GENOME: Genomics EducatioN in Our hoMEs and Communities

SPOTLIGHT ON RESULTS

- **89% of participants had at least one family members who has died of heart disease, diabetes, or cancer**
- **91% of participants believed diseases like heart disease, diabetes and cancer run in families**
- **79% believe that lifestyle choices can mediate disease risk**

Overview:

The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) wants to understand what rural Americans know about their health and how it is influenced by genetics and their environment. NHGRI provided the West Virginia Prevention Research Center funds to partner with rural communities on this issue.

Main Purpose:

1. Uncover rural West Virginian's ideas about genetics and genomics
2. Understand rural attitudes and perceptions about adopting healthy lifestyles
3. Obtain guidance form communities' on effective genomic education programs for rural areas

What we did:

We held community forums in three rural WV communities and spoke about genetics, genomics and family health history. At the end of each of these forums, we asked participants to fill out a survey. We have posted some results of that survey on the left hand side of this page and on the back.

West Virginia Prevention Research Center
Making a Difference in Appalachia

GENETICS: the way that certain traits or conditions are passed down from one generation to another.

GENOMICS: this is a newer term—it describes the study of all of a person's genes.

Why are genetics and genomics important to my health?

- Genetics and genomics both play roles in health and disease.
- Genetics helps individuals and families learn about how conditions are inherited in families.
- It is helping researchers discover why some people get sick from certain infections and others do not.

Why are genetics and genomics important to my family's health?

- Health is influenced by family history and shared environmental factors. This makes family history an important,
- Family History is a personalized tool that can help identify many of the factors that cause conditions.
- Family History can help develop individual approaches to diseases, prevention, intervention and treatment.

Questions, comments or concerns?
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The above information was received from the National Human Genome Research Institute website at http://www.genome.gov/19016904#al-1.