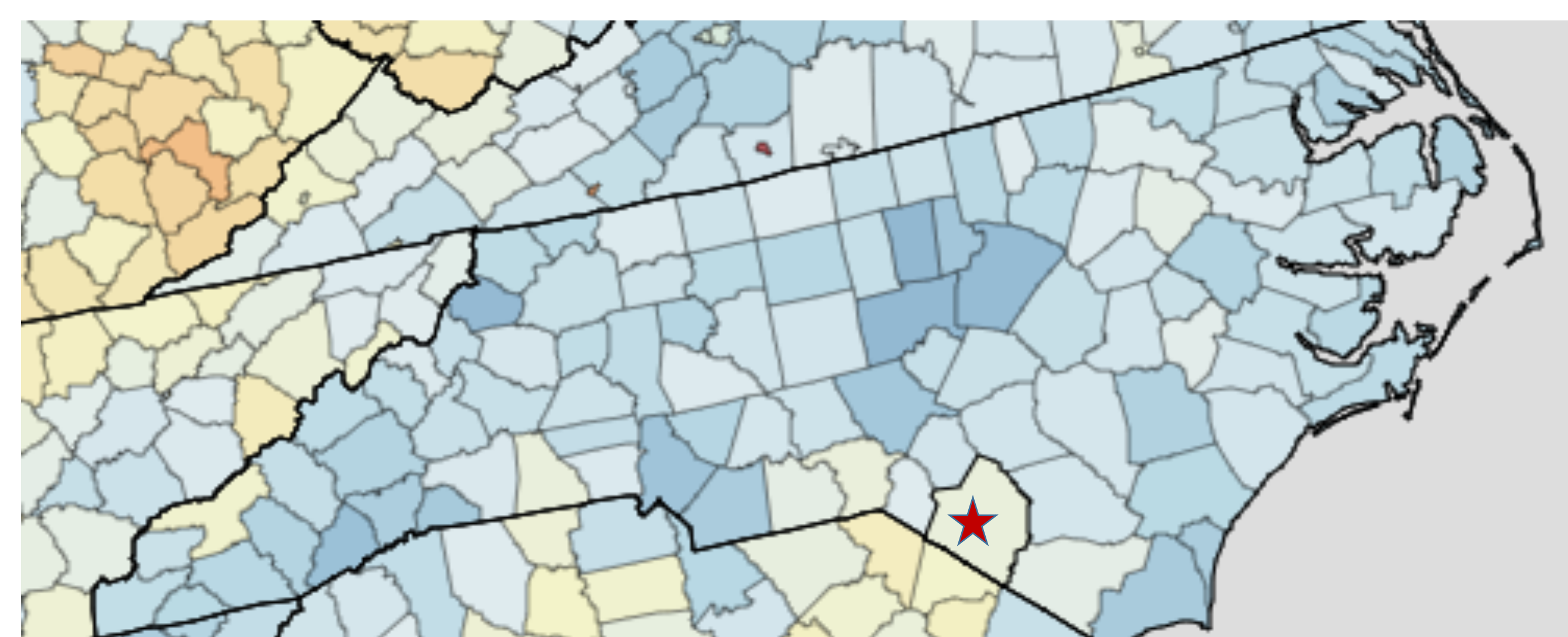


“Global is Local”: How Rural North Carolina can Benefit from Global Health Policy

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STUDY OVERVIEW



Robeson County, North Carolina		
Robeson County	North Carolina	United States of America
1087.2	828.77	786.35
Deaths per 100,000 population	Deaths per 100,000 population	Deaths per 100,000 population

★ - Robeson County

Mortality rate by county, US Health Map | IHME

Globally, **5 billion people lack access to safe, affordable surgical care**. In low-income settings, like Robeson County, 9 in every 10 people do not have access to basic surgical care. In Robeson, **over 27% of the population live at or under the poverty line, and almost 20% of the population live without health insurance**. As a result, the people of Robeson County face barriers to accessing basic surgical care they need. Oftentimes, members of the community travel hundreds of miles to reach quality surgical care. **These challenges of access to surgical care have led to adverse surgical outcomes amongst the general population, ultimately putting a strain on the county’s entire health system.**

Our team’s objective is to **define the burden of surgical disease and assess the perceived barriers to surgical care**. We will also carefully examine the **adverse surgical outcomes disproportionately affecting minority and marginalized communities.**

STUDY AIM & METHODS

Through a **community-engaged approach, and qualitative interviews guided by the “three delays model”**, we aim to uncover how historical and social contexts may contribute to delays and barriers to surgical care, as well as adverse surgical outcomes.

Interviews are conducted with healthcare providers, their patients, and community leaders, including members of the Lumbee tribe. An interview guide was created to direct the conversation and ensure that topics of importance are addressed. The interviews inquire about general health access as well as barriers to pre-operative care, inpatient care, and post-operative follow up.

Example Interview Questions:

- *What cultural practices are present that may prevent someone from seeking, reaching, or receiving surgical care?*
- *How does Robeson County’s colonial and racial history affect its current health/surgical outcomes?*

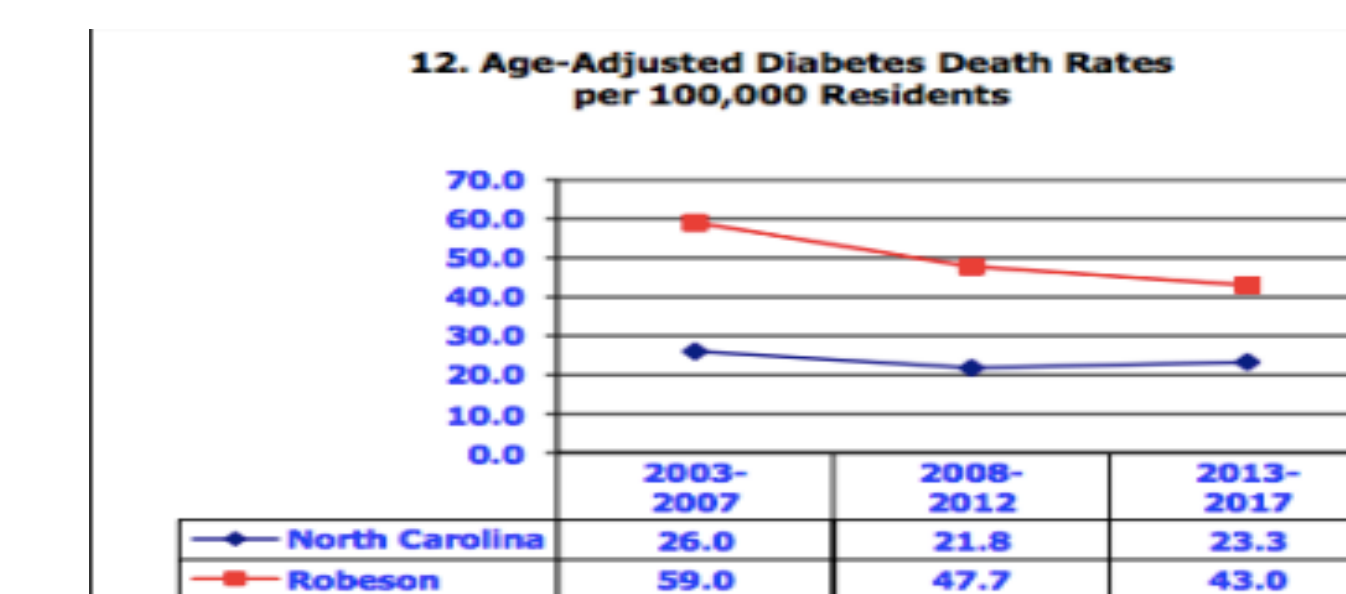
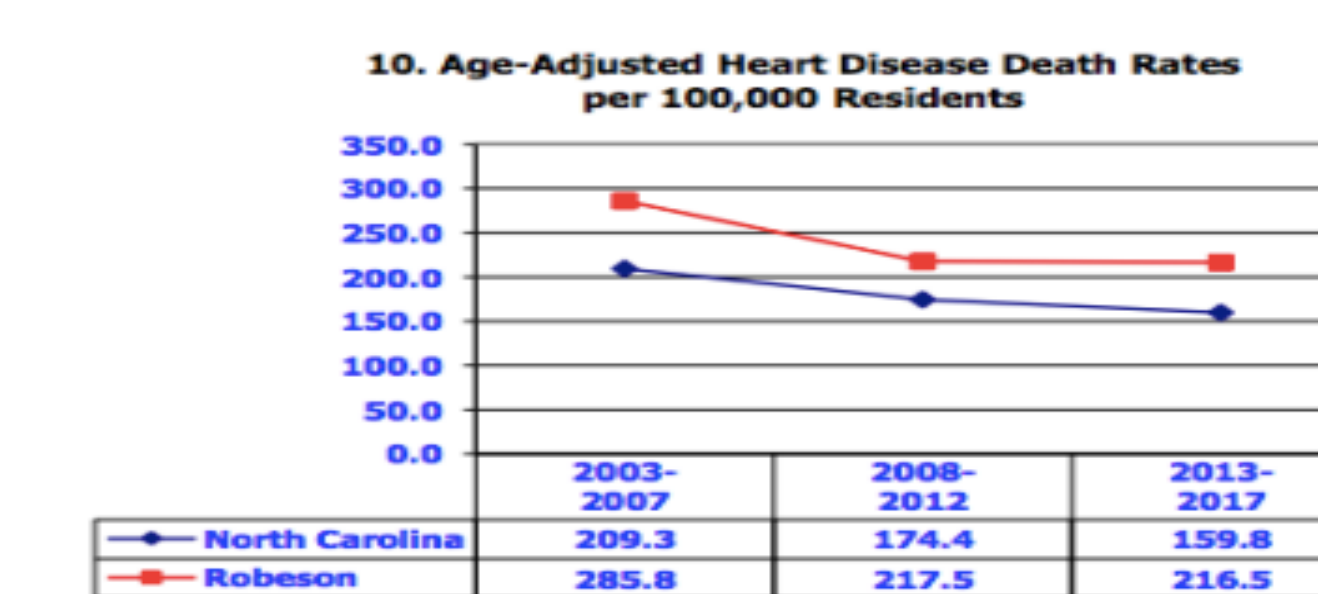


Southeastern Health Mall in Lumberton, NC

CONCLUSIONS & IMPACT

To date, we have **interviewed a total of 10 individuals who live and/or work in Robeson County**. Though the sample size is small, we were able to extract valuable data to make the following preliminary conclusions:

1. *Heart disease, diabetes, and cancer are identified, by providers, as common diseases that concern patients.*
2. *Lack of health insurance/affordable health care and transportation challenges are the most common barriers to accessing care, identified by patients thus far.*
3. *Care in Robeson County could be improved with increased private-public partnerships, as explained by community leaders.*



County Report Robeson County, healthdata.org

At the conclusion of this study, **we aim to facilitate two separate focus group discussions with providers and policy makers of Robeson County**. With providers, we will develop a perioperative nursing care guide for patients. With policy makers, we will determine key opportunities and partner with local stakeholders to improve existing surgical services.

The intended long term goal and impact of this study is to decrease disparity within surgical outcomes in Robeson, that are comparable to high-income settings in North Carolina and across the country.