



# Food is Medicine Part 1: Nutrition Prescriptions and Implementation Networks



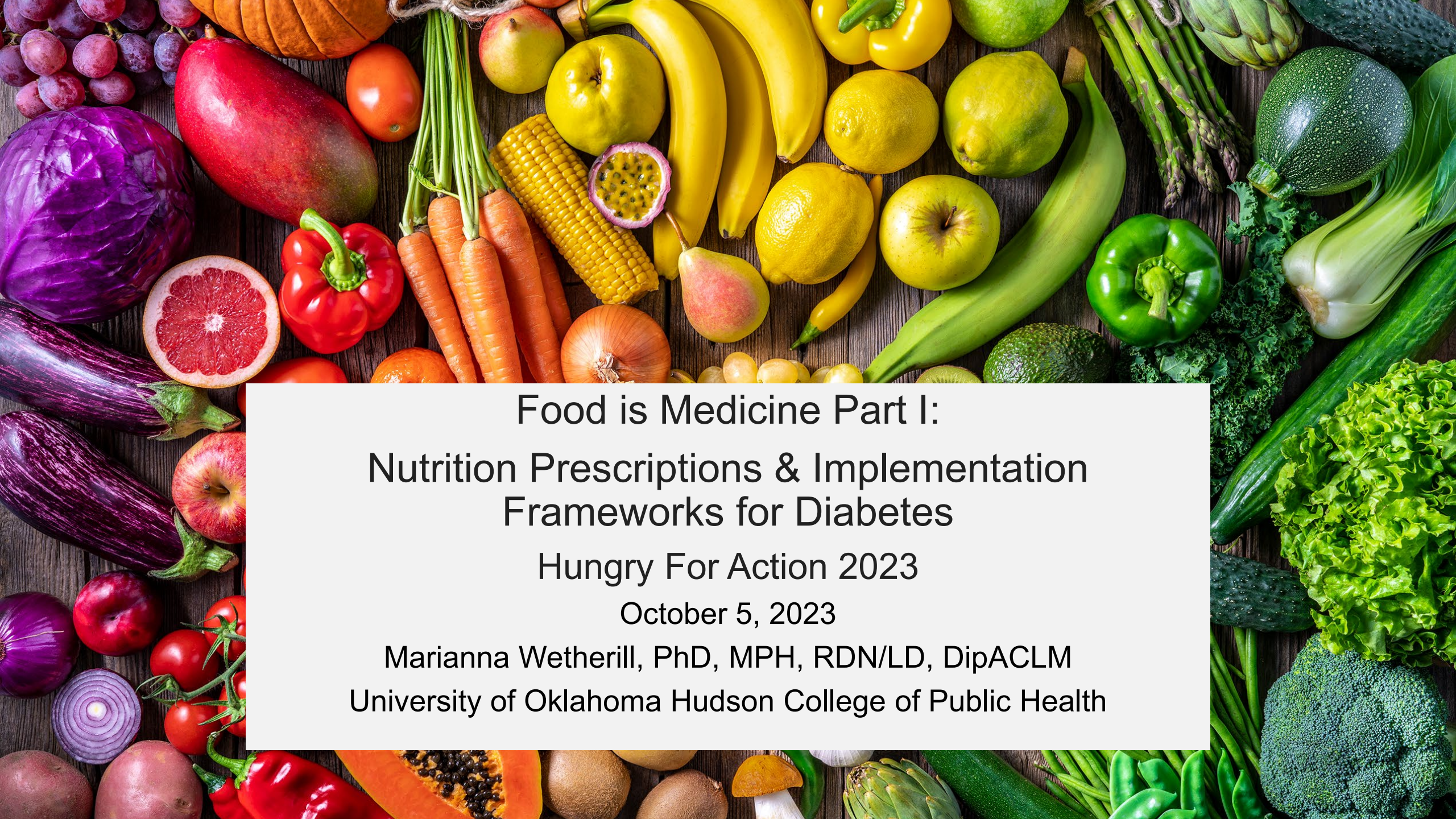
Dr. Marianna Wetherill



**HUNGRY FOR ACTION**

OKLAHOMA'S ANTI-HUNGER  
CONFERENCE 2023

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**Food is Medicine Part I:**  
**Nutrition Prescriptions & Implementation**  
**Frameworks for Diabetes**  
**Hungry For Action 2023**  
October 5, 2023  
Marianna Wetherill, PhD, MPH, RDN/LD, DipACLM  
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# Disclosures

## **Presenter Conflicts of Interest/Financial Relationships Disclosures:**

Dr. Marianna Wetherill, PhD, MPH, RDN/LD – Serves as an evaluation consultant for the Double Up Oklahoma Program and for the Sunflower Foundation Food is Medicine Initiative

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# Learning Objectives/Program Overview

- This workshop will review nutrition prescriptions for diabetes and how they can be promoted within healthcare settings through 3 different food is medicine models. Specifically, we will:
  - ✓ Define **nutrition insecurity** and describe implications for **glycemic control**.
  - ✓ Define “**Food is Medicine**” in the healthcare-community context.
  - ✓ Describe opportunities for “food is medicine” in diabetes care, including **4 example nutrition prescriptions** that reinforce healthier eating patterns for glycemic control.
  - ✓ Name 3 “food is medicine” **implementation frameworks (models)** that can be used in healthcare settings, including medically-tailored meals, medically-tailored groceries, and produce prescriptions

# Hello!

## **Marianna Wetherill, PhD, MPH, RDN/LD**

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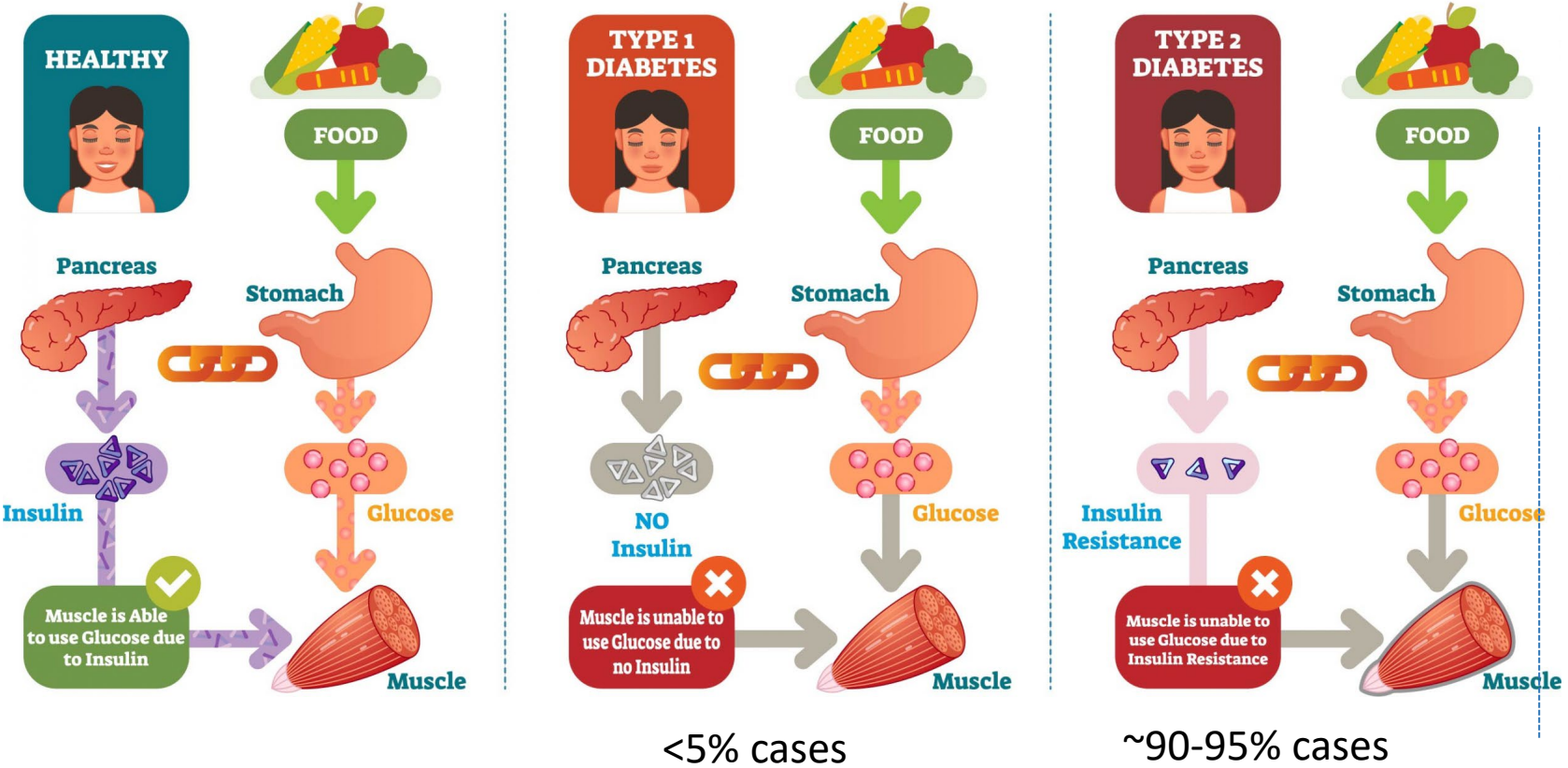
Director, Root Cause Food Equity Lab

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DIABETES  
& NUTRITION INSECURITY  
IN THE U.S.

# Types of diabetes



## Gestational Diabetes

- Affects 2-10% of all pregnant women in the US
- ~50% of women with gestational diabetes go on to develop type 2 diabetes

# How long does it take to develop Type 2 diabetes and how is it diagnosed?

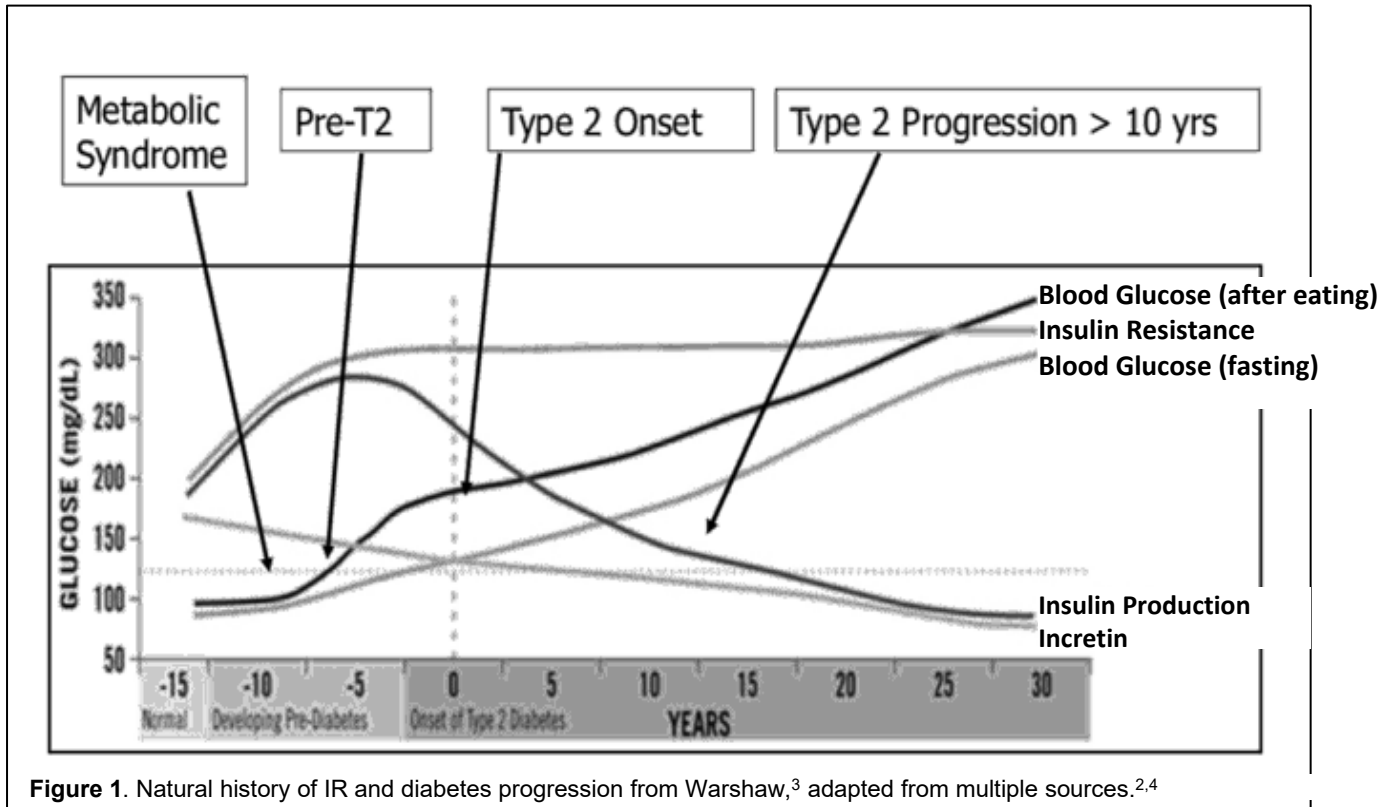
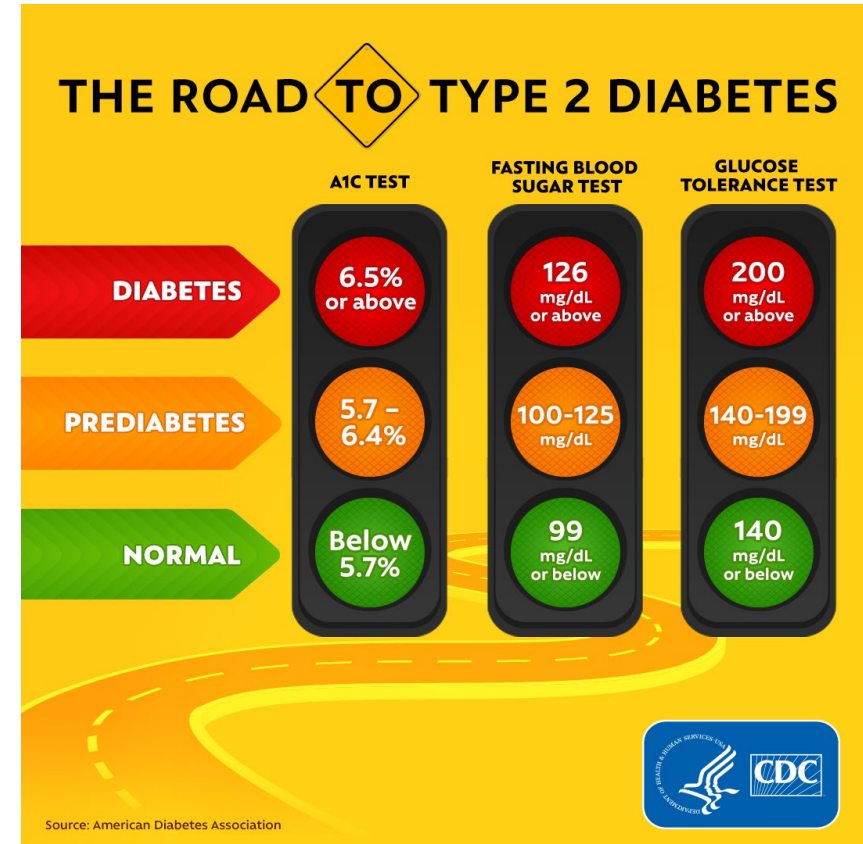
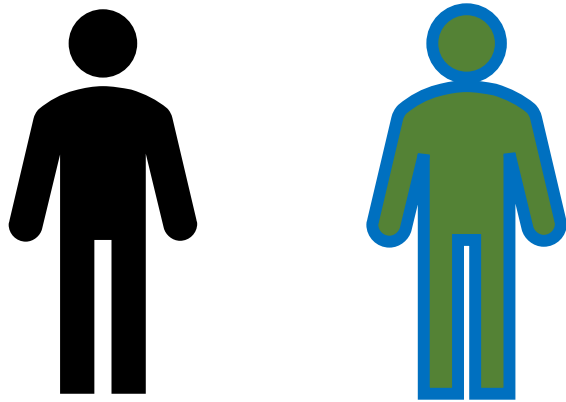


Figure 1. Natural history of IR and diabetes progression from Warshaw,<sup>3</sup> adapted from multiple sources.<sup>2,4</sup>



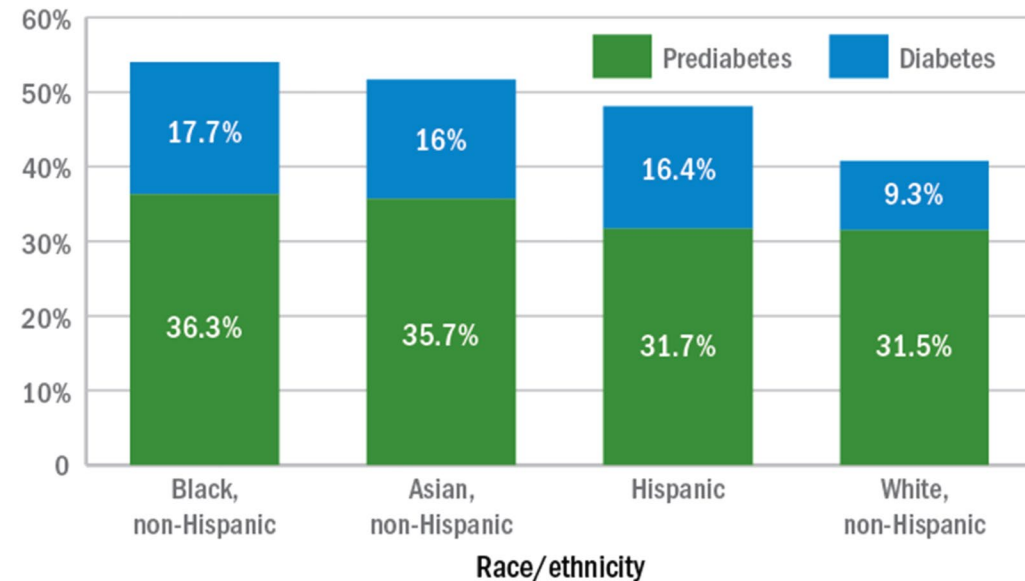


# How many adults in the US have diabetes or prediabetes?



**~ 1 in 2 US adults  
have diabetes or prediabetes**

Prevalence of prediabetes and diabetes in adults, 2011-2014



Note: Based on data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# ~~FOOD~~ NUTRITION SECURITY DEFINED

**Consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable foods that promote optimal health and well-being.**

**Nutrition security builds on food security by focusing on how the quality of our diets can help reduce diet-related diseases.**

**It also emphasizes equity and tackling long-standing health disparities.**



# Meet Betty



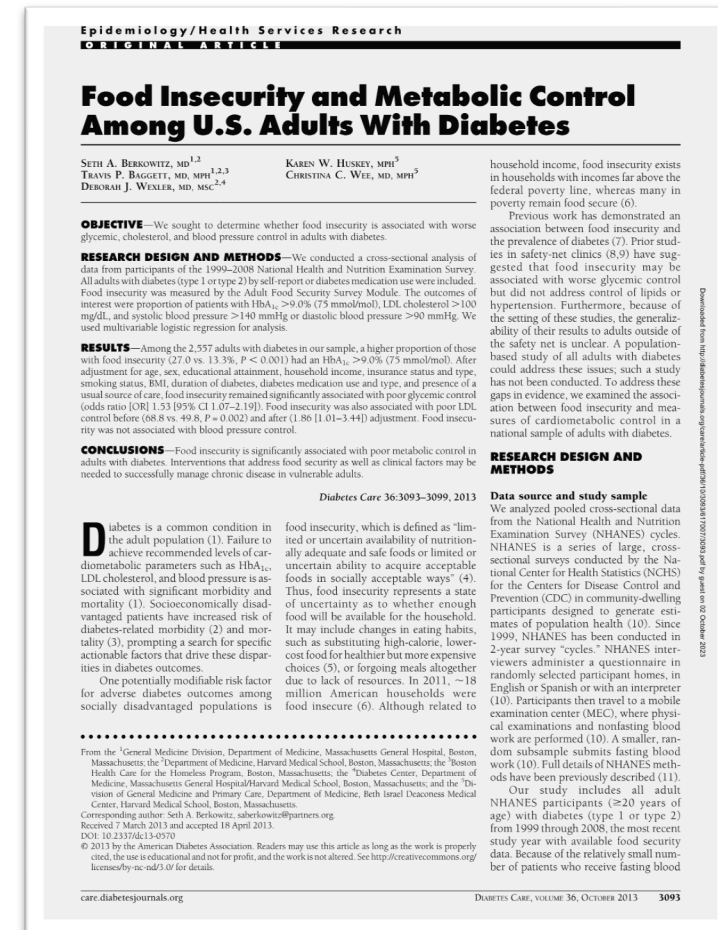
- Betty is a widow with history of diabetes with recent stroke that limits use of dominant hand
- Recently awarded guardianship of 5 grandchildren (ranging ages 3-12)
- POC Hgb A1c is 9.5% in office today
- Reports limiting insulin or oral meds to ½ dose (medication scrimping) due to lack of resources

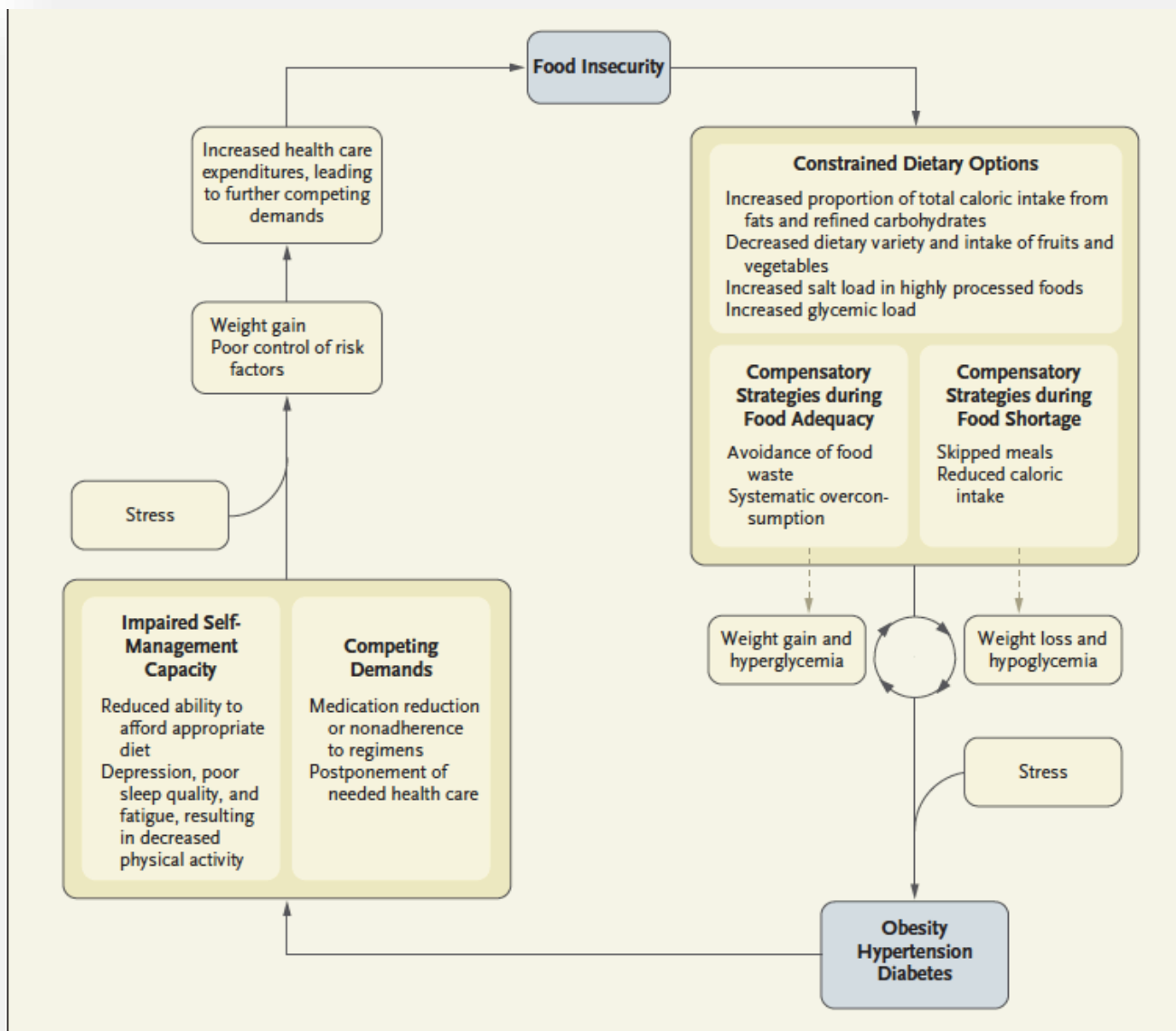
# How common is food insecurity among those with diabetes?

## Food Insecurity Prevalence

- Diabetes, overall (12%) [Other studies have found closer to 20%]
- Among those with HbA1c >9.0% (22%)
  - aOR=1.53 (1.07–2.19)
- Among those with LDL >100 mg/dL (15.4%)
  - aOR= 1.86 (1.01–3.44)
- Food insecurity more common among adults with diabetes who were:
  - 20-40 years
  - Non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic
  - Lacked insurance or publicly-insured

“Food insecurity indicates a group at high risk for poor disease control.”





The Cycle of Food Insecurity and Chronic Disease.

**Food insecurity**  
 can be both a  
*cause* and a  
*consequence* of  
**poor health.**

# How can food insecurity and obesity co-exist?



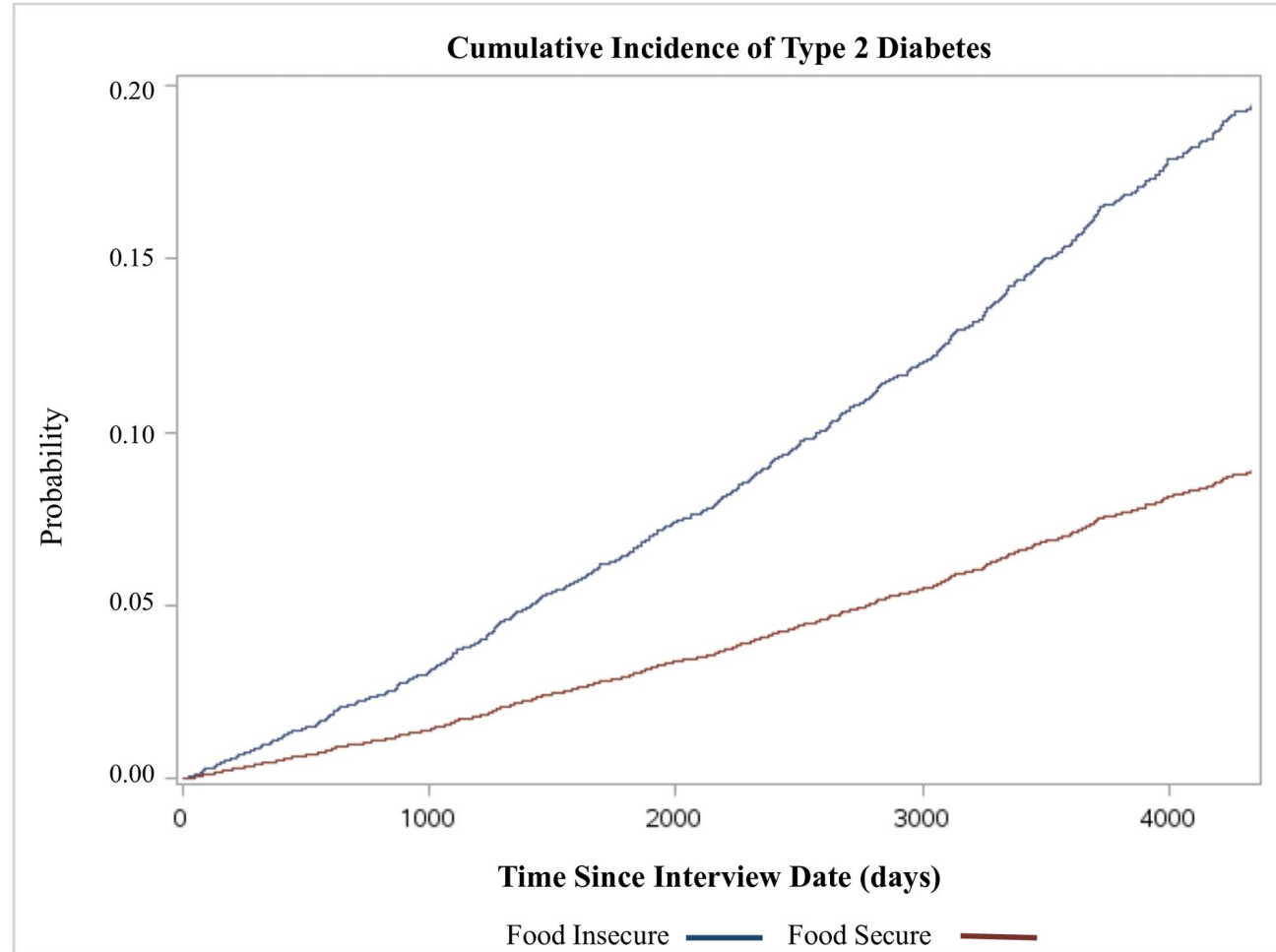
Food Research and Action Center. (2015, October). Understanding the Connections: Food Insecurity and Obesity. Retrieved November 17, 2021, from [https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/frac\\_brief\\_understanding\\_the\\_connections.pdf](https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/frac_brief_understanding_the_connections.pdf).

Ding, M., Keiley, M. K., Garza, K. B., Duffy, P. A., & Zizza, C. A. (2015). Food insecurity is associated with poor sleep outcomes among US adults. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 145(3), 615-621.

Gowda, C., Hadley, C., & Aiello, A. E. (2012). The association between food insecurity and inflammation in the US adult population. *American Journal of Public Health*, 102(8), 1579-1586.

“Canadians in food insecure households had more than **2 times the risk of developing type 2 diabetes** compared to those in food secure households.”

“Additional adjustment for **BMI** attenuated the association between food insecurity and type 2 diabetes.”



Cumulative incidence of type 2 diabetes by food security status, household population aged 18 or older, Ontario (n = 4,739), CCHS 2004 (Cycle 2.2).



# Food insecurity increases risk for poor glycemic control. Why?

## Food Insecurity Can Cause Hyperglycemia in 6 Possible Ways:

1. Higher intake of processed foods relative to unprocessed foods
2. Binge-fast cycles
3. Medication and food scrimping
4. Chronic stress (direct and indirect effects)
5. Reduced sleep quality (increases insulin resistance)
6. Lower rates of physical activity (increases insulin resistance)

## Food Insecurity Can Cause Hypoglycemia in 2 Possible Ways:

1. Skipped meals or not eating for a full day
2. Inadequate carbohydrate intake relative to medication dose, esp. sulfonylureas or insulin

Mayer, V. L., McDonough, K., Seligman, H., Mitra, N., & Long, J. A. (2016). Food insecurity, coping strategies and glucose control in low-income patients with diabetes. *Public health nutrition*, 19(6), 1103-1111.

López, A., & Seligman, H. K. (2012). Clinical management of food-insecure individuals with diabetes. *Diabetes Spectrum*, 25(1), 14-18.

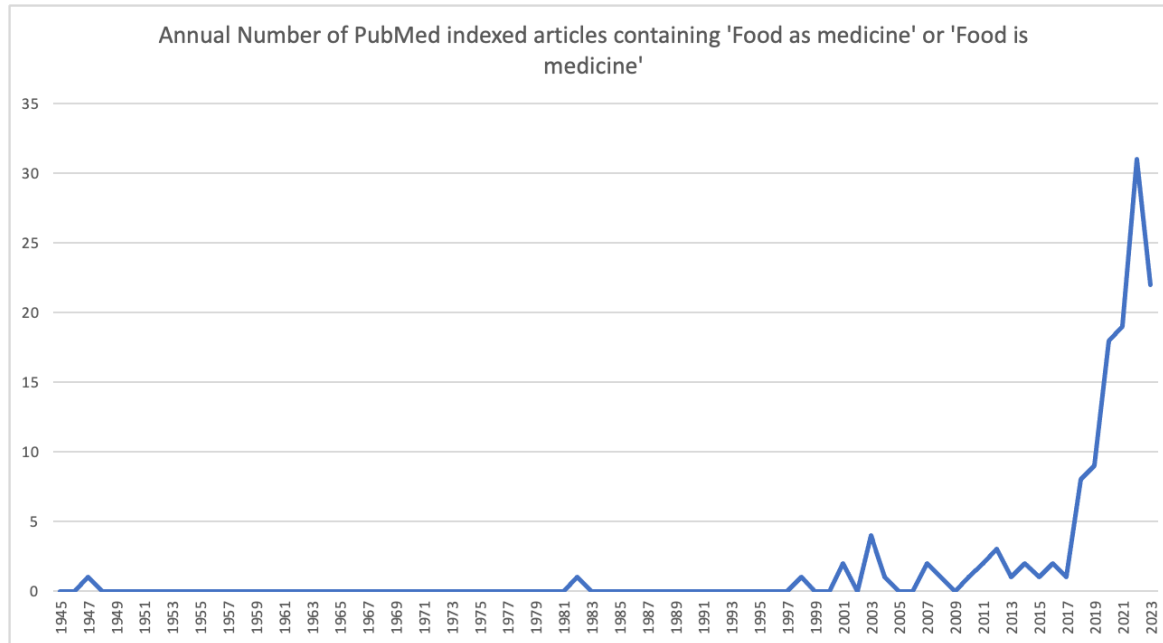
Berkowitz, S.A., X. Gao, and K.L. Tucker, Food-insecure dietary patterns are associated with poor longitudinal glycemic control in diabetes: results from the Boston Puerto Rican Health study. *Diabetes Care*, 2014. 37(9): p. 2587-92.

Berkowitz, S. A., Karter, A. J., Corbie-Smith, G., Seligman, H. K., Ackroyd, S. A., Barnard, L. S., ... & Wexler, D. J. (2018). Food insecurity, food "deserts," and glycemic control in patients with diabetes: a longitudinal analysis. *Diabetes care*, 41(6), 1188-1195.

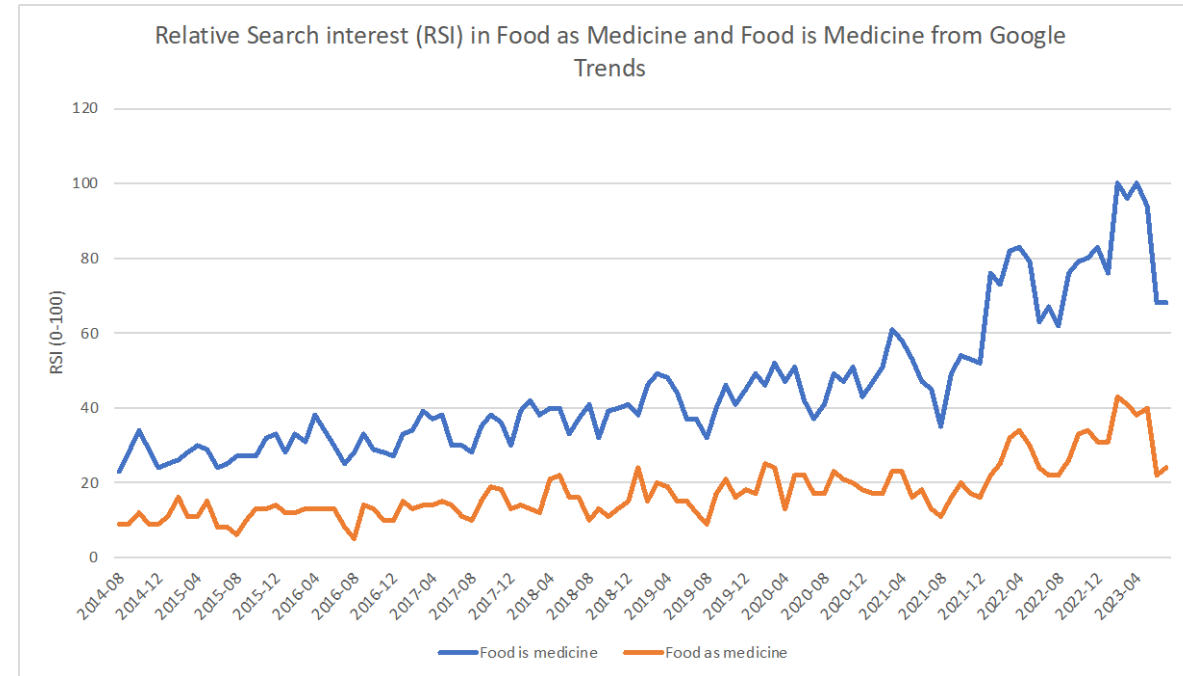


DEFINING  
FOOD IS MEDICINE

# Snapshot: Scientific and Public Interest in Food is Medicine



PubMed Indexed Articles



Google Searches

# Food Is Medicine

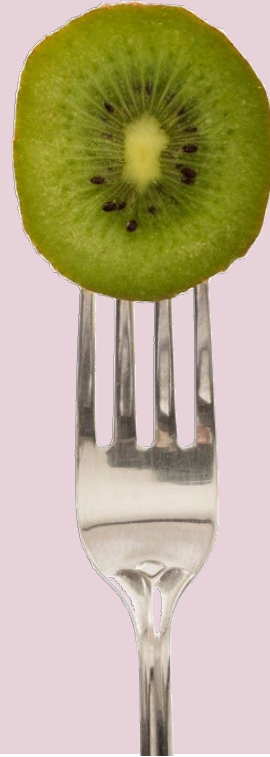
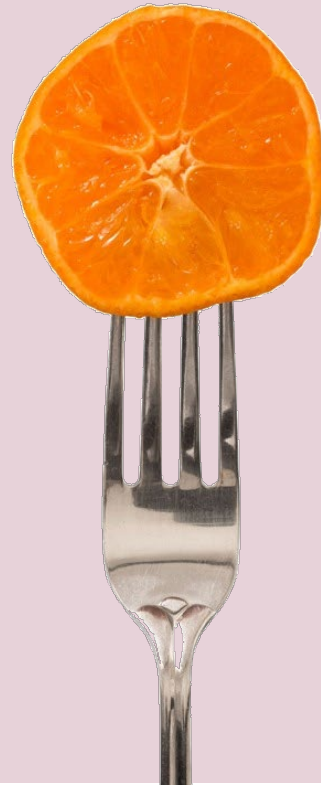
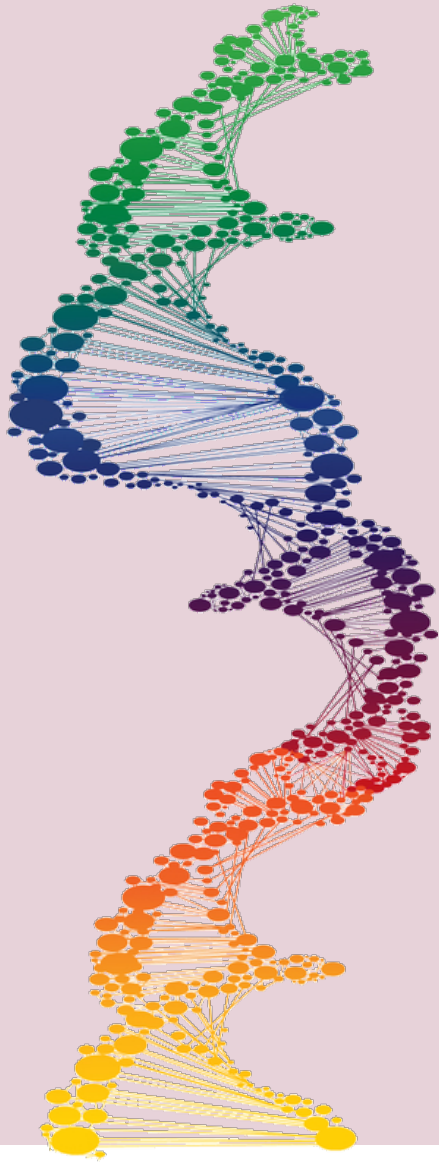
“Food as medicine, is the prioritization of diet and nutrition (what we eat) as an important part of treating and preventing some chronic diseases.”

–American College of Lifestyle Medicine



- **Food is Medicine interventions**
  - a spectrum of programs and services that respond to the critical link between nutrition and health.
- **Two components:**
  - Provision of food that supports health, such as medically tailored meals or groceries, or food assistance, such as vouchers for produce
  - A nexus to the healthcare system

# Food sends messages to our genes



## What diet is best for health?

- Dietary patterns, not specific individual foods, as better predictor of health
- Medically-tailored diets often have more similarities than differences across disease states
- Chronic inflammation is a primary pathway linking Western dietary patterns to elevated chronic disease risk and management
- Several dietary patterns can help to reduce chronic inflammation
  - Mediterranean diet, “New American Plate” diet, whole food, plant-based diets, DASH diet are a few examples
- For most patients, this requires an “eat more” and an “eat less” combined approach to behavior change

# Eat MORE



## **COLOR**

*Dark green, yellow, orange, red, purple, blue vegetables and fruits (1/2 your plate)*

## **WHOLE (INTACT) GRAINS**

*Oats, barley, and other 100% whole grain foods*

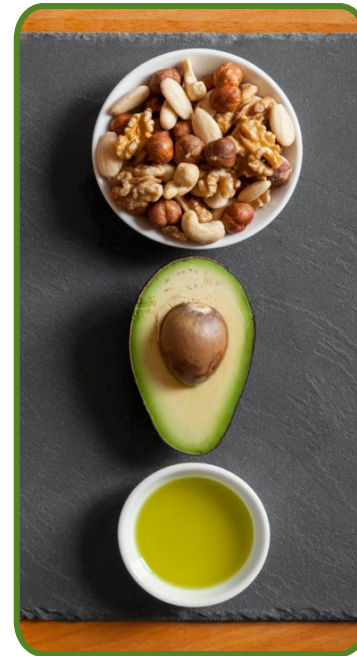


## **LEAN PROTEINS**

*Beans, lentils, fish, lean poultry, eggs, nuts, seeds*

## **WATER, BLACK COFFEE, TEA**

*With no added sugars*



## **HEALTHY FATS**

*Cold pressed plant oils, avocado, olives, nuts*

# Eat LESS



## SUGAR SWEETENED BEVERAGES

*Sodas, sweet  
tea, sports  
and energy  
drinks, fruit  
drinks*

## FRIED POTATOES AND OTHER DEEP- FRIED FOODS



## ULTRA PROCESSED FOODS

*Chips, chocolate,  
candy, ice-cream,  
sweetened cereals,  
packaged soups,  
etc.*

## HIGH-FAT ANIMAL PROTEINS & PROCESSED MEATS

*Bacon,  
sausage, lunch  
meats, etc.*





## Professional Guidelines: Dietary Pattern for Diabetes

Until the evidence surrounding comparative benefits of different eating patterns in specific individuals strengthens, health care providers should focus on the key factors that are common among the patterns:

- 1) emphasize non-starchy vegetables,**
- 2) minimize added sugars and refined grains, and**
- 3) choose whole foods over highly processed foods to the extent possible.**

Alison B. Evert, Michelle Dennison, Christopher D. Gardner, et al. Nutrition Therapy for Adults With Diabetes or Prediabetes: A Consensus Report. *Diabetes Care* 1 May 2019; 42 (5): 731–754. <https://doi.org/10.2337/dci19-0014>



Components of a

# Nutrition Prescription



## TYPE

Specify the food  
(not the nutrient)



## AMOUNT

Specify serving size using visual  
estimations when possible



## FREQUENCY

Specify how many times per day  
or per week

Continued...

# Nutrition Rx

- The American College of Lifestyle Medicine recommends TAF format for nutrition prescriptions when delivered as part of routine medical care visit by a healthcare provider
- Can be positive (eat more) or negative (eat less)
- Designed to be concrete, easy to understand dietary changes with potential to be highly-therapeutic.
- ● ○ These prescriptions are different from nutrition prescription written by an RD, which is the product of a comprehensive nutrition assessment as part of a medical nutrition therapy visit and is directly tied to a specific nutrition diagnosis.
- ●
- ●
- ●
- ●



# Nutrition Rx: Nuts & Seeds



## TYPE

- • Almonds, walnuts, pecans,
- • cashews, or sunflower, ground flax,
- • or pumpkin seeds



## AMOUNT

1-2 oz.  
(1-2 small handfuls)



## FREQUENCY

5-7 times a week

## Nuts & Seeds

# Key Intake Gaps

- Only 60.9% men and 53.8% women meet ( $\geq 30$  g/d) guidelines for nuts, *peanuts*, and seeds (NHANES 2005-2018)
- Because they are micronutrient rich, nuts can help to fill multiple nutrient gaps, such as magnesium and fiber

1 oz.



SMALL BABY FOOD JAR



SHOT GLASS



3" x 3" STICKY NOTE



Table 1. Magnesium intake among United States (US) adults (>19 years) in NHANES 2001–2014.

Age (Years)	RDAs for Magnesium (mg/Day)	Magnesium Intake (mg/Day)	<i>p</i>
20–30 <sup>a</sup>	400.00	301.00 (215.00, 414.00)	<0.0001
31–85 <sup>a</sup>	420.00	299.00 (217.00, 400.00)	<0.0001
20–30 <sup>b</sup>	310.00	226.00 (164.00, 306.50)	<0.0001
31–85 <sup>b</sup>	320.00	234.00 (173.00, 314.00)	<0.0001

<sup>a</sup> Male; <sup>b</sup> Female.

# Effects on A1c

- Less data on effects of tree nuts on glycemic control for patients with diabetes
- Meta-analysis of 12 trials (n=450) with median dose of 56 g/d over a median duration of ~8 weeks
- Overall significant lowering of HbA1c by -0.07% and fasting glucose by -2.7 mg/dL

Viguiouk, E., Kendall, C. W., Blanco Mejia, S., Cozma, A. I., Ha, V., Mirrahimi, A., Jayalath, V. H., Augustin, L. S., Chiavaroli, L., Leiter, L. A., de Souza, R. J., Jenkins, D. J., & Sievenpiper, J. L. (2014). Effect of tree nuts on glycemic control in diabetes: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled dietary trials. *PloS one*, 9(7), e103376. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0103376>.

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS ONE

## Effect of Tree Nuts on Glycemic Control in Diabetes: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Dietary Trials

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### Abstract

**Background:** Tree nut consumption has been associated with reduced diabetes risk, however, results from randomized trials on glycemic control have been inconsistent.

**Objective:** To provide better evidence for diabetes guidelines development, we conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials to assess the effects of tree nuts on markers of glycemic control in individuals with diabetes.

**Data Sources:** MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, and Cochrane databases through 6 April 2014.

**Study Selection:** Randomized controlled trials  $\geq 3$  weeks conducted in individuals with diabetes that compare the effect of diets emphasizing tree nuts to isocaloric diets without tree nuts on HbA1c, fasting glucose, fasting insulin, and HOMA-IR.

**Data Extraction and Synthesis:** Two independent reviewer's extracted relevant data and assessed study quality and risk of bias. Data were pooled by the generic inverse variance method and expressed as mean differences (MD) with 95% CI's. Heterogeneity was assessed (Cochran Q-statistic) and quantified (I<sup>2</sup>).

**Results:** Twelve trials (n = 450) were included. Diets emphasizing tree nuts at a median dose of 56 g/d significantly lowered HbA1c (MD = -0.07% [95% CI = -0.10, -0.03%]; P = 0.0003) and fasting glucose (MD = -0.15 mmol/L [95% CI = -0.27, -0.02 mmol/L]; P = 0.03) compared with control diets. No significant treatment effects were observed for fasting insulin and HOMA-IR, however the direction of effect favoured tree nuts.

**Limitations:** Majority of trials were of short duration and poor quality.

**Conclusions:** Pooled analyses show that tree nuts improve glycemic control in individuals with type 2 diabetes, supporting their inclusion in a healthy diet. Owing to the uncertainties in our analyses there is a need for longer, higher quality trials with a focus on using nuts to displace high-glycemic index carbohydrates.

**Trial Registration:** ClinicalTrials.gov NCT01630980

**Citation:** Viguiouk E, Kendall CWC, Blanco Mejia S, Cozma AI, Ha V, et al. (2014) Effect of Tree Nuts on Glycemic Control in Diabetes: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Dietary Trials. *PloS ONE* 9(7): e103376. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0103376

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**Funding:** This work was supported by the International Tree Nut Council Nutrition Research & Education Foundation and (Davis, California) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (funding reference number, 129920) through the Canada-wide Human Nutrition Trials' Network (NTN). The Diet, Digestive tract, and Disease (D3D) Centre, funded through the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Ministry of Research and Innovation's Ontario Research Fund (ORF), provided the infrastructure for the conduct of this project. WH and AC were funded by Province of Ontario Graduate Scholarships. AC was also funded by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)-Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship and Banting and Best Diabetes Centre (BBDC)-Alexis Nordik Studentships. RJS was funded by a CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship Award. DJAJ was funded by the Government of Canada through the Canada Research Chair Endowment. None of the sponsors had a role in any aspect of the present study, including design and conduct of the study; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of the data; and preparation, review, approval of the manuscript or decision to publish.

# Effects on Lipids

- Median dose of 56 g/d over median duration of 4 weeks (3 to 26 weeks)
- When standardized to 1 serving per day, overall significant lowering of:
  - Total cholesterol by -4.7 mg/dL (95% CI: -5.3, -4.0 mg/dL)
  - LDL cholesterol by -4.8 mg/dL (95% CI: -5.5, -4.2 mg/dL),
  - ApoB by -3.7 mg/dL (95% CI: -5.2, -2.3 mg/dL)
  - Triglycerides by -2.2 mg/dL (95% CI: -3.8, -0.5 mg/dL)
- Stronger effect in ApoB reduction for those with diabetes by -11.5 mg/dL (95% CI: -16.2, -6.8 mg/dL)

Del Gobbo LC, Falk MC, Feldman R, Lewis K, Mozaffarian D. Effects of tree nuts on blood lipids, apolipoproteins, and blood pressure: systematic review, meta-analysis, and dose-response of 61 controlled intervention trials. Am J Clin Nutr. 2015 Dec;102(6):1347-56. doi: 10.3945/ajcn.115.110965. Epub 2015 Nov 11. PMID: 26561616; PMCID: PMC4658458

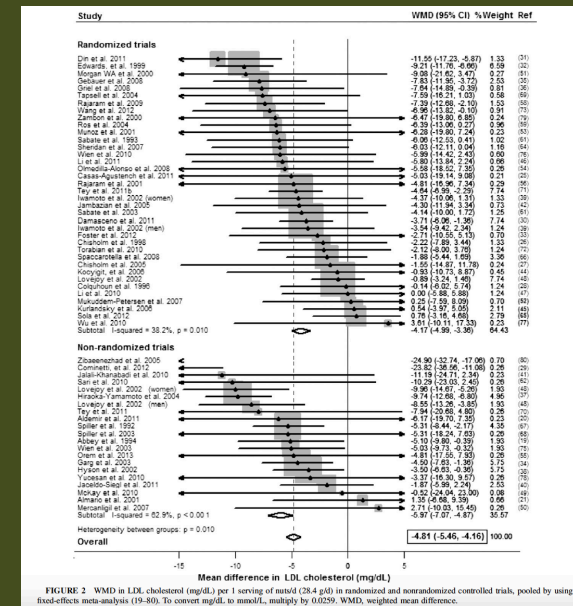


FIGURE 2 WMD in LDL cholesterol (mg/dL) per 1 serving of mixed (28.4 g/d) in randomized and nonrandomized controlled trials, pooled by using fixed-effects meta-analysis (19-80). To convert mg/dL to mmol/L, multiply by 0.0259. WMD, weighted mean difference.

# Effects on Lipids

- Although evidence is inconsistent for prevention of diabetes, tree nuts and seeds may be particularly helpful for lowering CVD risk in patients with diabetes
- Sunflower seeds (30 g/d) may be more effective than almonds at reducing CVD risk markers at 3 weeks in postmenopausal women with diabetes

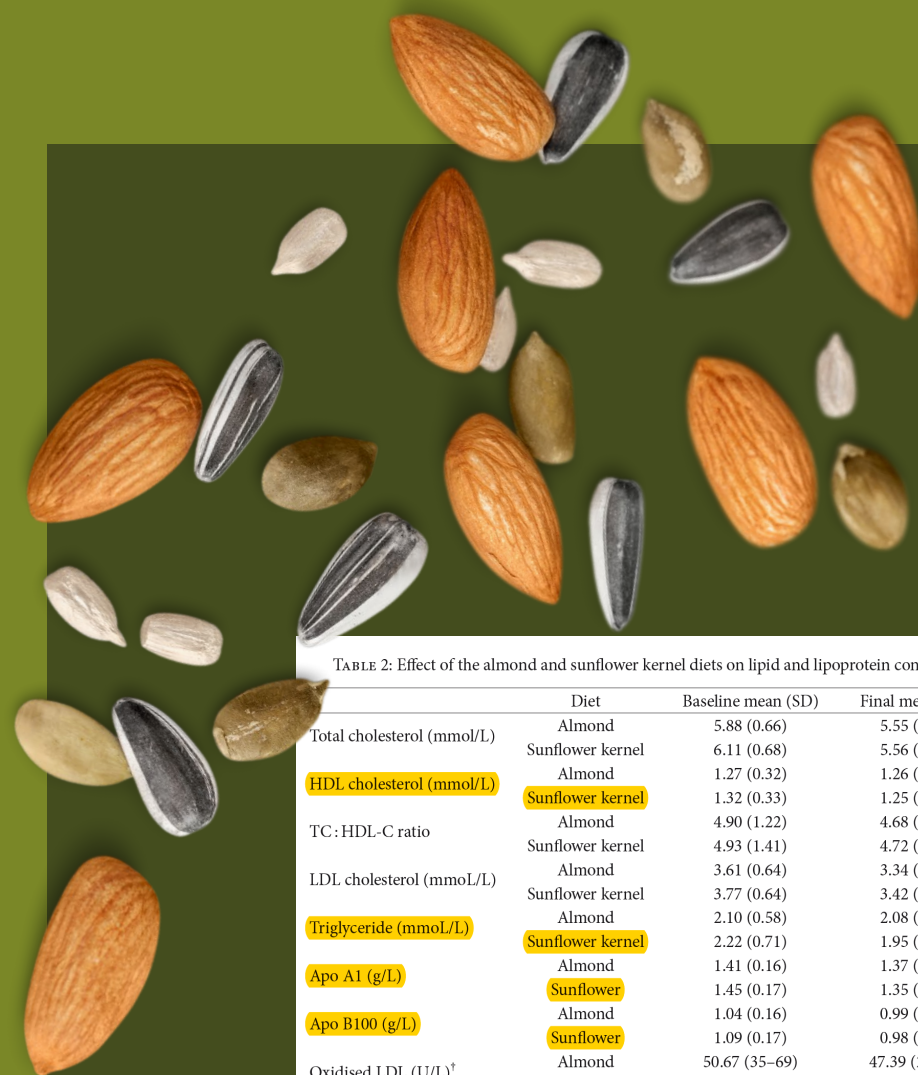


TABLE 2: Effect of the almond and sunflower kernel diets on lipid and lipoprotein concentrations, blood pressure, and  $\alpha$ -tocopherol.

	Diet	Baseline mean (SD)	Final mean (SD)	Difference (95% CI)	P value
Total cholesterol (mmol/L)	Almond	5.88 (0.66)	5.55 (0.65)	-0.14 (-0.29, 0.01)	0.073
	Sunflower kernel	6.11 (0.68)	5.56 (0.59)		
HDL cholesterol (mmol/L)	Almond	1.27 (0.32)	1.26 (0.31)	-0.04 (-0.085, -0.001)	0.045
	Sunflower kernel	1.32 (0.33)	1.25 (0.31)		
TC: HDL-C ratio	Almond	4.90 (1.22)	4.68 (1.26)	0.01 (-0.25, 0.26)	0.943
	Sunflower kernel	4.93 (1.41)	4.72 (1.22)		
LDL cholesterol (mmol/L)	Almond	3.61 (0.64)	3.34 (0.64)	-0.05 (-0.19, 0.09)	0.607
	Sunflower kernel	3.77 (0.64)	3.42 (0.61)		
Triglyceride (mmol/L)	Almond	2.10 (0.58)	2.08 (0.69)	-0.23 (-0.36, -0.09)	0.001
	Sunflower kernel	2.22 (0.71)	1.95 (0.60)		
Apo A1 (g/L)	Almond	1.41 (0.16)	1.37 (0.17)	-0.04 (-0.07, -0.02)	0.001
	Sunflower	1.45 (0.17)	1.35 (0.16)		
Apo B100 (g/L)	Almond	1.04 (0.16)	0.99 (0.17)	-0.05 (-0.08, -0.02)	<0.001
	Sunflower	1.09 (0.17)	0.98 (0.14)		
Oxidised LDL (U/L) <sup>†</sup>	Almond	50.67 (35-69)	47.39 (27-65)	0.96 (0.89, 1.03) <sup>‡</sup>	0.268
	Sunflower	52.75 (29-84)	46.93 (29-58)		
Systolic BP (mmHg)	Almond	147.36 (18.31)	141.75 (22.48)	-2.36 (-11.99, 7.25)	0.630
	Sunflower kernel	145.16 (21.05)	137.82 (20.61)		
Diastolic BP (mmHg)	Almond	88.55 (9.67)	84.50 (9.97)	0.59 (-2.60, 3.77)	0.719
	Sunflower kernel	85.93 (9.35)	83.00 (9.45)		
$\alpha$ -Tocopherol ( $\mu$ mol/L) <sup>†</sup>	Almond	32.21 (17.5-94.4)	33.33 (20.7-91.5)	0.94 (0.89, 0.99) <sup>‡</sup>	0.013
	Sunflower	34.87 (19.2-88.4)	33.35 (19.7-63.7)		

Values are adjusted for baseline and order, <sup>†</sup>results are presented as geometric mean and range, <sup>‡</sup>results are presented as ratio of the geometric means, and P values are for the difference between AD and SKD.



# What about Weight Gain?

- No adverse effect of nuts on body weight based on data from 86 RCTs including 5873 adults
- In one example randomized cross-over trial - Experimental addition of 320 calorie daily almond supplement (~2 oz) for 6 months with no dietary advice
- Did not cause significant weight gain in the whole sample, with weight loss observed in those who were moderately overweight and above at baseline

Nishi SK, Viguiliouk E, Blanco Mejia S, et al. Are fatty nuts a weighty concern? A systematic review and meta-analysis and dose-response meta-regression of prospective cohorts and randomized controlled trials. *Obes Rev* 2021;22:e13330; Fraser GE, Bennett HW, Jaceldo KB, Sabaté J. Effect on body weight of a free 76 Kilojoule (320 calorie) daily supplement of almonds for six months. *J Am Coll Nutr.* 2002 Jun;21(3):275-83. doi: 10.1080/07315724.2002.10719221. PMID: 12074256.



# Nutrition Rx: Pulses



## TYPE

Lentils, split peas,  
dry beans, or chickpeas.



## AMOUNT

½ cup at a meal



## FREQUENCY

Up to 2 meals per day.



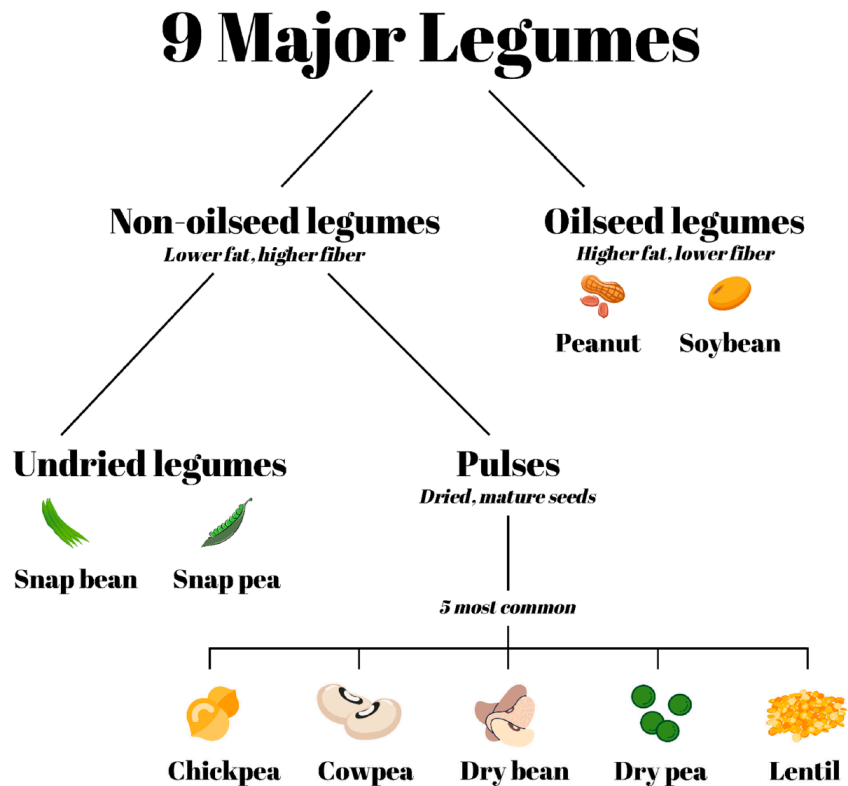


Figure 1. Commonly consumed types of legumes. After separating legumes into oilseed and non-oilseed legumes, non-oilseed legumes can be further divided into two categories: undried legumes and pulses. Pulses are the dried, edible seeds of grain legumes that are then cooked before being consumed.

## what are **PULSES?**

Dried, edible seed legume family (non-oilseed varieties)

- Chickpeas
- Black-eyed peas
- Dry beans
- Split peas
- Lentils

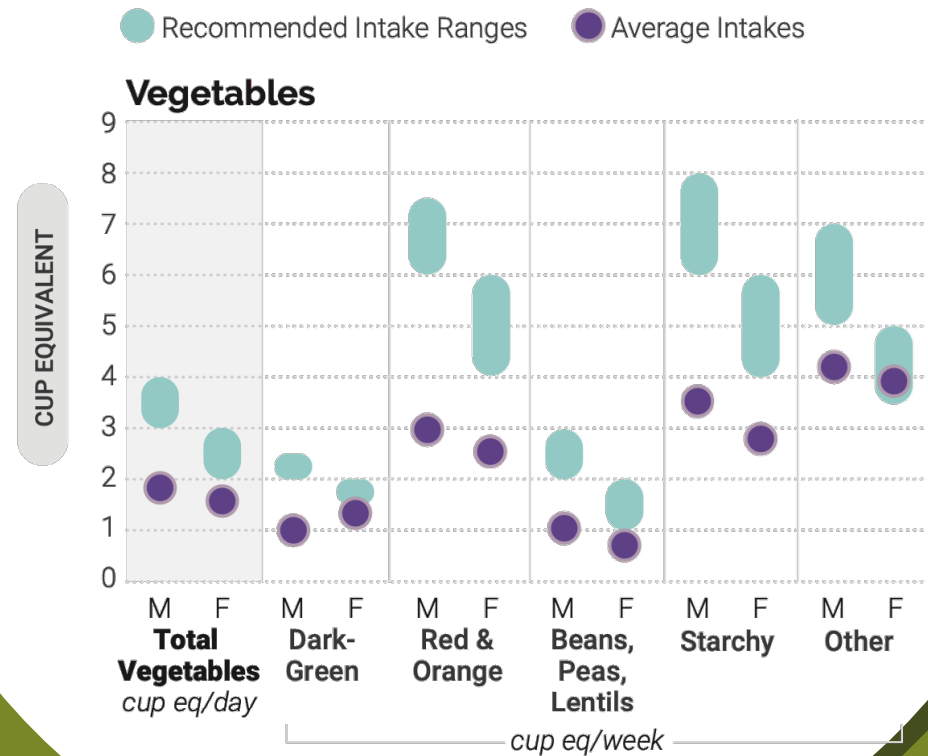
A basic part of the human diet since the advent of agriculture and development of civilization in the Middle East, Asia, the Americas, and Europe

## Pulses

# Key Intake Gaps

- 2020-2025 US Dietary Guidelines recommend 1-3 cups per week based on calorie level
- Average per capita intake of dry beans is only 9.3 g/day (~2 Tbsp cooked)
- Because they are nutrient dense, increasing intake to just 4 Tbsp (1/4 cup) cooked pulses/day can help to fill multiple nutrient gaps, especially fiber, folate, potassium and magnesium

Average Intakes of Subgroups Compared to Recommended Intake Ranges: Ages 31 Through 59



# Effects on A1c



- Meta-analysis of 65 RCTs (n=905 Type 2 Diabetes and n=1197 without Type 2 Diabetes)
- **Clinical response to pulses was strongest for those with Type 2 Diabetes**
- Pulses significantly reduced post-prandial glucose by >45 mg/dL with lentils being most effective, followed by dried peas, beans, and chickpeas; bean flours 50% effective
- ~9 mg/dL reduction in fasting glucose over a median of 8 weeks, as well as a mean reduction of ~0.3% in A1c

Hafiz MS, Campbell MD, O'Mahoney LL, Holmes M, Orfila C, Boesch C. Pulse consumption improves indices of glycemic control in adults with and without type 2 diabetes: a systematic review and meta-analysis of acute and long-term randomized controlled trials. Eur J Nutr 2022;61:809-24.

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION



## Pulse consumption improves indices of glycemic control in adults with and without type 2 diabetes: a systematic review and meta-analysis of acute and long-term randomized controlled trials

Maryam S. Hafiz<sup>1,2</sup> · Matthew D. Campbell<sup>3,4,5</sup> · Lauren L. O'Mahoney<sup>6</sup> · Melvin Holmes<sup>1</sup> · Caroline Orfila<sup>1</sup> · Christine Boesch<sup>1</sup>

Received: 27 July 2020 / Accepted: 19 September 2021 / Published online: 29 September 2021  
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**Abstract**

**Purpose** Findings from randomized controlled trials (RCTs) inconsistent and conclusive evidence is lacking. The aim of the current meta-analysis was to provide consistent and conclusive evidence on post-prandial and long-term glycemic control in normoglycemic adults. **Methods** Databases were searched for RCTs, reporting outcome pulse types on parameters of glycemic control in normoglycemic adults. **Results** From 3334 RCTs identified, 65 studies were eligible for inclusion. Pulse consumption significantly reduced peak post-prandial glucose (ES = -0.54; 95%CI -0.83, -0.24;  $p \leq 0.001$ ;  $I^2 = 78\%$ ) and homeostatic model assessment of insulin resistance (ES = -0.06; 95%CI -0.12, 0.00;  $p \leq 0.05$ ;  $I^2 = 30\%$ ). **Conclusion** Pulse consumption significantly reduced acute post-prandial glucose in normoglycemic adults and >2.5 mmol/L in those with T2D, and improve with and without T2D.

**PROSPERO registry number** (CRD42019162322).

**Keywords** Pulses · Glucose · Diabetes · Postprandial glycemia

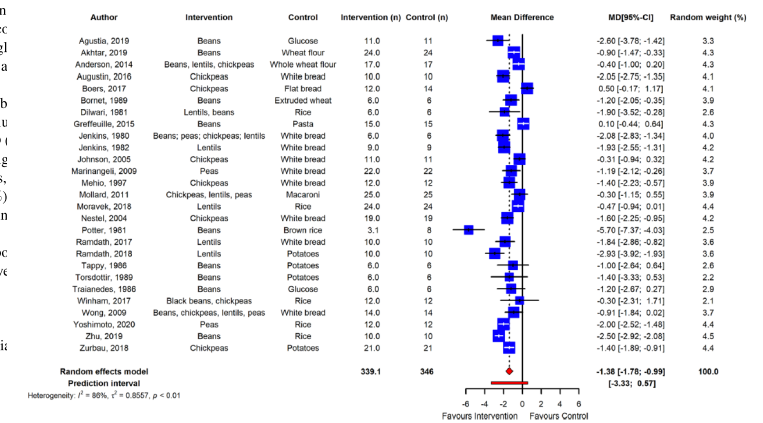


Fig. 2 Pooled effect using inverse-variance random effect model (mean difference and 95% CI) of acute trials investigating pulse intake on post-prandial glucose response among healthy individuals. The effect size was statistically significant for normoglycemic adults

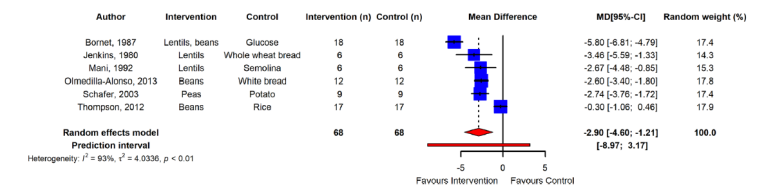


Fig. 3 Pooled effect using inverse-variance random effect model (mean difference and 95% CI) of acute trials investigating pulse intake on post-prandial glucose response among T2D individuals. The effect size was statistically significant for adults with T2D

# Effects on Lipids

- 2014 meta-analysis of 26 RCTs totaling 1037 healthy and unhealthy individuals
- Median dose of 1 serving of beans per day (130 g) over median duration of 6 weeks
- Significantly lowered LDL cholesterol by a mean difference of 6.6 mg/dL relative to control diets (equals a 5% reduction).





# What about Weight Gain?

- The therapeutic blood pressure and long-term glycemic effects of pulses may be partly due to their impact on body weight
- No adverse effect of pulses on body weight based on data from 19 RCTs reporting on 940 participants with an average BMI of 30
- Median daily dose of pulses (0.5-0.75 c/day) over median of 6 weeks
- 0.34 kg weight loss across all studies (increased to 0.6 kg among higher quality studies)



## Professional Guidelines: Pulses

People with diabetes and those at risk for diabetes are encouraged to consume at least the amount of dietary fiber recommended for the general public; increasing fiber intake, preferably through food (vegetables, **pulses [beans, peas, and lentils]**, fruits, and whole intact grains) or through dietary supplement, may help in modestly lowering A1C.

Alison B. Evert, Michelle Dennison, Christopher D. Gardner, et al. Nutrition Therapy for Adults With Diabetes or Prediabetes: A Consensus Report. *Diabetes Care* 1 May 2019; 42

(5): 731–754. <https://doi.org/10.2337/dci19-0014>

*Nutrition Rx:*

# Barley & Oats



## TYPE

Barley or Oats



## AMOUNT

½ cup at a meal



## FREQUENCY

Up to 2 meals per day



Effects on

# A1c & PPG

- Available evidence for barley and oats on glycemic control for people with diabetes is inconclusive.
- However, a 2021 meta-analysis of the effects of isolated soluble fiber via psyllium seed or other isolated supplements on glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes support the use of 7.6-8.3 g per day as a strategy for reducing A1c by an average of 0.63%, fasting plasma glucose by an average of 16 mg/dL, as well as fasting insulin, insulin resistance, 2-hr post-prandial glucose, and possibly BMI



# Effects on Lipids

- Meta-analysis of RCTs of 14 trials involving 615 healthy and hypercholesterolemic participants
- Median dose of 6.5 g barley beta glucan for a median duration of 4 weeks lowered LDL by -9.8 mg/dL
- Median dose of 6.9 g barley beta glucan for a median duration of 4 weeks lowered non-HDL cholesterol by -12 mg/dL irrespective of baseline lipids.
- As a rule of thumb, the authors concluded that 7 g/day of barley beta glucan can reduce LDL and non-HDL cholesterol by 7%





# What about Weight Gain?

- 2022 meta-analysis of 59 RCTs of 4937 participants that predominantly had underlying mild metabolic disturbances.
- Median study duration was 8 weeks with oats consumed in a variety of forms, including oat bran, meal, or porridge.
- When compared to control diets without oats, the effect of oat containing diets included lower BMI (-0.329 units), body weight (-0.943 kg), waist circumference (-1.058 cm)



## Professional Guidelines: Soluble Fiber

Soluble fiber from foods such as oat bran, rolled oats, whole oat flour, or barley (supplying 3 g or more per day of B-glucan) or psyllium seed husk (7 g or more per day) as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may reduce the risk of heart disease.



FDA Authorized Health Claims (21 CFR 101.81)



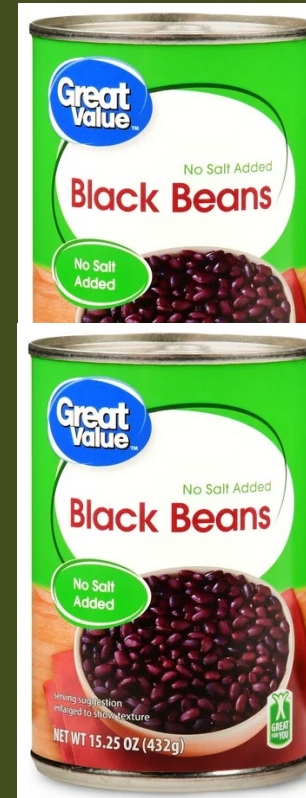
how much does this all  
**cost?**

All 3 nut/seed,  
bean, and  
barley/oat  
prescriptions for as  
little as \$0.83+tax  
per day



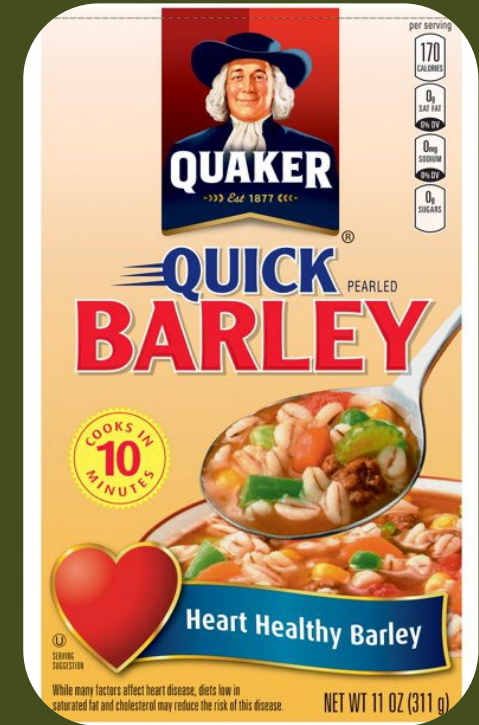
\$1.79

\$0.26 cents/day



\$1.56 (2 cans)

\$0.22 cents/day



\$2.48

\$0.35 cents/day

## Nutrition Rx:

# Non-starchy vegetables



### TYPE

Non-starchy vegetables



### AMOUNT

2+ varieties (1/2 plate)



### FREQUENCY

3 meals per day  
+/- with snacks

# Using non-Starchy Veg to lower PPG

- Patients can maximize the benefits of non-starchy vegetables on blood sugar control by eating vegetables first at each mealtime, before moving on to carbohydrate-rich foods.
- In one experimental study that used continuous glucose monitoring found this eating strategy to be effective in significantly lowering glycemic response after meals for people with and without type 2 diabetes when compared to eating vegetables last.

## Eat vegetables before carbohydrates

- Postprandial hyperglycemia is associated with increased risk for macrovascular diseases.
- Eating vegetables before carbohydrates is effective to reduce postprandial hyperglycemia.
- Please eat vegetables before carbohydrates, chewing well at every meal.

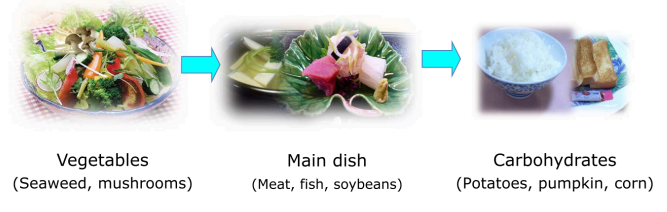


Fig. 3. The educational brochure about eating vegetables before carbohydrates for the patients with type 2 diabetes.

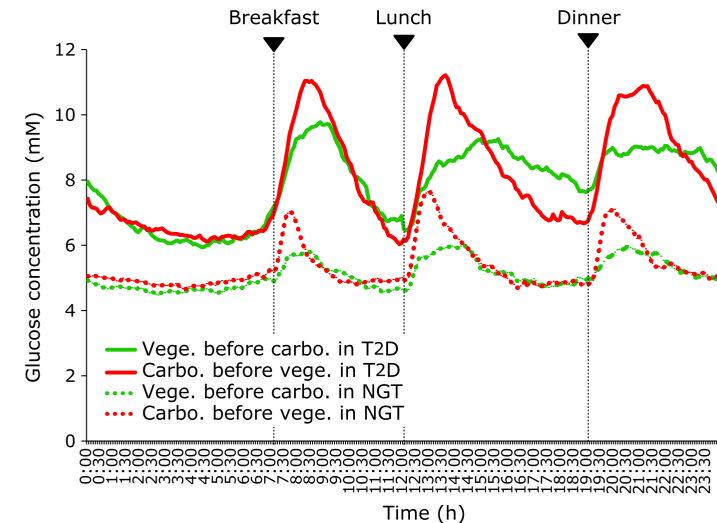


Fig. 2. The mean of the daily glucose values were plotted to show the reduction in glucose excursions by eating vegetables before carbohydrates compared to the reverse regimen in both subjects with type 2 diabetes ( $n = 19$ ) and normal glucose tolerance ( $n = 21$ ).



## Professional Guidelines: Dietary Pattern for Diabetes

Until the evidence surrounding comparative benefits of different eating patterns in specific individuals strengthens, health care providers should focus on the key factors that are common among the patterns:

- 1) emphasize non-starchy vegetables,**
- 2) minimize added sugars and refined grains, and
- 3) choose whole foods over highly processed foods to the extent possible.

Alison B. Evert, Michelle Dennison, Christopher D. Gardner, et al. Nutrition Therapy for Adults With Diabetes or Prediabetes: A Consensus Report. *Diabetes Care* 1 May 2019; 42 (5): 731–754. <https://doi.org/10.2337/dci19-0014>



# Fruit's Effects on A1c

- Patients with diabetes can safely eat whole fruit with no added sugars.
- Experimental research has found that instruction to restrict fruit among patients with diabetes had no effect on HbA1c, weight loss or waist circumference compared to those who received instruction to eat a high fruit diet.



**TABLE 1. NUTRIENT TARGETS, MENU ANALYSES, AND AVERAGE DAILY SERVINGS OF FOODS, ACCORDING TO DIET.\***

ITEM	CONTROL DIET		FRUITS-AND-VEGETABLES DIET		COMBINATION DIET	
	NUTRIENT TARGET	MENU ANALYSIS†	NUTRIENT TARGET	MENU ANALYSIS†	NUTRIENT TARGET	MENU ANALYSIS†
<b>Nutrients</b>						
Fat (% of total kcal)	37	35.7	37	35.7	27	25.6
Saturated	16	14.1	16	12.7	6	7.0
Monounsaturated	13	12.4	13	13.9	13	9.9
Polyunsaturated	8	6.2	8	7.3	8	6.8
Carbohydrates (% of total kcal)	48	50.5	48	49.2	55	56.5
Protein (% of total kcal)	15	13.8	15	15.1	18	17.9
Cholesterol (mg/day)	300	233	300	184	150	151
Fiber (g/day)	9	NA	31	NA	31	NA
Potassium (mg/day)	1700	1752	4700	4101	4700	4415
Magnesium (mg/day)	165	176	500	423	500	480
Calcium (mg/day)	450	443	450	534	1240	1265
Sodium (mg/day)	3000	3028	3000	2816	3000	2859
<b>Food groups (no. of servings/day)</b>						
Fruits and juices	1.6		5.2		5.2	
Vegetables	2.0		3.3		4.4	
Grains	8.2		6.9		7.5	
Low-fat dairy	0.1		0.0		2.0	
Regular-fat dairy	0.4		0.3		0.7	
Nuts, seeds, and legumes	0.0		0.6		0.7	
Beef, pork, and ham	1.5		1.8		0.5	
Poultry	0.8		0.4		0.6	
Fish	0.2		0.3		0.5	
Fat, oils, and salad dressing	5.8		5.3		2.5	
Snacks and sweets	4.1		1.4		0.7	

\*Values are for diets designed to provide an energy level of 2100 kcal.

†Values are the results of chemical analyses of the menus prepared during the validation phase and during the trial. NA denotes not available.

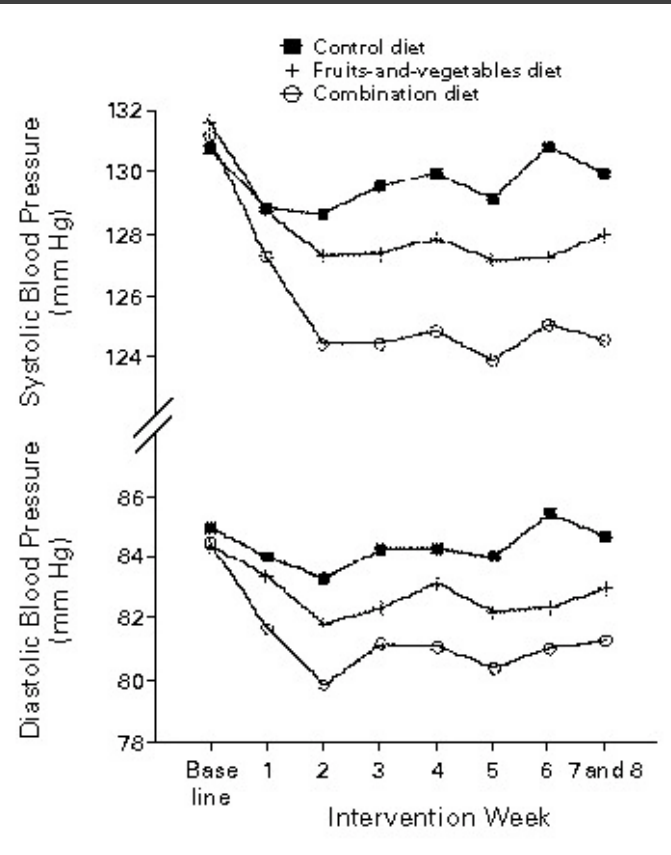


Figure 1. Mean Systolic and Diastolic Blood Pressures at Base Line and during Each Intervention Week, According to Diet, for 379 Subjects with Complete Sets of Weekly Blood-Pressure Measurements.

# The original Dietary Approaches to Stopping Hypertension (DASH) Diet Study

Table 1. Nutrient Targets, Menu Analyses, and Average Daily Servings of Foods, According to Diet.





## Professional Guidelines: Pulses

Development of heart disease depends on many factors. Eating a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol and **high in fruits, vegetables,** and grain products that contain fiber may lower blood cholesterol levels and reduce your risk of heart disease.





## Professional Guidelines: F&V

In general, heart-healthy dietary patterns, those patterns associated with low CVD risk, **contain primarily fruits and vegetables.**

how much does this all  
**cost?**

“High color” F&V  
prescription for as  
little as \$2.86+tax  
per day



\$6.66

\$0.95 cents/day  
for 3 servings veg

\$10.45

\$1.49 cents/day  
for 2+ servings fruit

\$2.97

\$0.42 cents/day  
for 2 servings veg

FOOD IS MEDICINE  
IMPLEMENTATION  
FRAMEWORKS

# Food Insecurity Contributes to Excess Healthcare Costs in Oklahoma

**Oklahoma**

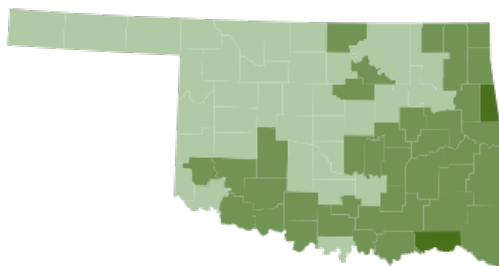
2019 FOOD INSECURITY & FOOD COST IN THE US



AVERAGE MEAL COST

**\$2.89**

National average cost of a meal is \$3.13



- TOP COUNTIES WITH THE HIGHEST FOOD INSECURITY RATES
- McIntosh
  - Okfuskee
  - Pushmataha
  - Adair
  - Choctaw

FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE

583,570



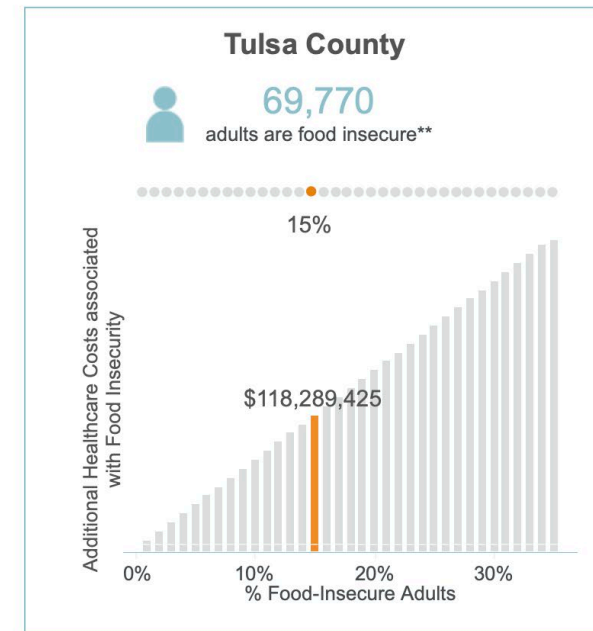
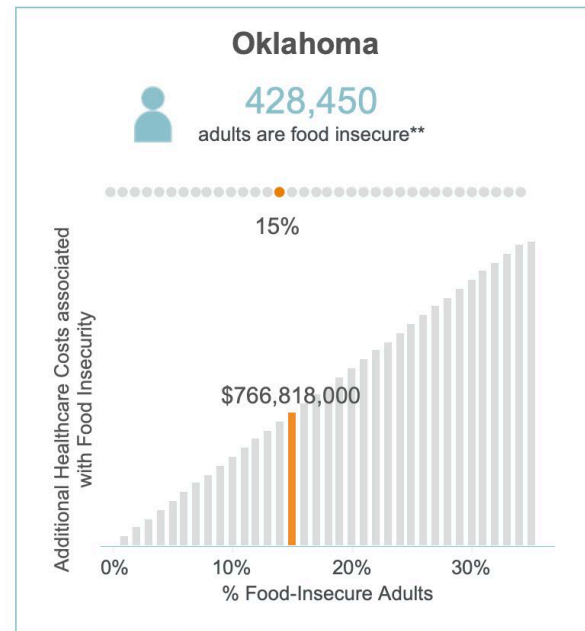
FOOD INSECURITY RATE



ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE



- 38% Above Other Nutrition Program threshold of 185% poverty
- 15% Between 130%-185% poverty
- 47% Below SNAP threshold of 130% poverty



The excess healthcare costs associated with food insecurity: **\$766,818,000**

Cost per food insecure adult: **\$1,752**

Excess Total Healthcare Cost per Oklahoman: **\$198**

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/feeding.america.research/viz/TheHealthcareCostsofFoodInsecurity/HealthcareCosts>

Feeding America Research. (2019, August 12). The Healthcare Costs of Food Insecurity. Retrieved November 17, 2021, from <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/feeding.america.research/viz/TheHealthcareCostsofFoodInsecurity/HealthcareCosts>.

Feeding America. (2020). Map the Meal Gap 2020. Feeding America. Retrieved November 17, 2021, from <https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/how-we-got-the-map-data>.

# Identifying food insecurity: clinic setting

- Typically administered by healthcare worker other than the physician
- Important to normalize food insecurity as part of screening interview process to help reduce stigma
- **The American Diabetes Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend clinician screening and referrals for food insecurity**

## 2-item “Hunger Vital Sign” food security screener

I'm going to read you two statements that people have made about their food situation. For each statement, please tell me whether the statement was **often true**, **sometimes true** or **never true** for your household in the last 12 months.

1. “We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.” Was that **often true**, **sometimes true** or **never true** for your household in the last 12 months?
2. “The food that we bought just didn't last, and we didn't have money to get more.” Was that **often**, **sometimes** or **never true** for your household in the last 12 months?

*A response of “often true” or “sometimes true” to either question = positive screen for FI.*





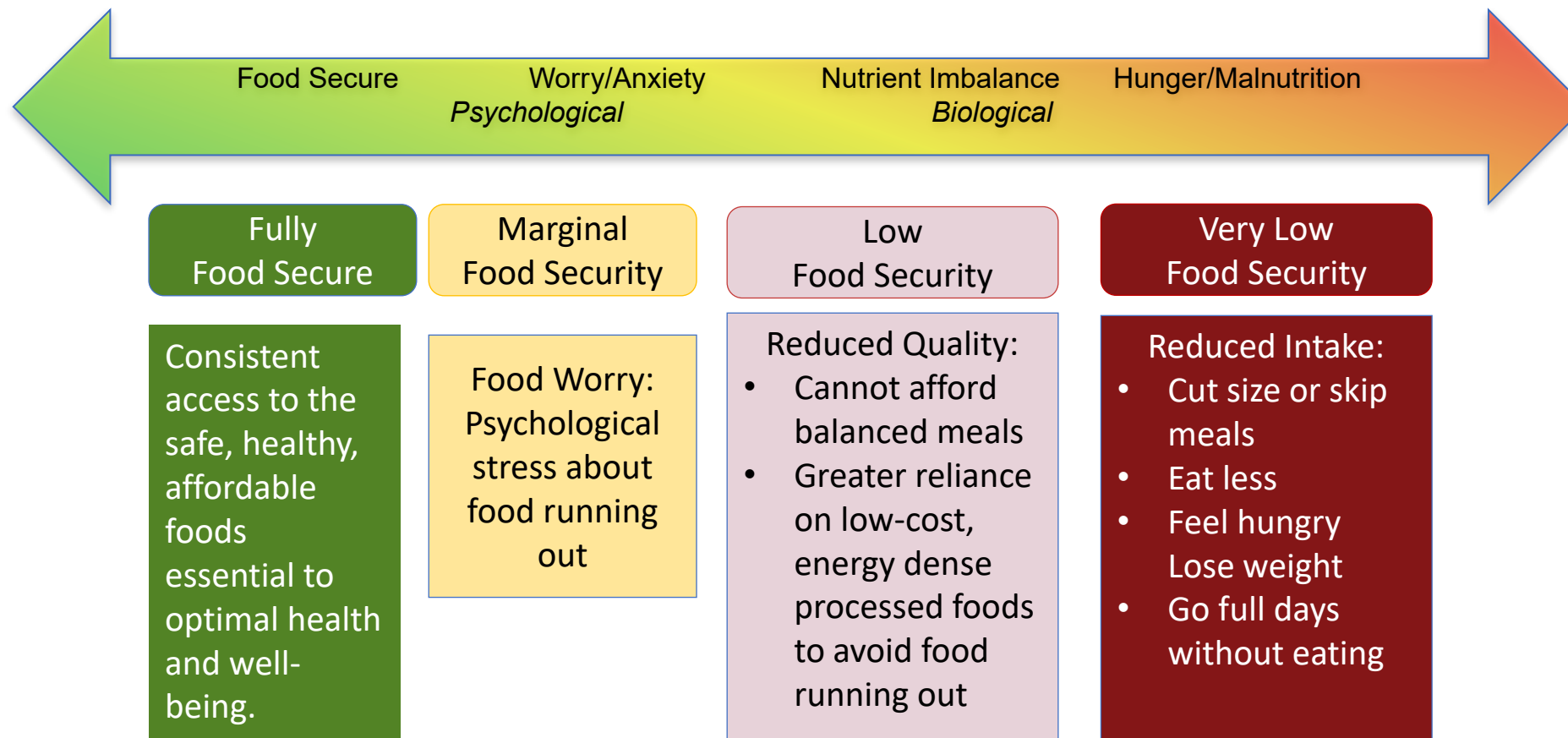
# EHR Documentation

## ICD-10 Documentation

- Z 59.41 can be used to document household food insecurity
- Although not required, it has several benefits:
  - ✓ Allows food insecurity status to be tracked
  - ✓ Helps identify patients at the next visit in order to discuss changes or ongoing needs
  - ✓ Supports data analysis over time to measure readmissions and other health care utilization rates



# Food Insecurity as a Continuum of Risk



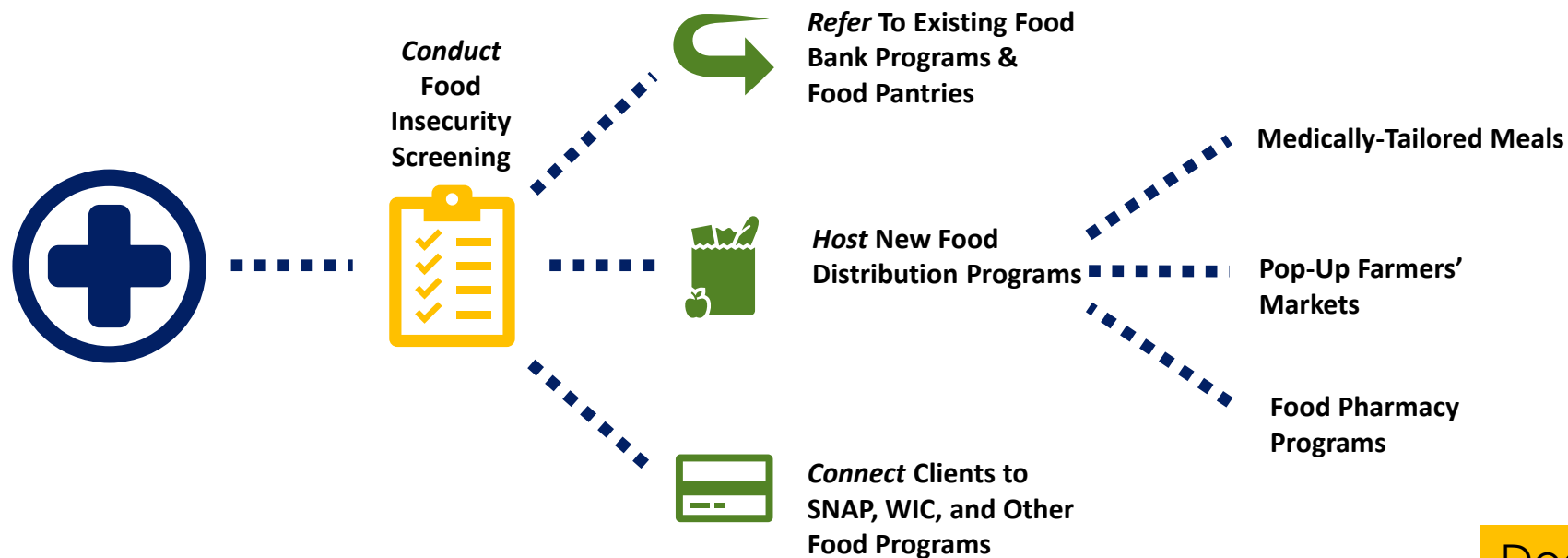
*Food Insecurity:*  
 The limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

# Hierarchy of Food Needs



# Clinic-to-Community Models

## Identifying & Addressing Food Insecurity at a Healthcare Site



Document:  
ICD-10  
Z 59.41

# Community-to-Clinic Models

## ADDRESSING CLIENT'S HEALTH ISSUES AT A FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITE



# How common is food insecurity among diabetic households who access food pantries?

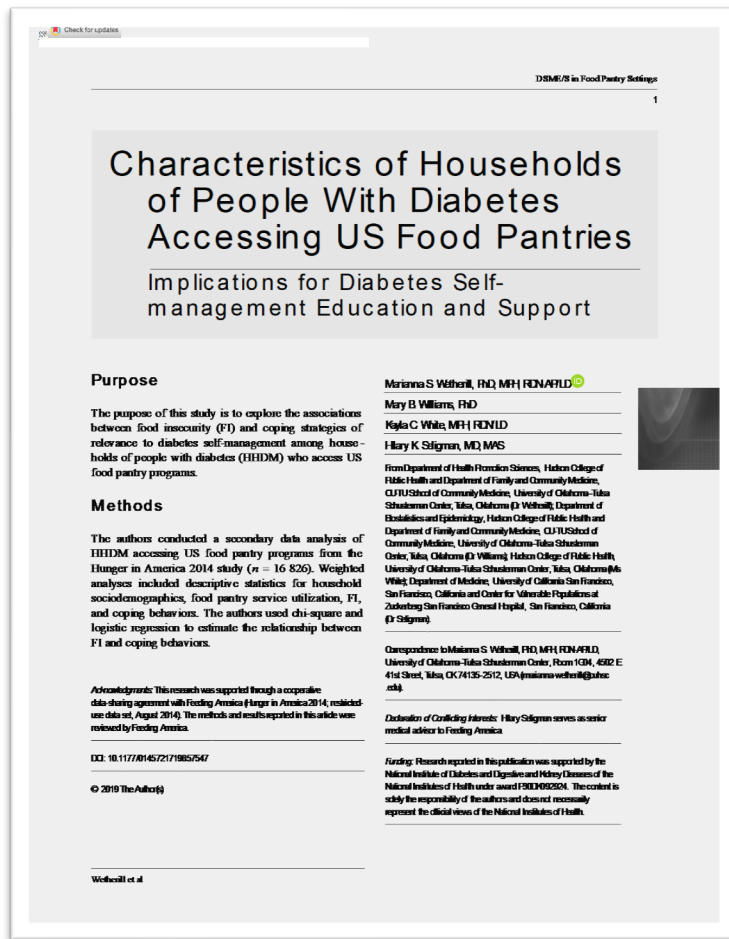


Table 2  
Food- and Nutrition-Related Resources and Coping Strategies Among HHDM Accessing US Food Pantry Programs, Hunger in America 2014 Study<sup>a</sup>

	n	Weighted %	95% CI
<b>Decision to use food pantry services</b>			
Wait until food is gone	4839	34.9	18.6-51.1
Plan on food as part of monthly budget	10 667	65.1	48.9-81.4
Months accessing food pantry in past year			
12	4367	24.3	11.3-37.2
6-11	3193	21.2	10.4-31.9
1-5	6200	45.0	31.1-58.9
First time	1283	9.6	2.3-16.8
<b>Foods wanted most but do not usually get from this program</b>			
Fresh fruits/vegetables	9740	57.6	35.4-79.8
Proteins	8135	49.6	29.1-70.1
Grains	2204	13.9	1.4-26.3
Dairy	7292	44.5	25.2-63.9
Beverages	2758	16.7	3.7-29.7
Kitchen and housing characteristics			
Cold storage	15 010	96.2	91.3-100
Cooking equipment	14 980	96.1	91.3-100
Stable housing <sup>b</sup>	15 696	93.8	84.7-100
Household food coping strategies			
Purchased inexpensive/unhealthy food	12 903	81.7	71.0-92.4
Watered down food or drinks to make them last longer	6745	43.0	32.4-53.6
Ate food past expiration date	9774	60.7	47.7-73.8
Purchased foods in dented/damaged packages	9360	57.1	42.2-72.0
Grew food in a garden	4417	26.2	10.5-41.8
SNAP participation	9211	56.1	44.8-67.5
Choose between food and medical care			
Every month	6400	38.3	27.3-49.2
Some months	4130	25.6	12.0-39.3
1 or 2 times a year	1689	10.9	0.0-23.6
Never	4029	25.3	13.6-36.9
<b>Household food security</b>			
Food secure/marginal	1719	11.4	4.2-18.7
Low food security	4192	30.0	11.7-48.2
Very low food security	8460	58.6	38.9-78.2
Food security items related to irregular intake: adult members			
Cut size or skipped meals	10 819	66.0	50.3-81.8
Ate less than wanted	10 826	68.2	51.1-85.3
Did not eat balanced meals	13 573	85.9	78.4-93.4
Were hungry, didn't eat	8200	50.7	36.7-64.7

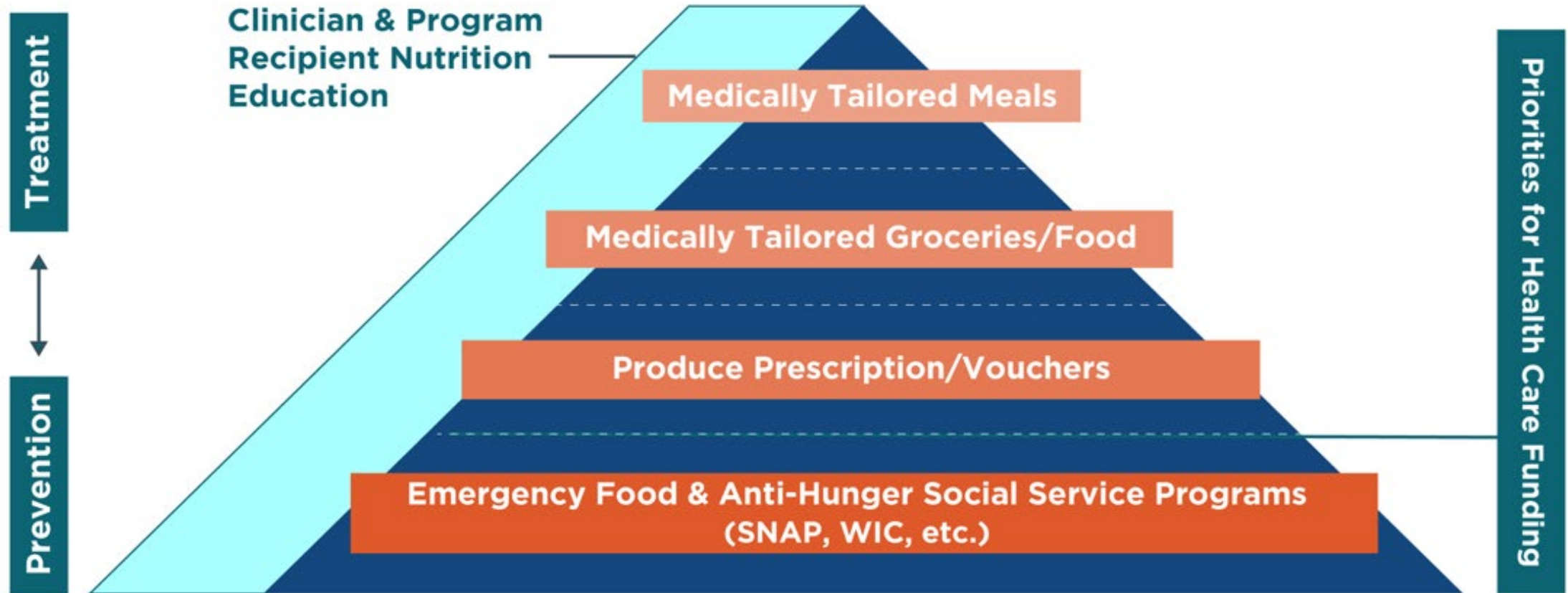
Wetherill et al

1 in 3 households served by Feeding America include at least one member with diabetes

Most households with at least one person with diabetes who accessed food pantries reported:

- Regular use of food pantries as part of monthly budget (65.1%)
- Wanting, but not receiving adequate amounts of fruits/vegetables (57.6%) and proteins (49.6%)
- Not eating balanced meals due to food insecurity (85.9%)
- Very low food security (58.6%)





# Three Primary Food as Medicine Models



Medically-tailored meals



Medically-tailored groceries (food pharmacies)



Fruit & vegetable voucher programs



# Medically-Tailored Meals

- Fully prepared meals designed by a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)
- Address an individual's medical diagnosis, symptoms, allergies, medication management, and illness side effects

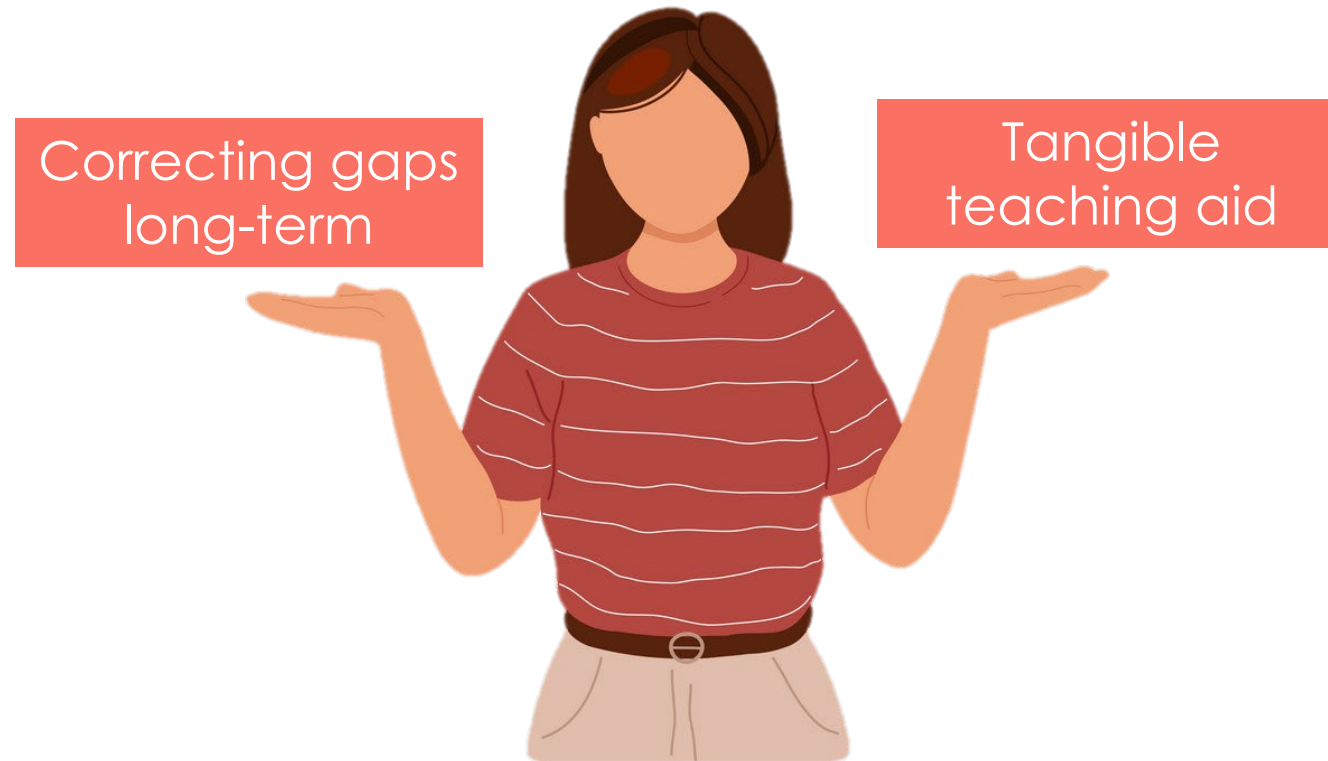


# Medically-Tailored Groceries

- Distributions of unprepared foods for patients to prepare at home
- Includes produce, whole grains, and/or lean proteins (e.g., legumes, nuts/seeds, fatty fish)
- All are foods considered essential to a healthy diet or for effective management of disease



# Additional considerations: Medically-tailored groceries



# Fruit & Vegetable Vouchers

- Distributions of produce, or vouchers that can be redeemed for produce, made available to recipients based on a health condition or health risk.



# A deeper dive: Impact of FV Vouchers within Populations

The impact of FV intake was greatest among:

- People with baseline intake that is neither very low or very high
  - More resources may be needed for those with very low intake
- People living in the smallest households
- Smaller vouchers (\$5) redeemable weekly may offer a slight advantage over larger vouchers (\$20) redeemable monthly





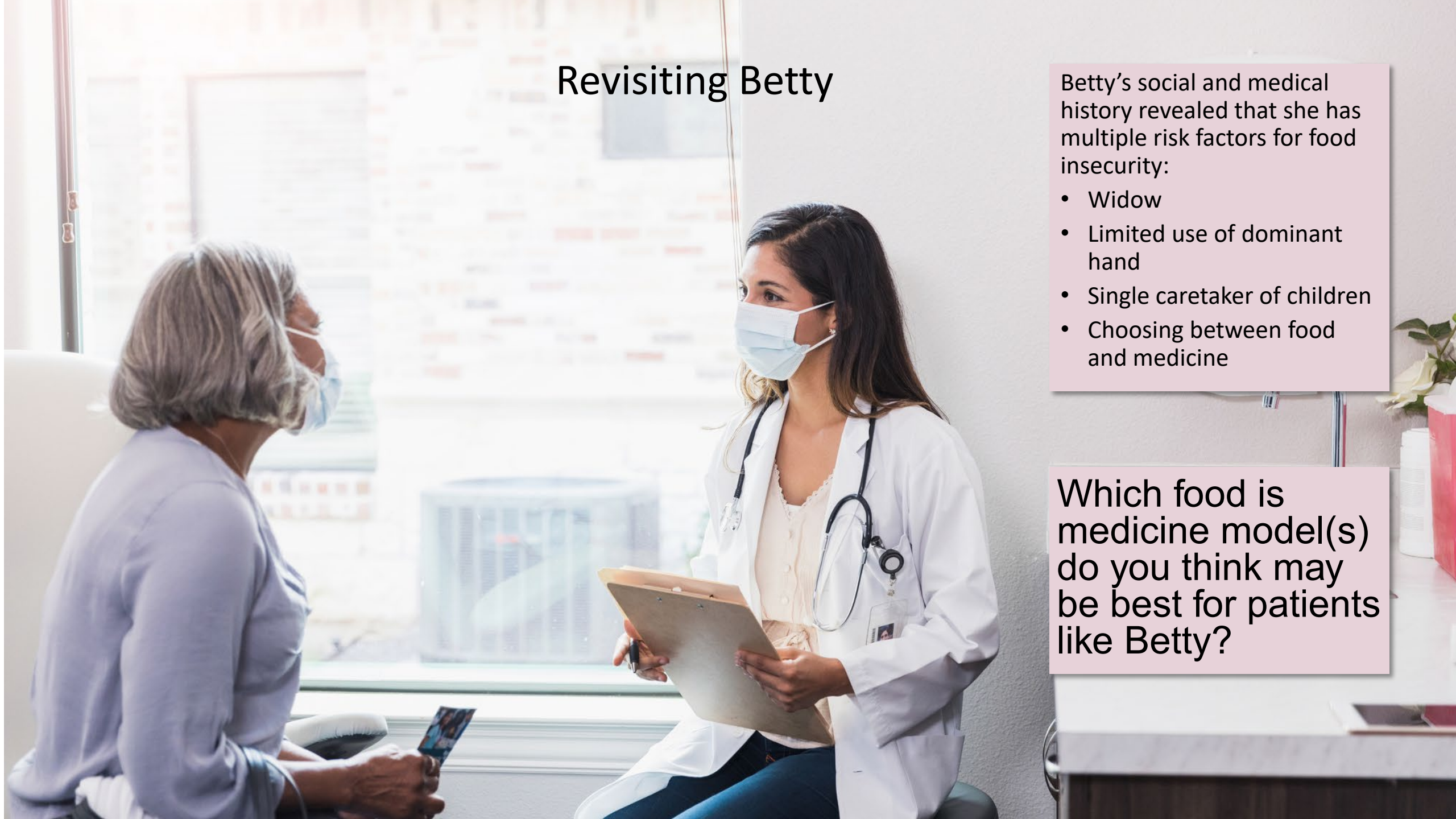
Model	Medically-tailored meals	Medically-tailored groceries	Fruit and Vegetable Vouchers
<b>Advantages</b>	<p>Lower burden on patients; meals are fully prepared and designed by a registered dietitian nutritionist for individual needs</p> <p>Largest dose (meets 67%-100% daily nutritional needs)</p>	<p>Lower per-patient cost than medically-tailored meals</p> <p>Can assist patients in meeting behavior change goals (e.g., eating more fruits and vegetables)</p> <p>Can introduce patients to new foods (e.g., whole grain foods, beans, or low-sodium spices and seasonings)</p>	<p>Requires lower amount of labor and coordination efforts</p> <p>Focuses on a single, discrete area of behavior change that can improve variety of health conditions and possibly lead to other areas of healthy eating behavior change</p>
<b>Disadvantages</b>	<p>Requires a high amount of labor and coordination efforts</p>	<p>Labor costs associated with medically-tailored meals passed on to patient</p> <p>Higher burden on the patient</p> <p>Patients are expected to transform raw ingredients into meals → Time, energy, food skills</p>	<p>Higher burden on the patient to shop and select their own produce</p> <p>Patients are expected to transform raw ingredients into meals → Time, energy, food skills</p>

# Revisiting Betty

Betty's social and medical history revealed that she has multiple risk factors for food insecurity:

- Widow
- Limited use of dominant hand
- Single caretaker of children
- Choosing between food and medicine

Which food is medicine model(s) do you think may be best for patients like Betty?



# Additional Reading

**FOOD & SOCIETY**  
 aspen institute

**Food is Medicine Research Action Plan**

CHLPI CENTER for HEALTH LAW and POLICY INNOVATION HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

**Interventions Research**

**VI. Research on Food is Medicine Interventions**

This section examines the published, peer-reviewed research on medically tailored meals, medically tailored groceries, and produce prescriptions—the three primary categories of Food is Medicine interventions described in Section III: Food is Medicine Defined. It provides an overview of what has been tested and how, for what purposes, and in what populations, while summarizing what this research tells us about impact and effectiveness and identifying gaps that remain.

Over the past decade, research on Food is Medicine has transformed the field and laid the groundwork for conversations about widespread adoption. The research demonstrates that Food is Medicine interventions are not only replicable and scalable but also effective. All three interventions examined in this report have been shown to reduce food insecurity, improve dietary intake, and support mental health.<sup>267</sup> Across multiple studies, medically tailored meals are associated with reductions in health care utilization and spending as well as improvements in disease-specific clinical outcomes.<sup>268</sup> Medically tailored groceries and produce prescriptions have also been associated with improvements in blood pressure, HbA1c, and diabetes self-management, though results vary with intervention design and duration.<sup>269</sup> Researchers have also undertaken qualitative assessments across all interventions, yielding critical insights about program design and implementation, participant satisfaction and engagement, and health care provider perspectives.

As the research tables in this report demonstrate, the volume and rigor of research has increased each year. And this trend is set to continue with an impressive number of forthcoming studies and ongoing research that explore a vast range of health care, patient, and health condition-specific outcomes. The opportunities for investigation also continue to expand as exciting new programs and policy innovations are implemented across the country. The challenge now is how best to propel rigorous, high-impact, translatable research that can quickly bring necessary reforms to our health care and food systems.

The findings in this section are drawn exclusively from the published, peer-reviewed research. In addition to undergoing the rigors of the peer-review and publication process, this research is also what is most readily available to and requested by those making key decisions about Food is Medicine program design, implementation, and funding. It is important to note however, that this focus omits many important facets of the larger body of evidence on the efficacy and value of Food is Medicine, including forthcoming studies, gray literature, and program evaluations. In addition, the resources required to undertake research on the health impact of Food is Medicine interventions and seek publication in a peer-reviewed journal are not available to all program implementers. One goal of this Action Plan is to encourage deployment of additional resources to ensure that future research engages a wide range of perspectives and captures the full impact of Food is Medicine interventions.

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**Interventions Research**

**At a Glance: Food is Medicine Peer-Reviewed Studies**

	Medically Tailored Meals	Medically Tailored Groceries	Produce Prescriptions
<b>Number of studies reviewed</b>	10	12	27
<b>Health condition(s) of study participants</b>	Type 2 diabetes, HIV/AIDS, heart failure, chronic liver disease, and multiple health conditions including type 2 diabetes, cancer, end-stage renal disease, and congestive heart failure	Type 2 diabetes, prediabetes, cancer, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and multiple health conditions including type 2 diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS, hypertension, and heart disease	Type 2 diabetes, prediabetes, obesity, cancer, hypertension, pregnancy, and multiple health conditions (not specified)
<b>Study designs</b>	RCT, pilot RCT, randomized cross-over trial, retrospective matched cohort, retrospective chart review, pre-post with comparison group, pre-post with no comparison group, qualitative evaluation	RCT, pilot RCT, nested cohort study, pre-post with no comparison group, retrospective chart review, mixed-methods evaluation, qualitative evaluation	Pilot RCT, non-randomized, parallel, controlled trial, non-controlled longitudinal intervention trial, pre-post with no comparison group, pre-post with comparison group, quasi-experimental prospective study with comparison group, longitudinal retrospective cohort study, mixed-methods evaluation, qualitative evaluation
<b>Primary outcomes</b>	Inpatient admissions, emergency department visits, admissions to a skilled nursing facility, rehospitalizations, health care costs, diet quality, food insecurity, BMI, frailty/disability, independence in activities of daily living, health-related quality of life, cost-related medication underuse, hypoglycemia, hemoglobin A1c, diabetes distress, diabetes self-efficacy, depressive symptoms, internalized HIV stigma, ART adherence, chronic liver disease-specific outcomes, and heart failure-specific outcomes	Food security, dietary intake, fruit and vegetable intake, hemoglobin A1c, diabetes self-management, diabetes adherence, hypoglycemic episodes, BMI, physical activity, and depression scores	Food insecurity, dietary intake, preterm birth weights, infant weight, breastfeeding, blood pressure, hemoglobin A1c, BMI, exercise, and mood
<b>Process and engagement measures assessed</b>	Participant experience and satisfaction, participant feedback, adherence to intervention food, food consumed outside of intervention food, intervention food thrown away or shared, and cost of intervention	Participant experience and satisfaction, health care provider experience and satisfaction, program utilization, and cost of intervention	Participant experience and satisfaction, accessibility, health care provider experience, purchasing behaviors, nutrition knowledge, voucher redemption rates, and cost of intervention

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# Q & A





# Collaborative Learning in ACTION!

Don't forget to visit the  
debrief boards between sessions!

Share what you learned and  
resources that might help others.



# Scan to Give Session Feedback

...and find lots of other resources!



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