The Face of Diabetes in Robeson County

What do we know about it?
ELDER Study (2005)
Diabetes affects 13.3% of our residents.

This is 4x greater than the state and 5x greater than the USA.

Lowry (1999) found ½ of everybody (Native Americans) in her study had diabetes.

Most of us are overweight = at risk.
• Few residents use CAM (complementary alternative medicines) to manage diabetes
• Few residents use diabetes specialists; most use primary care doctors.
Gender Studies

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.
• 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.
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.

"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."