# U.S. Cholesterol Guidelines and Government Food Programs

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Life Science Research Office, Inc. Conference December 3, 2008, Bethesda, MD

#### Challenge: Du jour v. Consensus

- <u>Perspective</u>: Scientifically-based public policy must consider the historical research and preponderance of evidence, not just the latest "hot topic" study.
- Federal Policy making must not overreact to individual studies.
- It should follow the preponderance of scientific evidence as embodied in the most current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and Dietary Reference Intakes.
- These should be taken as the scientific foundation upon which decisions are based for our programs.



#### Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 1980-2000



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# The 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) include significant recomendations based on the DRIs



Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005

> Department of Health and Human Sendoes U.S. Department of Agriculture www.healthierus.gov/Sentarypu50Eres

#### Quantitative recommendations for certain nutrients

- total fat:
  - ages 2 3 years = 30 to 35% of calories
  - ages 4-18 years = 25 to 35 % of calories mostly from fish, nuts and
  - vegetable oils
- saturated fat: less than 10% of total calories
- <u>cholesterol: less than 300</u> mg/day
- sodium: less than 2,300 mg/day
- fiber: 14 grams per 1,000 calories



### **Major Domestic Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs**

#### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (Food Stamp Program)

FY 2007 Participation 26.5 million; Total Costs 33.2 billion

#### Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

FY 2007 Participation 8.3 million; Total Costs 5.4 billion

#### **Child Nutrition Programs:**

- National School Lunch Program
  FY 2007 Participation 30.5 million; Total Costs 8.7 billion

School Breakfast Program
 FY 2007 Participation 10.2 million; Total Costs 2.2 billion

Summer Food Service Program
 FY 2007 Participation 1.9 million; Total Costs 292 million

Child and Adult Care Food Program
 FY 2007 Participation 3.2 million; Total Costs 2.2 billion



### Other Domestic Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs

**Commodities** 

- Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (Food Banks and Soup Kitchens)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Farmer's Market Nutrition Programs

Nutrition Services Incentive Program

(formerly the nutrition program for the elderly; receives commodity foods from FNS)





#### National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Fact Sheet

- The 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend we eat less than 300 mg of cholesterol per day.
- <u>Aim</u> for less than 100 mg of cholesterol at lunch and less than 75 mg at breakfast on average over a week (note that this is <u>not</u> a requirement).
- Schools can meet these recommendations by serving lean meats, encouraging more fruits, vegetables, dry beans, and whole grains, and serving only fat-free or low-fat (1%) milk.
- Liver, other organ meats, egg yolks, and dairy fats contain higher levels of cholesterol. Plant foods such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and nuts contain no dietary cholesterol.



#### **Cholesterol Standards in School Meals**

- Quantitative goals for sodium and cholesterol content are not included in SMI nutrition standards.
- NSLP regulations (210.10(b)), however, include recommendations to reduce sodium and cholesterol levels and the requirement to monitor these nutrients.



#### **NSLP/SBP:**

#### Current Requirements for Reimbursable Meals Nutrients

- <u>Nutrients</u> in meals are averaged over a school week; weekly averages must meet regulatory standards
  - 1/3 of **1989** RDA for protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A and vitamin C at lunch; 1/4 of RDA for these nutrients at breakfast
  - Appropriate level of <u>calories</u> for age/grade groups
  - Consistent with the 1995 DGA
    - Limit the percent of calories from total fat to 30% of the actual number of calories offered
    - Limit the percent of calories from <u>saturated fat</u> to less than 10% of the actual number of calories offered
    - <u>Reduce sodium and cholesterol levels (no current quantitative standard)</u>
    - Increase the level of dietary <u>fiber</u>



# School Nutrition Dietary Assessment (SNDA) Studies

- SNDA studies measure changes in the nutritional quality of school meals for various nutrient standards, including cholesterol.
- SNDA-I (SY 1991-92)
- SNDA-II (SY 1998-99)
- SNDA-III (SY 2004-05)





### **SNDA Studies**

- To assess the levels of these dietary components, as in the previous SNDA studies, benchmarks for cholesterol were based on the National Research Council's 1989 Diet and Health study.
- NSLP < 100 mg; SBP < 75 mg</p>
- Overall, fewer than 10 percent of students had usual daily cholesterol intakes that exceeded the recommended maximum of 300 mg.
- Almost all schools met the benchmark for cholesterol at lunch (96% lunches offered and 99% lunches served were under 300 mg).
- Excessive usual daily cholesterol intakes was higher among high school students (16 to 21 percent) than among elementary and middle school students (6 to 7 percent).



#### SNDA I and SNDA III Cholesterol Trends: Lunch

Mean Cholesterol (mg) Intakes of NSLP Participants and Nonparticipants



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#### SNDA I and SNDA III Mean 24-Hour Cholesterol Intakes (mg) of NSLP Participants and Non-Participants



#### SNDA I and SNDA III Cholesterol Trends: Breakfast

Mean Cholesterol (mg) Intakes of SBP Participants and Nonparticipants



#### SNDA I and SNDA III Mean 24-Hour Cholesterol Intakes (mg) of SBP Participants and Non-Participants



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# Top Sources of Cholesterol in NSLP and SBP Meals Lunch Breakfast

- Breaded/Fried Chicken Products
- Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers
- Pizza products
- Breaded/fried beef/pork/fish
- Sandwiches with plain meat or poultry
- Unbreaded poultry/meat/fish
- 1% milk, flavored
- Hot dog/corn dog
- 2% milk, unflavored
- 1% milk, unflavored
- Dairy-based desserts
- EggsCook
- Cookies, Cakes, brownies
- Cheese

#### Eggs

- 2% milk, unflavored
- Whole Milk, unflavored
- Pancakes, waffles, French toast, breakfast sandwiches
- Mexican-Style entrees
- Cookies, cakes, brownies
- Condiments and spreads
- 1% milk, unflavored
- Sausages, hot dogs, cold cuts
- Muffins, sweet/quick breads
- Sweet rolls, doughnuts, toaster pastries



Source: School Nutrition Dietary Assessment-III, SY 2004-2005.

# **Commodity Foods**

- USDA has reduced or eliminated saturated fat and cholesterol in many commodities offered to schools.
- Shortening and butter are no longer available.
  Processors now use lean meat in place of skin and fat in processed poultry products.
- Schools can order lean meats and poultry items, partskim mozzarella cheese, and other reduced-fat cheeses through the commodity program.
- A list of available foods can be found at: www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/schcnp/



#### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps Program)

Thrifty Food Plan Cholesterol Standards



- 1981 Dietary Standard- 350 mg or less per day
- 1999 Dietary Standard- 300 mg or less/day; unrestricted for children age 1
- 2005 Dietary Standard- 300 mg or less per day



# **Healthy Eating Index (HEI)**

- HEI is a summary measure of the overall quality of people's diets and was developed by the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.
- Cholesterol Component in original HEI (1995): A score of 10 points was assigned when daily cholesterol intake was 300 milligrams (mg) or less.
- The HEI was revised in 2005 (HEI-2005) and does <u>not</u> include a cholesterol component.
  - Limiting saturated fat is considered the more important because current intake of saturated fat is more excessive than that of *trans* fat or cholesterol.
  - Separate components for total fat and cholesterol were not needed in the HEI-2005 because intakes of both are significantly correlated with saturated fat.



**Cholesterol Intake of FNS Program Participants** National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1999-2004

#### Percent of Persons Meeting Recommended Intakes of Cholesterol

(less than or equal to 300 mg/day)



Total
 Participants
 Income Eligible Non-participants
 Higher-Income Non-participants

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#### Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

- The daily average for cholesterol in 2006 for the FDPIR food package was 322 mg (2413 calories in food package)
- The daily average for cholesterol in 2008 for the FDPIR food package was 261 mg (2308 calories in food package)
- This indicates a decrease of 19% in daily average cholesterol
  - Cholesterol density dropped from 133 mg/1000 calories to 113 mg/1000 calories



# **WIC Food Package Revisions**

- The interim final rule revisions largely reflect recommendations made by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies in its report, "WIC Food Packages: Time for a Change," – certain cost containment and administrative
  - certain cost containment and administrative modifications found necessary by the Department to ensure cost neutrality.
- Maximum monthly allowance for fresh shell eggs were reduced from 2 or 21/2 to 1 dozen fresh shell eggs for children and women in Food Packages IV, V, and VI.
- The proposed maximum monthly allowance of eggs is consistent with recommendations of the IOM and the DGA to reduce cholesterol.
- The reductions in the current levels of eggs ensures that FNS was able to provide a more balanced nutrient intake for WIC participants *while maintaining cost neutrality*.



#### Institute of Medicine Contract: School Meals and CACFP

- USDA has contracted with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to make recommendations on the implementation of the 2005 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* in school meals and the CACFP program.
  - A phase I report will be released in mid-December 2008.
  - The report with recommendations for school meals is expected in December 2009 for school meals.
  - The CACFP recommendations will be released in early 2011.
- Once we receive IOM's report, FNS will follow the process to update the NSLP regulations to incorporate any changes to the nutrition standards and meal patterns.





# FNS research web site: http://www.fns.usda.gov/oane/