



U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Birth to 24 Months Dietary Guidance Development Project

The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (DGA) provides sound advice for making food and physical activity choices that promote good health and a healthy weight, and help prevent disease for Americans ages 2 years and over, including Americans at increased risk of chronic disease. The DGA has traditionally focused on adults and children 2 years of age and older because of the unique nutritional needs, eating patterns, and developmental stages of infants and toddlers from birth to 24 months of age. In recent years, there has been a growing demand both within and outside of government for the DGA to include infants and toddlers. In response to these requests, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have initiated a project to develop guidance for this important age group.

The goals for this project are to:

- Develop comprehensive guidance for the birth to 24 month age group
- Use a rigorous and transparent process informed by a broad range of experts in the field of infant and toddler nutrition and health
- Provide foundational guidance for the birth to 24 month age group that can be incorporated and updated in future editions of the DGA, beginning in 2020

To accomplish these goals, USDA and HHS have implemented a five phase plan, outlined below. Updates on the project will be posted at www.cnpp.usda.gov.

Phase I – Topics are selected and research needs are identified (Oct 2012 – Oct 2013): Four expert work groups, convened by HHS and USDA, identify topics, systematic review questions, and research and/or data needs for informing the future development of guidance for the birth to 24 month population, and findings are published.

Phase IIA – Process for guidance development created and initiated (Nov 2013 – Sept 2014): USDA, in collaboration with HHS, develops a framework and transparent process for project Phases IIB through IV, including opportunities for public comments, and creates a broadly representative Federal Expert Group to provide assistance and oversight throughout the guidance development process.

Phase IIB – Evidence is gathered and synthesized (Jan 2015 – Jan 2017): USDA's Nutrition Evidence Library convenes Technical Expert Collaboratives (TECs) to conduct systematic reviews with oversight from the Federal Expert Group, USDA and HHS perform data analyses, and public comments are requested.

Phase III – Guidance is developed (Jan 2017 – Jan 2018): The Federal Expert Group develops guidance using reports from the TECs, data analyses, and other evidence-based reports, taking into consideration public and Federal Agency comments.

Phase IV – Guidance is considered for the 2020 DGA (2018 – 2020): The guidance developed in Phase III is provided to the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) for their use in incorporating this age group into the 2020 DGAC Report; the Report is used as the scientific basis for the 2020 DGA.

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