Sugary drinks threaten the health of children:

The American Heart Association recommends children younger than 18 consume less than 6 teaspoons (25 grams) of added sugars daily. A 12-ounce soda contains 10 teaspoons of sugar on average.

Sugar Consumption Crisis:

- Kids who drink one sugar-sweetened drink per day can gain up to 14.5 pounds of unnecessary weight (depending on age and size) in one year.
- Every day 31.6% of 2nd graders drink 1 or more regular sodas and 40.1% drink 1 or more fruit-flavored drinks.
- Every day 44.3% of 11th graders drink 1 or more regular sodas and 34.3% drink 1 or more fruit-flavored drinks.
- Every day 80.6% of 11th graders drink one or more sugar-sweetened drinks, differing by race/ethnicity:
  - 83.0% of African Americans
  - 79.1% of Hispanics
  - 81.9% of White/Other

Current and Lifetime Risks:

Sugar sweetened drinks have negative health associations:

- Tooth Decay
- Overweight and Obesity
- Type 2 Diabetes
- Heart Disease

Number of Times Sugar-Sweetened Drinks Were Consumed Yesterday:

- 0 SSB's
- 1 SSB's
- 2 SSB's
- 3 SSB's

We can improve what Texas children drink by:

- Providing clean drinking water in schools and child care centers and promoting water as the healthiest drink
- Prohibiting sale of sugar-sweetened drinks in schools and other youth-oriented settings
- Encouraging food marketing companies to reduce unhealthy food and drink marketing to children
- Establishing healthy checkout areas without sugar-sweetened drinks at grocery, retail, and corner stores
- Require that fruit drink labels alert consumers to their high levels of added sugars

*Sugar-sweetened drink is defined as flavored milk, regular (not diet) soda, punch/fruit drinks, coffee/tea with sugar, and energy drinks on the Texas SPAN Survey.
Current Sugar-Sweetened Drink Guidelines

**Infants younger than 12 months** should not drink juice, milk, flavored milks, ‘transition’ or ‘weaning’ formulas, plant-based/non-dairy milks, drinks with caffeine, low-calorie sweetened drinks, or sugar-sweetened drinks.

**Children between 1 - 3 years old** should limit fruit juice consumption to 4 ounces (1/2 cup) per day. They should not drink flavored milks, ‘transition’ or ‘weaning’ formulas, plant-based/non-dairy milks, drinks with caffeine, low-calorie sweetened drinks, or sugar-sweetened drinks.

**Children between 4 - 5 years old** should limit fruit juice consumption to 4 - 6 ounces (1/2 - 3/4 cup) per day. They should not drink flavored milks, ‘transition’ or ‘weaning’ formulas, plant-based/non-dairy milks, drinks with caffeine, low-calorie sweetened drinks, or sugar-sweetened drinks.

**Adolescents between 2 - 18 years old** should consume less than 6 teaspoons (25 grams) of added sugars daily.

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### References


2. School Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Project 2019-2020. Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living. SPAN project details available online at go.uth.edu/SPAN.

   The School Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Project is a surveillance system monitoring the prevalence of overweight/obesity in school-aged children in Texas conducted by researchers at the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living. SPAN has been funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services since 2000 to conduct height and weight measurements across different grade levels.


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### About the Texas Child Health Status Report

These reports utilize state-level data from the School Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Project to provide an accurate representation of Texas child health. This project is funded by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.

Learn more at go.uth.edu/TexasChildHealth

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