

A Healthy Approach to Holiday Eating

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Holiday Blunders



- The holidays are a time to enjoy friends, family and food
- Food is often the center of holiday gatherings
- On average, Americans gain approximately one to two pounds during the holiday season
- Luckily, these extra pounds can be avoided by using simple strategies
 - > Mindful eating
 - ➤ Moderation
- Learn how to stay on track and eat dessert too!





Tip #1: Do not skip meals!



- Skipping meals can lead to overeating
- Don't starve yourself beforehand!
 - Eat a small snack such as fruit and nuts
- Eat breakfast!
 - Research shows those who eat breakfast consume fewer calories throughout the day
- Include high fiber foods such as fruits, veggies, whole grains
 - Increased volume
 - Increased satiety
 - Lower in calories





Tip #2: Choose carefully



- Holiday meals tend to be large, buffet-style with a wide variety of foods
- Choose carefully from the array of foods and categorize



- Foods you definitely will eat
- > Those you will sample
- > Those you will skip



Tip #3: Control your portions **itealthSmart**



- With food readily available, it can be easy to take a big scoop and go back for seconds or even thirds
- Control your portions by:
 - Using a smaller plate
 - > Filling your plate with veggies/salad before going to entrees and dessert



• Common mistake: Eating large portions of foods perceived as healthy



Tip #3: Control your portions **itealthSmart**



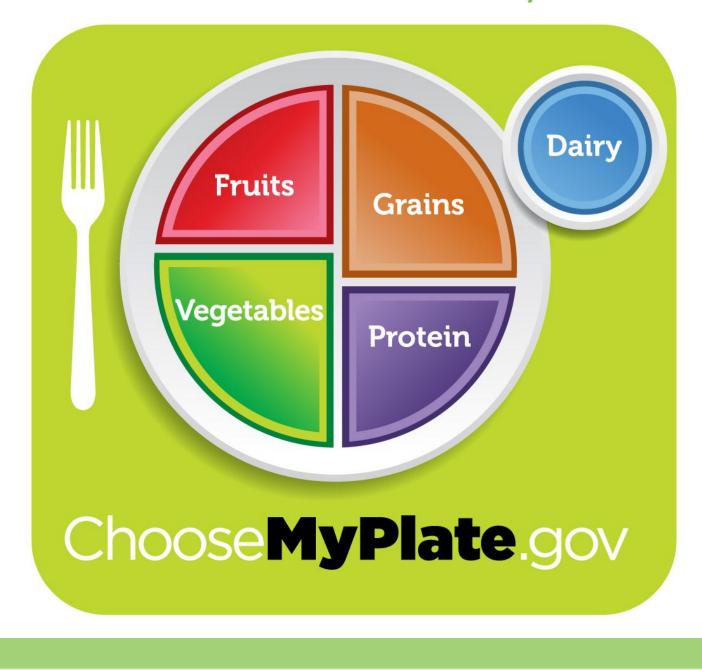
- Limit portions of high calorie/high fat foods
 - Creamy foods
 - Cheesy foods
 - ➤ Gravies
 - > Fried foods
- Choose only 1 dessert!
 - \succ ½ cup fruit cobbler
 - \geq 1/8 of an 8-inch pie
 - ➢ 2-inch square cake
 - \geq 2 small cookies
 - \succ ½ cup ice cream





Tip #3: Control your portions







Tip #3: Control your portions

- 3-4 oz meat = palm of hand
- 3 oz fish = checkbook
- 1 cup = fist
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup = cupped hand
- 1 Tsp = tip of thumb







Tip #4: Don't rush



- It takes ~20 minutes for your brain to receive a signal of fullness from your stomach!
- Don't rush!
 - Eat slowly and savor each bite
- Wait 10 minutes before you go back for seconds to decide whether you are truly still hungry





Tip #5: Socialize away from the food



- Don't go straight to the food
 - Socialize and settle into the festivities before you eat
- Mindless eating can stack up calories quick
- Minimize mindless eating by socializing away from the buffet or appetizers





Tip #6: Alcohol in moderation



• Start with calorie-free, nonalcoholic beverage to satisfy your thirst before having an alcoholic drink

Guidelines

Women: 0-1 drink per day Men: 0-2 drinks per day 1 Drink = 12 oz beer,5 oz wine, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz distilled spirits





Tip #7: Fit in some physical activity



- Don't forget to include some physical activity for the day!
 - Start a family tradition
 - ✓ Sign up for a turkey trot or 5K with your family
 - ✓ Play a game flag football
 - \checkmark Go for a walk with family members
 - ✓ Play catch



Cooking Tips



- Reduce fat and calories by swapping out a few ingredients without sacrificing taste
 - <u>Instead of:</u>
 - 1. 1 egg
 - 2. Oil, margarine, butter in muffins or quick breads
 - 3. Butter, margarine for potatoes
 - 4. High fat dips, sauces, pie toppings
 - 5. Fried onion rings
 - 6. High fat cheeses for salads and casseroles
 - 7. Heavy Cream

- <u>Replace with:</u>
 - 1. 2 egg whites
 - 2. Applesauce, mashed bananas
 - Low-sodium, fat-free chicken broth
 - 4. Fat-free yogurt, sour cream and whipped topping
 - 5. Sliced almonds
 - 6. Reduced-fat or low-fat cheeses
 - 7. Evaporated skim milk or low-fat yogurt

Healthy Holiday Recipe Websites



- Holiday & Seasonal Recipes: Medicinenet.com http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=58593
- Recipe Makeovers: Eatingwell.com http://www.eatingwell.com/healthy_cooking/recipe_makeovers
- Recipe Makeovers: Holiday Classics: Cookinglight.com <u>http://www.cookinglight.com/eating-smart/recipe-makeovers/lighten-up-holiday-classics-0040000033944/</u>
- General Healthy Recipes: American Heart Association <u>http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/GettingHealthy/NutritionCenter/</u> <u>Recipes/Recipes_UCM_001184_SubHomePage.jsp</u>



Recap



- Enjoy your holiday meal without overindulging by using
 - > Mindful eating
 - Moderation
- Start a new tradition by including a family walk or game of flag football for some physical activity
- Enjoy alcohol in moderation and stay safe this holiday season!
- Makeover your holiday recipes by swapping a few ingredients







Questions?







For additional information, please contact:

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