

# The Face of Diabetes in Robeson County

What do we know about it?



# ELDER Study (2005)



## County Studies



- Diabetes affects 13.3% of our residents
- This is 4x greater than the state and 5x greater than the USA
- Lowry (1999) found 1/2 of everybody (Native Americans) in her study had diabetes
- Most of us are overweight = at risk

## County Studies



- Few residents use CAM (complementary alternative medicines) to manage diabetes
- Few residents use diabetes specialists; most use primary care doctors.

# Gender Studies

A photograph of medical supplies including a syringe, pills, and a rolled-up document. The scene is lit with a cool, blue-toned light, creating a clinical and professional atmosphere. In the foreground, a syringe with a green plunger lies on a light-colored, textured surface. Several white, round pills are scattered around it, some inside a clear plastic pill container that is tipped over. In the background, a rolled-up document or book is visible, along with a blue container.

## Female

- Diabetes mortality rate is highest among women living in eastern NC

## Male

- African American males are 2.3 times more likely to die from diabetes than European American men.

## Ethnic Studies



- Physical activity in rural Native and African American elders with diabetes is limited.
- Fifty percent (50%) of Lumbee women in a study were overweight or obese.
- Depression is twice as common among local residents with diabetes.

## Dr. R. A. Bell says



- About nine percent of Lumbee Indians over 18 years of age in Robeson County have been diagnosed with diabetes, compared to a statewide diabetes rate of about five percent, according to Ronny Bell, Ph.D., M.S., of Wake Forest University School of Medicine.
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- "This higher rate of diabetes among the Lumbee validates what many people in this area believe -- that diabetes is a major concern for Lumbees," Bell said. "We also know that in the general population, about one-third of people who actually have diabetes have not been diagnosed, so this rate actually misses quite a few people."

# Summary

