



Take the first step today.

If you're overweight, you may be at high risk for diabetes. Talk to your health care team today.

**Call 1-800-438-5383 and get your free  
*GAME PLAN to Prevent Type 2 Diabetes* or visit  
[www.ndep.nih.gov](http://www.ndep.nih.gov)**

**Reference:**

Adapted from: National Institutes of Health. *More Than 50 Ways to Prevent Diabetes*. NIH publication. 06-5487. August 2006.

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# **More Than 50 Ways to Reduce the Risk of Developing Diabetes**

for African American  
Patients

**Diabetes**  


## African Americans are at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes ...

... and being overweight increases that risk. But there is good news: losing a small amount of weight by being physically active for 30 minutes, 5 days a week and following a low-fat, reduced-calories meal plan will help you reduce the risk of developing diabetes. To get started, use this guide for ideas on moving more, making healthy food choices, and tracking your progress.

### Reduce Portion Sizes

#### 1. Less on Your Plate, Nate.

2. Keep meat, poultry, and fish portions to about 3 ounces (about the size of a deck of cards).
3. Try not to snack while cooking or cleaning the kitchen.
4. Try to eat meals and snacks at regular times every day.



#### 5. Make sure you eat breakfast every day.

6. Use broth and cured meats (smoked turkey and turkey bacon) in small amounts. They are high in sodium. Low-sodium broths are available in cans and in powdered form.

#### 7. Share a single dessert.

8. When eating out, have a big vegetable salad, then split an entrée with a friend or have the other half wrapped to go.

9. Stir-fry, broil, or bake with nonstick spray or low-sodium broth and cook with less oil and butter.

10. Drink a glass of water 10 minutes before your meal to take the edge off your hunger.

11. Make healthy choices at fast-food restaurants. Try grilled chicken (remove skin) instead of a cheeseburger. Skip the french fries and choose a salad.

12. Listen to music while you eat instead of watching TV (people tend to eat more while watching TV).

13. Eat slowly. It takes 20 minutes for your stomach to send a signal to your brain that you're full.

14. Eat a small meal, Lucille.

15. Teaspoons, salad forks, or child-size utensils may help you take smaller bites and eat less.

16. You don't have to cut out the foods you love to eat. Just cut down on your portion size and eat it less often.

17. Make less food look like more by serving your meal on a salad or breakfast plate.



## Move More Each Day

### 18. Dance It Away, Faye.

19. Show your kids the dances you used to do when you were their age.
20. Turn up the music and **jam** while doing household chores.
21. Deliver a message in person to a coworker instead of e-mailing.
22. Take the stairs to your office. Or take the stairs as far as you can and then take the elevator the rest of the way.
23. Make fewer phone calls. Catch up with friends on a regular basis during a planned **walk**.
24. March in place while you watch TV.
25. Park as far away as possible from your favorite store at the mall.
26. Select a physical-activity video from the store or library.
27. Get off the bus 1 stop early and walk the rest of the way home or to work several times a week.



## Make Healthy Food Choices

### 28. Snack on a Veggie, Reggie.

29. Try getting 1 new fruit or **vegetable** every time you grocery shop.
30. Low-fat macaroni and cheese can be a main dish. Serve it with your favorite vegetable and a salad.
31. Try eating foods from other countries. Many dishes contain more vegetables, **whole grains**, and beans and less meat.
32. Cook with a mix of spices instead of salt.
33. Find a **water** bottle you really like (from a church or club event, favorite sports team, etc) and drink water from it wherever and whenever you can.
34. Always keep a healthy snack with you, such as fresh fruit, a handful of nuts, or whole-grain crackers.
35. Choose veggie toppings like spinach, broccoli, and peppers for your pizza.
36. Try different recipes for baking or broiling meat, chicken, and fish.



37. Try to choose foods with little or no added sugar.

38. Gradually work your way down from whole milk to 2% milk until you're drinking and cooking with **fat-free** (skim) or low-fat milk and milk products.

39. Eat foods made from whole grains—whole wheat, brown rice, oats, and whole-grain corn—every day. Use whole-grain bread for toast and sandwiches; substitute brown rice for white rice for home-cooked meals and when dining out.

40. Don't grocery shop on an empty stomach. Make a list before you go to the store.

41. Read food labels. Choose foods low in saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, salt (sodium), and added sugars.

42. **Fruits** are colorful and make a welcome centerpiece for any table. Enjoy the company of family and friends while sharing a bowl of fruit.

43. Slow down at snack time. Eating a bag of low-fat **popcorn** takes longer than eating a slice of cake. Peel and eat an orange instead of drinking orange juice.

44. Try keeping a written record of what you eat for a week. It can help you see when you tend to overeat or eat foods high in fat or calories.



## Nurture Your Mind, Body, and Soul

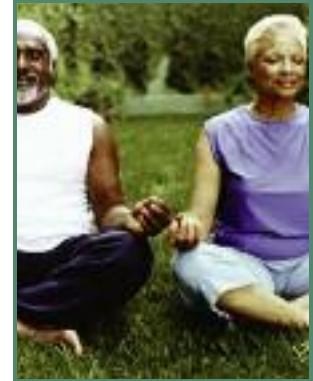
45. **You Can Exhale, Gail.**

46. Don't try to change your entire way of eating and increasing your physical activity all at once. Try 1 new **activity** or food a week.

47. Find mellow ways to **relax**—try deep breathing, take an easy-paced walk, or enjoy your favorite easy-listening music.

48. Give yourself daily “pampering time.” Honor this time, whether it's **reading** a book, taking a long bath, or meditating.

49. Try not to eat out of boredom or frustration. If you are not hungry, do something else, such as taking a long walk.



## Be Creative

50. Honor your health as your most precious gift.

51. **Make up your own, Tyrone or Simone.**

52. \_\_\_\_\_

53. \_\_\_\_\_

There are many more ways to reduce the risk of developing diabetes by making healthy food choices and moving more. Discover your own and share them with your family, friends, and neighbors.