

Diabetes rates rocket in Oklahoma, South

November 15 2012, by Mike Stobbe

The nation's diabetes problem is getting worse, and health officials say the biggest changes have been in Oklahoma and a number of Southern states.

The diabetes rate in Oklahoma more than tripled over 15 years, and also boomed in Southern states like Kentucky, Georgia and Alabama.

Most cases are the kind of diabetes linked to [obesity](#). [Health officials](#) believe extra weight explains the increases in the South and Southwest. They also say the rates overall are up because people with diabetes are living longer.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) issued the state report Thursday.

The diabetes rate more than doubled in several Northern states, too, including Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Maine.

More information: CDC report: www.cdc.gov/mmwr

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