



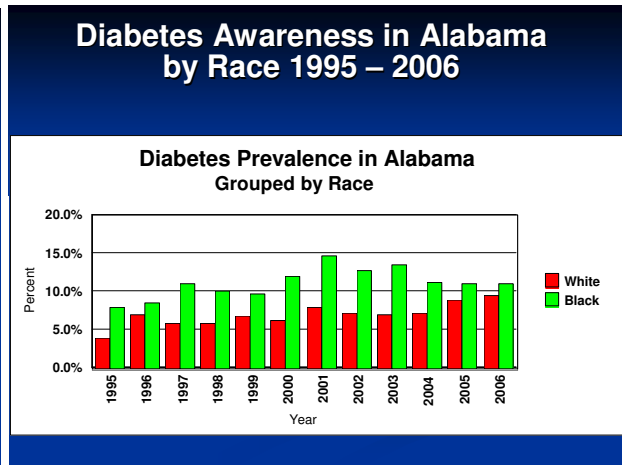
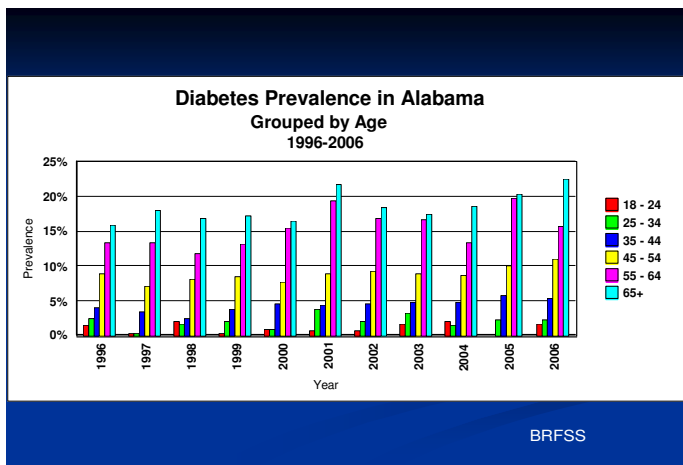
# Alabama Diabetes Program

## Alabama Department of Public Health

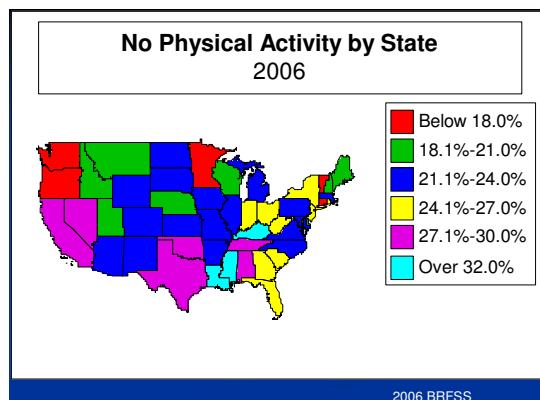
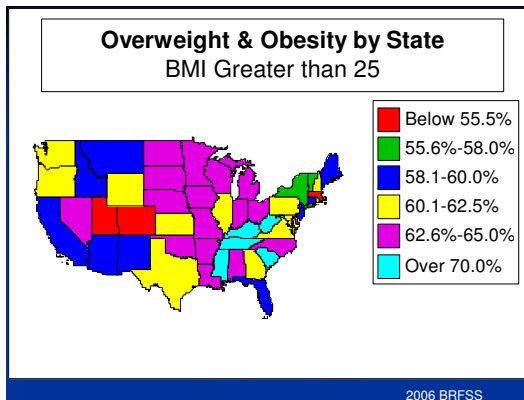
### FACT SHEET

The Diabetes Branch addresses the impact of diabetes in Alabama by developing, policies, recommendations, and programs about the disease and related issues. The program is funded through a five-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our Diabetes Advisory Council is composed of many advocates and experts representing public and private sectors.

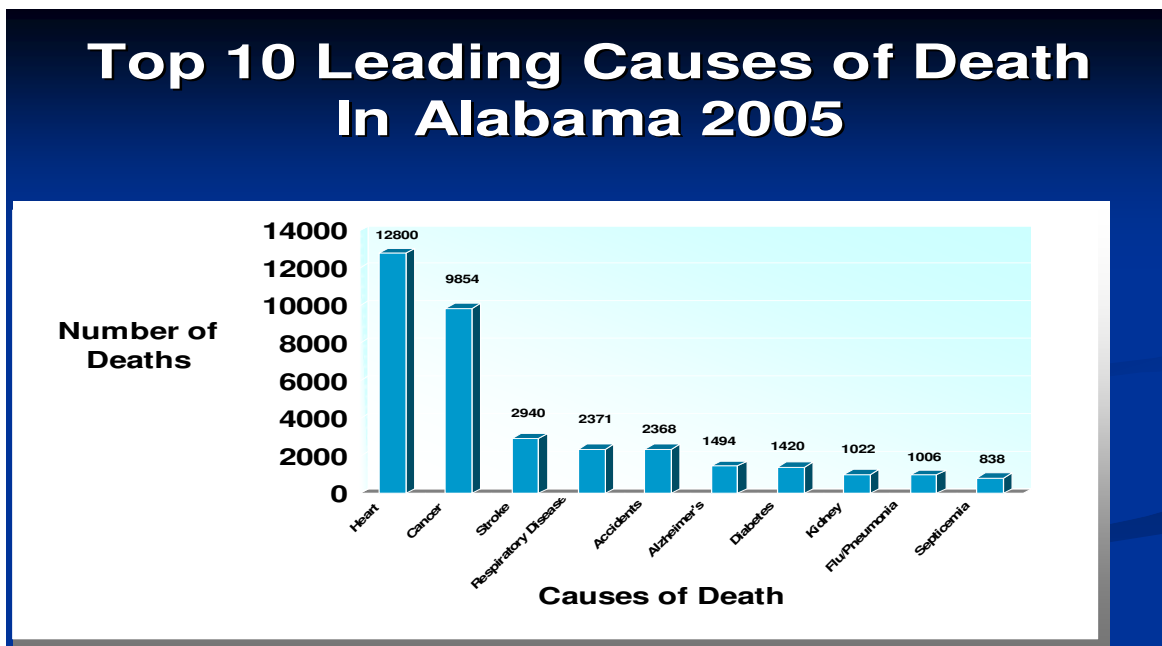
According to 2006 **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System** (BRFSS) data, more than 345,300 people in Alabama are aware they have diabetes. In addition, as many as 200,000 more may have diabetes and not know that they have it. **Almost 1 in 10 adults have been diagnosed with diabetes. Alabama is ranked fourth in prevalence of diabetes in the United States and its territories.**



Overweight and inactive individuals increase their risk of developing type two diabetes.



Diabetes is among the top ten leading causes of death and it may contribute to heart disease stroke, pneumonia and other causes of death.



**The financial burden of diabetes in the United States is more than \$132 billion per year.**

- In 2002, the per capita costs of health care for people with diabetes were \$13,243 compared to \$2,560 for people without diabetes.
- In Alabama, the annual economic cost of diabetes is estimated to be over \$1.7 billion.

The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, US Department of Health and Human Services' national **Healthy People 2010** goal for Alabama includes:

- Reducing Alabama's diabetes death rate to 14.5 percent per 100,000 persons; and
- Increasing to 75 percent or more the percentage of adults aged 18 and older with diabetes who have had a dilated eye exam within the past year.

The Diabetes Branch promotes systems change to create and encourage healthy communities. Our focus has been placed on the following areas:

- Reducing the incidence and complications of diabetes and obesity
- Reducing health disparities in racial and ethnic populations impacted by diabetes and obesity
- Identifying and implementing the best prevention practices
- Improving public awareness and patient understanding of diabetes and its control
- Promoting educational opportunities to provide better self-management of diabetes
- Improving access to diabetes information
- Improving health care providers' understanding of diabetes and the control and adoption of best practices
- Advocating for policies that promote the prevention of diabetes and improve the quality and access to diabetes care

## Activities

### Communications

- Using our Speakers Bureau, radio, media announcements, newsletters, Web site as resources
- Including the state diabetes resource directory and burden report on the Web at ([www.adph.org/diabetes](http://www.adph.org/diabetes))
- Offering health literacy information to health providers

### Schools

- Supporting healthy snacks and physical activity initiatives
- Providing educational materials and technical assistance during collaboration meetings

### Community

- Emphasizing diabetes health promotion, prevention, and protection activities
- Utilizing the American Diabetes Association's *Project Power* to engage faith-based organizations in diabetes prevention activities
- Encouraging the establishment of *Diabetes Today* coalition building activities in communities throughout the state
- Supporting a network for community involvement in rural areas such as the Black Belt region of the State of Alabama
- Encouraging partners to promote worksite wellness, smoking cessation, nutrition and physical activity initiatives
- Partnering with Cooperative Extension Systems, parks and recreation, and faith-based organizations to build healthy communities
- Identifying community resources

"Take Charge of Your Diabetes," "Small Steps, Big Rewards," "Diabetes and Pneumonia Get the Facts," "If You Have Diabetes A Flu Shot Could Save Your Life," and "Be Smart About Your Heart, Control the ABC's of Diabetes," "New Beginnings," "Movimiento Por Su Vida," "Move It! And Reduce Your Risk of Diabetes School Kit," "Helping the Student with Diabetes Succeed: A Guide for School Personnel," "Tips for Children with Type 2 Diabetes Series," "Working Together to Manage Diabetes: A Guide for Pharmacists, Podiatrists, Optometrists, and Dental Professionals, 2007," "Making a Difference: The Business Community Takes on Diabetes"

### Health Care

- Training health care providers to improve patient caregiver communications
- Conducting satellite conferences for health care providers

### Evaluation

- Utilizing existing data sources, such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, to identify and measure program outcomes and assess progress toward program goals.
- Encouraging the use of local systems which allow providers to integrate assessments of HBA1c testing, foot exams, influenza and pneumonia vaccinations

## Partnerships

- Continuing to add to the existing list of over 200 partners, and provide training and opportunities for networking

Today Type II diabetes is affecting Alabama’s youth. Diet and physical activity are important factors in order to reduce prevalence of the diabetes.

**In Alabama**

- Nearly 80 percent of Alabama adults reported not eating enough fruits and vegetables.
- Approximately 15 percent of Alabama teens reported that they ate the recommended 5 or more servings per day of fruits and/or vegetables. These proportions were substantially below the national averages.

BRFSS 2005  
YRBS (grades 9 through 12)

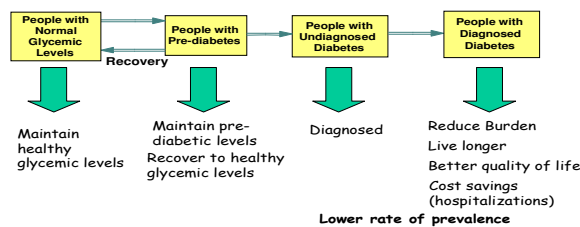
Only 45 percent of Alabama students participate in daily physical education classes, compared to 33 percent nationally. Many teens are categorized as overweight.

Gender group	U.S.	Alabama
Female	10.0%	13.1%
Male	16.0%	16.5%
Total	13.1%	14.8%

\* YRBS, 2005; calculated by CDC from self-reported height and weight; Overweight = ≥ 95th percentile for age and sex.

The objectives of the Diabetes Branch are to expand partnerships and encourage partners to work together instead of working in silos. Everyone should feel ownership of community initiatives and accomplishments. Emphasis is placed on the establishment of community awareness and evidence-based programs to create viable diabetes related health prevention and promotion activities. The goal is to influence all people to make and sustain appropriate lifestyle changes. We invite all agencies, communities, organizations, policy makers, and individuals to join us in the effort to create a healthier Alabama!

### Desired Outcomes



### For more information contact:

Alabama Department of Public Health’s Diabetes Branch, Bureau of Health Promotion & Chronic Disease  
State of Alabama Department of Public Health, 201 Monroe Street, Suite 976, Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Phone: 334-206-5300 • Public Health’s website: <http://www.adph.org/diabetes>

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