Why Worry? Obesity prevalence.

Projected Obesity: No decay factor
Projected Obesity: With decay factor

Direct health care cost projections

Projected Costs (Billions of 1998 dollars)

Overall cost estimates

- Economic impact of chronic disease
  - $1.1 trillion
- Reducing obesity prevalence could save
  - $60 billion reduction in treatment costs
  - $254 billion in productivity gains
Maryland on the back of an envelope…

- The arithmetic:
  - Population Maryland = approximately 5.6 million
  - Population USA = approximately 300 million
  - $5.6/300 = 0.0187 or 1.9%
  - 1.87 percent of $130 billion = $2.4 billion
- Direct medical costs only…
- Maryland’s structural deficit = $1.7 billion

Why Worry II

- Human Costs
  - Diabetes II
    - Often combined with poverty
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Cancer
- Early onset of puberty
- Other serious health problems

East Harlem

- Estimates of 16 to 20 percent with Type 2 diabetes (as many as 1 in 5)
- Combined with poverty and other social disadvantages
  - Limb amputations and blindness
- Importance of access to adequate medical care

Access to medical care

- Sloan Kettering and Johns Hopkins
- Simultaneously, the uninsured are growing in number
  - Zero access
  - Death because of preventable dental infection right here in Baltimore in 2007 because of the barrier imposed by cost
Actions so far…

The Challenges

- State versus state arbitrage
- Examples:
  - Snack tax and politics
  - Lobbying

UB Childhood Obesity Report Card 2006

UB Obesity Report Card 2006