Healing Trust
- Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Nashville Health Care Council
- Saint Thomas Health
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center

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Ralph Schulz  
President and CEO  
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce