- 1 Policy on Dietary Recommendations for Infants, Children, and
- 2 Adolescents

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- 4 Originating Committee
- 5 Clinical Affairs Committee
- 6 Review Council
- 7 Council on Clinical Affairs
- 8 Adopted
- 9 1993
- 10 Revised
- 11 1999, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2017

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- 13 Purpose
- 14 The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recognizes its role in promoting well-
- balanced, low caries-risk, and nutrient-dense diets for infants, children.

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- 17 Methods
- 18 The revision of this policy is based on a review of current dental and medical literature related to diet
- 19 and nutrition for infants, children, and adolescents. This document is an update of the previous
- 20 version, revised in 2008. The update included an electronic PubMed® search combining terms such
- 21 as caries and body mass index, breast feeding, diabetes, hypertension, physical activity, nutrition,
- 22 obesity, sugar sweetened beverages, sugar sweetened medications, sugar containing medications,
- 23 chewable vitamins, and sugar sweetened vitamin supplements and relevant articles from dental and
- 24 medical literature. The search returned 3,755 articles. The reviewers agreed upon the inclusion of 36-
- 25 articles that met the defined criteria. Relevant policies and guidelines of the AAPD, the American-
- 26 Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Health and
- 27 Human Services (DHHS), and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics also are included.
- 28 The current revision includes searches of articles published in English between 1995 and 2017 using
- 29 Medline, Embase, and Google Scholar. Key terms included childhood, obesity, dental caries, diet, and
- 30 nutrition. Additional terms included health education, breast feeding, food habits, dietary guidelines,
- 31 sugar, sugar-sweetened beverages, and body mass index. After conducting the literature searches,
- articles were screened by viewing titles and abstracts. Data from 194 articles were abstracted and

33 used to summarize dietary policies and research on diet and nutrition for infants, children, and 34 adolescents. **Background** 35 36 Establishment of a dental home by 12 months of age allows the institution of individualized cariespreventive strategies, including dietary recommendations and appropriate oral hygiene instruction, as-37 38 the primary teeth begin to erupt (AAPD Dental Home Policy). Dietary choices affect oral health as-39 well as general health and well-being. 40 41 Epidemiological research shows that human milk and breast feeding of infants provide general health, 42 nutritional, developmental, psychological, social, economic, and environmental advantages while-43 significantly decreasing risk for a large number of acute and chronic diseases (AAP Breastfeeding-44 policy). Human breast milk is uniquely superior in providing the best possible nutrition to infants and 45 has not been epidemiologically associated with caries (Erickson and Mazhari 1999; Iida et al 2007; 46 Mohebbi et al 2008). Frequent night time bottle feeding with milk is associated with, but not 47 consistently implicated in, early childhood caries (ECC) (Reisine and Douglass 1998). Breastfeeding 48 greater than or equal to seven times daily after 12 months of age is associated with increased risk for 49 ECC (Feldens et al 2010). Ad libitum breastfeeding after introduction of other dietary carbohydrates 50 and inadequate oral hygiene are risk factors for ECC. 51 52 The AAP has recommended children one through six years of age consume no more than four to six-53 ounces of fruit juice per day, from a cup (ie, not a bottle or covered cup) and as part of a meal or snack (AAP Fruit Juice Policy). Night time bottle feeding with juice, repeated use of a sippy or no-54 55 spill cup, and frequent in between meal consumption of sugar containing snacks or drinks (eg, juice, 56 formula, soda) increase the risk of caries (Tinanoff, Kanellis, and Vargas 2002; Tinanoff and Palmer-<del>2000).</del> 57 58 59 ECC can be a particularly aggressive form of caries, beginning soon after tooth eruption, developing 60 on smooth surfaces, progressing rapidly, and having a lasting detrimental impact on the dentition-61 (AAPD Infant Oral Health Guideline). Consequences of this disease may lead to more widespread-62 health issues (Acs et al 1992; Low, Tan, and Schwartz 1999; Clarke et al 2006). 63 64 Caries and its sequelae are among the most prevalent health problems facing American infants,

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children, and adolescents. Frequent ingestion of sugars and other carbohydrates (eg, fruit juices, acidic beverages) and prolonged contact of these substances with teeth are particular risk factors inthe development of caries. Along with increasing caries risk, increased consumption of sugarsweetened beverages and snack foods also has been linked to obesity (Ludwig, Peterson, and Gormaker 2001; Malik, Schulze, and Hu 2006). Childhood overweight and obesity have reached epidemic proportions worldwide, and the prevalence among US youth has quadrupled in childrenages six to 11 and nearly doubled in adolescents ages 12 to 19 in the past 25 years (Hedley et al-2004). Results from a study 2007-2008 that measured height and weight estimated 16.9 percent of children and adolescents in the US aged two through 19 were obese (Ogden and Carroll 2010). Differences were seen in estimates among ethnic groups, ranging from the lowest (14.5 percent) among non Hispanic white girls to the highest (26.8 percent) among Mexican American boys (Ogden and Carroll 2010). Health risks associated with childhood overweight and obesity are strongindicators for predisposition to adult morbidity and mortality and include type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease (hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, and dyslipidemia), and psychologicalstress (depression and low self-esteem), as well as respiratory (obstructive sleep apnea and asthma), orthopedic (genu varum and slipped capital femoral epiphysis), and hepatic (steatohepatitis) problems (AAP Obesity Policy). Although studies are limited in the pediatric population, one study indicated that adolescents aged 17 to 21 years had an increased risk of periodontal disease for each one kg increase in body weight and one cm increase in waist circumference (Reeves et al 2006). Incipient periodontal disease has been found to be increased in children and adolescents with diabetes (Lalla et al 2006). Excessiveconsumption of fruit juice has been associated with small stature in some children (Dennison, Rockwell, and Baker 1997). It has been shown that nearly 54 percent of US preschool children were given some form of over the counter (OTC) medications, most commonly as analgesics, antipyretics, and cough and cold medications (Kogan et al 1994). Numerous OTC and prescribed oral liquidmedications have been found to have a high sugar content to increase palatability and acceptance by children (Kenny and Somaya 1989; Maguire, Rugg-Gunn, and Butler, 1996; Bigeard 2000). Frequentingestion of sugar-sweetened medications has demonstrated a higher incidence of caries inchronically ill children (Kenny and Somaya 1989; Maguire, Rugg Gunn, and Butler, 1996; Foster and Fitzgerald 2005; da Fonseca et al 2009; Alaki, Burt, and Garetz 2010). To motivate children toconsume vitamins, numerous companies have made jelly, gummy, and candy like chewable vitaminsupplements (Lam et al 2006). Cases of vitamin A toxicity have been reported as a result of excessive

98 consumption of candy like vitamin supplements (Lam et al 2006). The AAP has recommended that 99 the optimal way to obtain adequate amounts of vitamins is to consume a healthy and well-balanced 100 diet (Gidding et al 2006). 101 102 Dietary Behaviors and Prevalence of Dental Caries and Obesity in Children 103 The causes of dental caries and obesity are multifactorial, with both having significant dietary components. One of the behaviors associated with dental caries and obesity in children is the 104 105 consumption of large quantities of sugar-sweetened foods and beverages. Sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) are defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to include soft drinks (soda or 106 107 pop), fruit drinks, sports drinks, tea and coffee drinks, energy drinks, sweetened milk or milk 108 alternatives, and any other beverages to which sugar, generally high-fructose corn syrup or sucrose (table sugar), has been added. Sugar-containing beverages (SCBs) include SSBs as well as beverages 109 in which sugar, generally glucose or fructose, is naturally present, such as 100% fruit juice. 110 111 112 Children's and adolescent's consumption of SSBs in the United States is high, and it increased from 242 calories/day between 1988–1994 to 270 calories/day between 1999–2004.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, 113 adolescents with low-educated parents have higher total SSB consumption and higher energy intake 114 from SSBs.3 115 116 Dental caries prevalence in children has been variable but remains high. For instance, prevalence of 117 dental caries in primary teeth for children aged 2–5 increased from 22 percent to 30 percent between 118 1988–1994 and 1999–2004 and then decreased to 23 percent in 2011–2012.<sup>4</sup> The causes of dental 119 caries involve a combination of factors and include diet, bacteria capable of fermenting 120 carbohydrates, fluoride exposure, and a susceptible host.<sup>5</sup> While sugar, especially high frequency 121 122 consumption, is a factor contributing to dental caries, a systematic study of sugar consumption and 123 caries risk concluded that the relationship between sugar consumption and caries is weaker after the introduction of fluoride exposure.<sup>6</sup> 124 125 The causes of obesity include genetic components, lifestyle, and environmental variables as well as 126 nutritional factors. Health initiatives in the United States and other countries have specifically 127 targeted reducing consumption of SSBs in an effort to lower the number of calories that children and 128

129	adolescents consume per day. For children and adolescents aged 2-19, the prevalence of obesity has
130	remained constant at about 17 percent, with obesity affecting about 12.7 million children and
131	adolescents for the past decade. <sup>7</sup> Children and adolescents who are obese are likely to be obese as
132	adults and at risk in adulthood for health problems such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke,
133	several types of cancer, and osteoarthritis. <sup>1</sup>
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135	Because of the persistent high prevalence of dental caries and childhood obesity, the need remains for
136	research, policy, advocacy, education, and professional engagement to further advance healthy dietary
137	practices for infants, children, and adolescents.
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139	National and International Dietary Guidelines
140	The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture develop
141	dietary guidelines every 5 years to help Americans aged 2 and older make healthy food choices to
142	help prevent chronic disease and enjoy a healthy diet. The 2015–2020 Dietary Guidelines for
143	Americans emphasize consuming a healthy eating pattern that includes a variety of vegetables, fruits,
144	grains, fat-free or low-fat dairy products, a variety of protein foods, and oils with limits on saturated
145	and trans fats, added sugars, and sodium. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans give specific
146	quantitative guidelines for consumers, such as consuming less than 10 percent of calories per
147	day from added sugars, consuming less than 10 percent of calories per day from saturated
148	fats, and consuming less than 2,300 milligrams per day of sodium.8 In addition, the World
149	Health Organization recommends reducing the intake of sugar to less than 10 percent of total energy
150	intake, and to reduce children's risk of weight gain and dental caries, limiting the intake of sugar to
151	less than 5 percent of total energy intake per day (less than 16 grams of sugar for children aged 4–8).9
152	Additionally, the American Heart Association recommends reducing sugar consumption in children
153	and adolescents to < 25 grams of added sugar per day. 10 One should note that eight ounces of soft
154	drink contain approximately 26 grams of sugar.
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156	Dietary Recommendations in Dental Practice
157	Dietary choices affect oral health as well as general health and well-being. Establishment of a dental
158	home by 12 months of age allows the institution of individualized caries-preventive strategies,

159 including dietary recommendations and appropriate oral hygiene instruction, as the primary teeth begin to erupt.<sup>11</sup> 160 161 Epidemiological research shows that human milk and breast-feeding of infants provide general health, 162 nutritional, developmental, psychological, social, economic, and environmental advantages while 163 significantly decreasing risk for a large number of acute and chronic diseases. <sup>12</sup> A systematic review 164 cariogenic potential of milk and infant formulas in animal models found that cow's milk and human 165 milk are less cariogenic that sucrose solutions. <sup>13</sup> Another systematic review concluded that children 166 exposed to long durations of breastfeeding up to age 12 months had reduced risk of caries. However, 167 children breastfed more than 12 months has an increased risk of caries; and those children breastfed 168 nocturnally or more frequently had a further increased caries risk.<sup>14</sup> 169 170 171 The AAP has recommended children one through six years of age consume no more than four to six ounces of fruit juice per day, from a cup (i.e., not a bottle or covered cup) and as part of a meal or 172 snack. 15 Night time bottle-feeding with juice, repeated use of a sippy or no-spill cup, and frequent in 173 174 between meal consumption of sugar-containing snacks or drinks (e.g., juice, formula, soda) increase the risk of caries.<sup>16</sup> 175 176 177 It has been shown that nearly 54 percent of US preschool children were given some form of over-the-178 counter (OTC) medications, most commonly as analgesics, antipyretics, and cough and cold 179 medications.<sup>17</sup> Numerous OTC and prescribed oral liquid medications have been found to have a high sugar content to increase palatability and acceptance by children. 18-20 Frequent ingestion of sugar-180 sweetened medications is associated with dental caries in chronically ill children. <sup>18,19,21</sup> To motivate 181 children to consume vitamins, numerous companies have made sugar containing jelly, gummy, and 182 candy-like chewable vitamin supplements; and cases of vitamin A toxicity have been reported as a 183 result of excessive consumption of candy-like vitamin supplements.<sup>22</sup> The AAP has recommended 184 185 that the optimal way to obtain adequate amounts of vitamins is to consume a healthy and wellbalanced diet.<sup>23</sup> 186 187 With regard to obesity, oral health professionals need to be more engaged in identifying children at 188 risk for obesity and provide appropriate referral to pediatrician or nutritional specialist. A 2016 survey 189 190 of pediatric dentists reported that 17 percent offer childhood obesity interventions, while 94 percent 191 offer information or other interventions on the consumption of sugar sweetened beverages. Barriers

to providing healthy weight interventions including fear of offending the parent, appearing judgmental, creating parent dissatisfaction, and lack of parental acceptance of advice about weight management from a dentist.<sup>24</sup>

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226	To help the public make choices for a healthy diet, the USDA and DHHS published Dietary-
227	Guidelines for Americans (Tinanoff and Palmer 2000; USDA/USDHHS 2010). These guidelines
228	include:
229	<ul> <li>Eating a variety of nutrient dense foods and beverages.</li> </ul>
230	Balancing foods eaten with physical activity to maintain a healthy body mass index.
231	Maintaining a caloric intake adequate to support normal growth and development and to
232	reach or maintain a healthy weight.
233	• Choosing a diet with plenty of vegetables, fruits, and whole grains and low in fat, saturated
234	(especially trans-saturated) fat, and cholesterol.
235	• Using sugars and salt (sodium) in moderation (Tinanoff and Palmer 2000; USDA/USDHHS
236	<del>2010).</del>
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238	Food companies can encourage food and beverage selections that contribute to healthier lifestyles by
239	increasing the prominence, simplicity, and uniformity of nutritional information on food packaging
240	<del>labels.</del>
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242	The AAPD, in its efforts to promote optimal health for infants, children, and adolescents, supports the
243	position of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics that all children should have access to healthy
244	food and nutrition programs that ensure the availability of a safe and adequate food supply that
245	promotes optimal physical, cognitive, and social growth and development (Stang and Bayerl 2010).
246	The AAPD encourages:
247	<ul> <li>Educating the public about the association between frequent consumption of carbohydrates</li> </ul>
248	and caries.
249	<ul> <li>Educating the public about other health risks associated with excess consumption of simple</li> </ul>
250	carbohydrates, fat, saturated fat, and sodium.
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252	Furthermore, the AAPD encourages:
253	<ul> <li>Pediatric dentists and other health care providers who treat children to provide dietary and</li> </ul>
254	nutrition counseling (commensurate with their training and experience) in conjunction with
255	other preventive services for their patients.
256	• Food and beverage manufacturers to make nutritional content on food labels more prominent

257	and "consumer friendly".
258	Consumers to monitor the presence and relative amounts of carbohydrates and saturated fats
259	as listed on food labels.
260	School health education programs and food services to promote nutrition programs that
261	provide well-balanced and nutrient dense foods of low caries risk, in conjunction with
262	encouraging increased levels of physical activity.
263	<ul> <li>Research, education, and appropriate legislation to promote diverse and balanced diets.</li> </ul>
264	Pediatric dentists and other health care providers to recommend or prescribe sugar-free
265	medications whenever possible.
266	Educating parents of the risks of overdose from excessive consumption of candy-like
267	chewable vitamin supplements.
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269	Additional information on nutrition recommendations may be obtained from websites for the USDA
270	(USDA http://www.choose myplate.gov), USDA and DHHS (Stang and Bayerl 2010), Academy of
271	Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, http://www.eatright.org) , and Centers for
272	Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, http://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/everyone/).
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275	The AAPD supports:
276	• The recommendation of national and international organizations to reduce the consumption
277	of sugar to less than 10 percent of total energy intake; and to reduce children's risk of weight
278	gain and dental caries, sugar intake should be less than 5 percent of total energy intake (less
279	than 16 grams of sugar for children aged 4–8).
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281	• Breast feeding of infants <u>prior to 12 months of age</u> to ensure the best possible health and
282	developmental and psychosocial outcomes of infants. with care to wiping or brushing as the
283	first primary tooth begins to erupt and other dietary carbohydrates are introduced.
284	• Education of health professionals and parents recording delly average consumption
285	Education of health professionals and parents regarding daily sugar-consumption  recommendations, as well as the sugar content foods, hoverages and oral liquid medications.
286	recommendations, as well as the sugar content foods, beverages and oral liquid medications.
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288	•	Dental professionals becoming more engaged in identifying children who consume frequent
289		or large quantities of sugar-containing foods and beverages, and who are at risk for dental
290		caries and obesity.
291 292	•	Dental professionals engagement in nutrition education; and providing, when necessary,
293		appropriate referral for dietary counseling from pediatrician or nutritional specialist
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296	Refe	erences
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