PACIFIC SCIENCE FOR HEALTH LITERACY PROJECT

Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes

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Research Question

How does obesity increase a person's risk of getting type 2 diabetes?

Why is type 2 diabetes an issue for the Cook Islands?

- Pacific Islanders are the world's fattest according to International **Obesity Taskforce**
- When BMI increases, the chances of being diagnosed with noncommunicable diseases also increases
- A move away from traditional diets toward fattier western-style foods and a lack of physical activity is to blame
- In New Zealand, 15% of men and 19% of women are obese. This is worse for Maori and Pacific women – 27% of Maori women and 47% of Pacific women are obese in New Zealand



What is diabetes?

- Diabetes is a disease that affects many people globally
- There are three types: gestational, and types 1 and 2 diabetes
- Type 2 is the most common and occurs when the cells cannot make use of the insulin the body is making



Link between obesity and type 2 diabetes



- Obesity means having too much body fat
- People who are obese have additional belly fat, which causes insulin resistance, therefore resulting in diabetes

Symptoms:

Frequent urination, excessive thirst, weakness, drowsiness, blurred vision

Impact:

- Damage to small (micro) blood vessels lead to vision problems, nerve damage and kidney disease
- Damage to large (macro) blood vessels lead to heart disease, stroke and poor blood circulation

References:

- diabetes.niddk.nih.gov/dm//pubs/causes
- www.AnimatedDiabetesPatient.com
- www.wpro.who.int.mediacentre/factsheets/ obesity/en/
- www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/ 1578329/Spam-at-heart-of=south=Pacificobesity-crisis.html
- news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia=pacific/1681297 .stm
- www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/7/10-010710/en/
- www.who.int/features/2013/ncds pacific/en/



Conclusion

Obesity increases a person's risk of developing type 2 diabetes. This is an issue for my community because obesity rates are increasing rapidly due to eating excessive amounts of imported foods and insufficient physical activity.

Diabetes is preventable by:

- going for regular check ups at a medical centre
- eating healthy foods
- being physically active by exercising daily.







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