The World is Fat*

Research synopses reported by Kathleen Kearns

Across North Carolina and around the world, researchers from UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health are investigating why obesity rates have ballooned, how this phenomenon affects health and what to do about it.

The School conducts research, provides public service and participates in engaged scholarship in all 100 North Carolina counties.

- 29.4% of North Carolina adults who are obese
- 0 states with adult obesity rate above 20% in 1991
- 38 states in the U.S. with adult obesity rates above 25% in 2010
- 12 million obese children in the U.S.
- 20 states with nutritional standards for school meals (N.C. is among them.)
- 8 states with obesity rates above 20% among 10- to 17-year-olds (N.C. is not among them.)
- 73% of voters who say preventing childhood obesity is an important priority for government
- 10 of 11 states with highest rates of diabetes and hypertension are in the South
- 41.1% percentage of African-Americans in North Carolina who are obese
- 56% percent of voters who think preventing childhood obesity will save taxpayers money in the long run

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