



Kingston Health
Sciences Centre



Saturated fat and Cardiovascular Disease: *What is the Evidence?*

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- ICU Physician, General Surgeon, and Physician Stroke Champion Quinte Health Care, Belleville, Ontario,
- Investigating Coroner, Kingston Area,

Presenter Disclosure

Faculty: Andrew Samis MD PhD

Relationships with Commercial Interests:

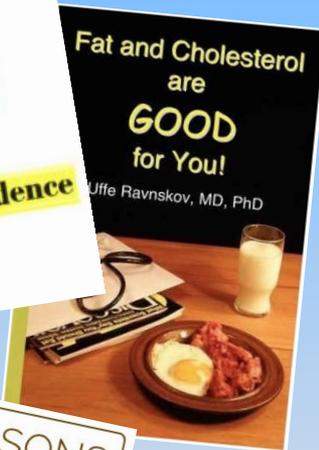
- **Grants/Research Support:** I have received no financial support from for research from a commercial interest. All research support from non biased sources (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, PSI Foundation) for research in areas unrelated to topics in this talk
- **Speakers Honoraria:** I have received speaking honoraria or gifts from the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Lung Association, the Dairy Farmers of Canada, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Pork, Alberta Milk, and the Family Medicine Forum
- I have no financial relationship with a manufacturer of any product or class of products discussed in this presentation, as well as with the commercial supporters



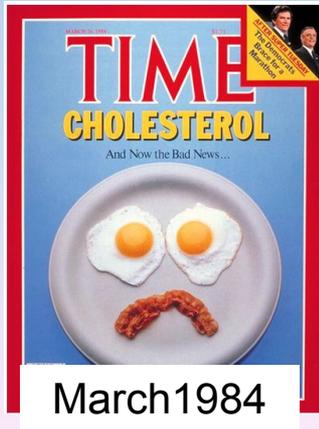
FAT

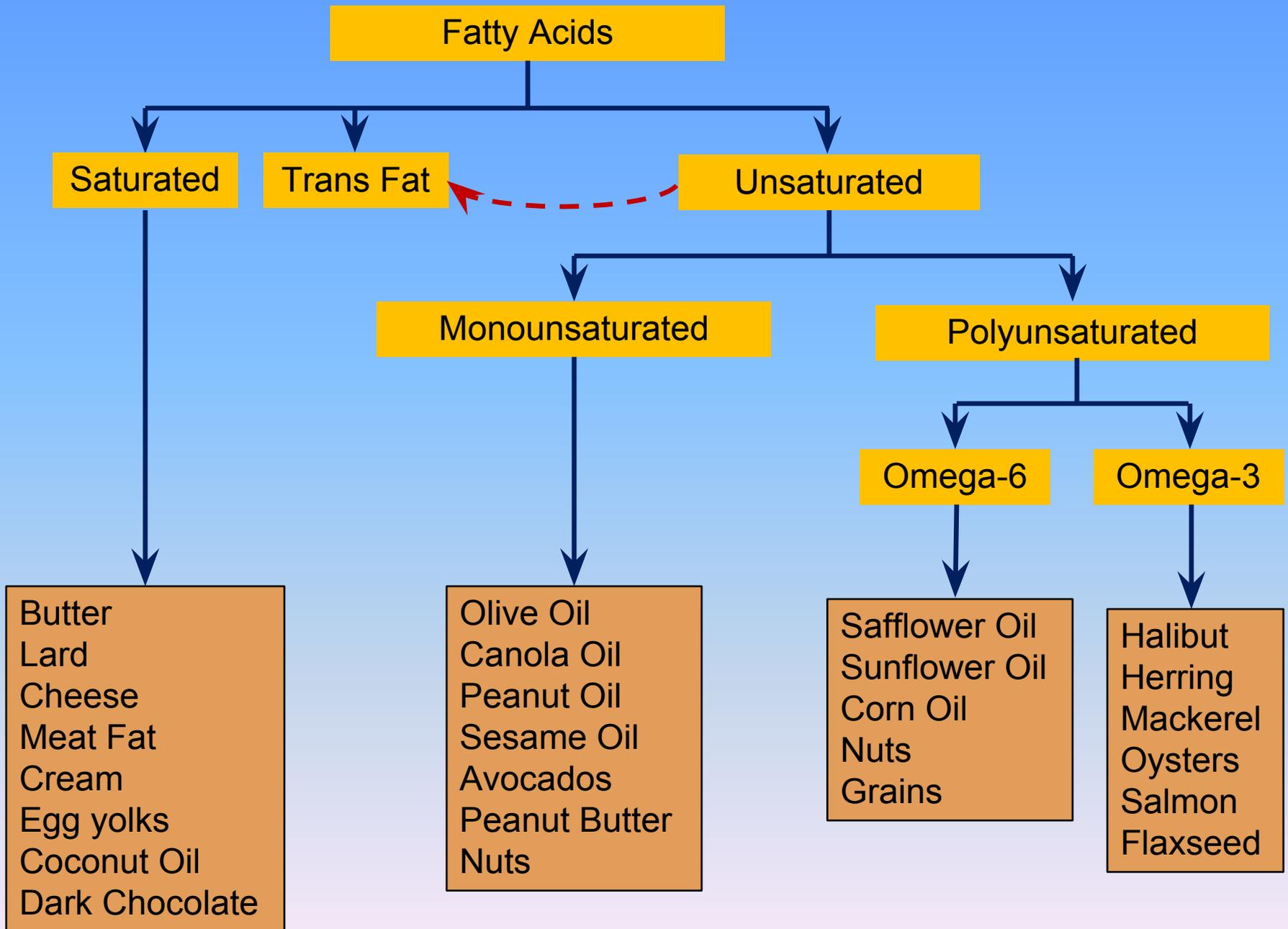


Confusion

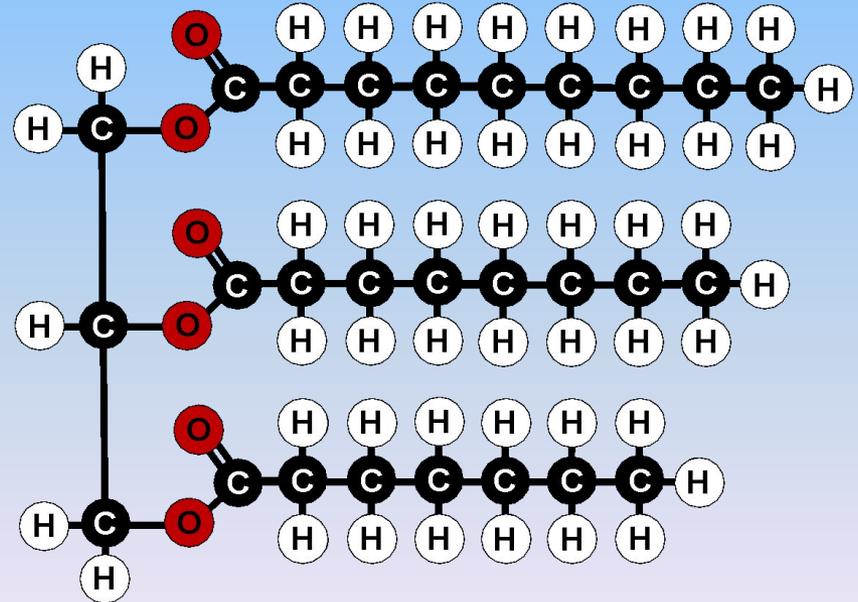
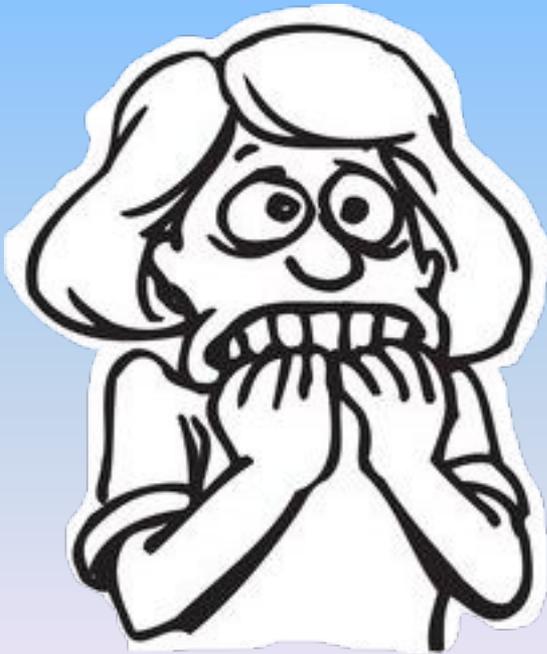


WEIGHT
The Benefits of a Low-Fat Diet



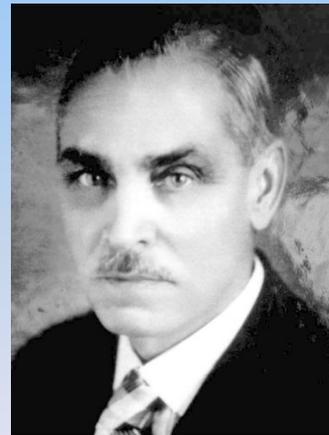
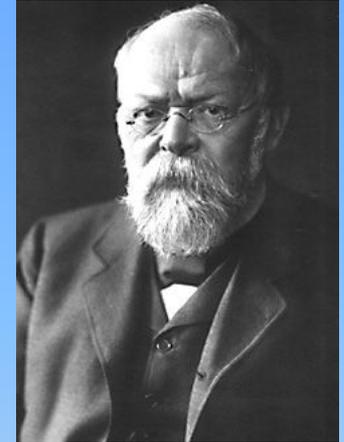


The History of the Vilification of Fat



History of the Vilification of Fat

- **1904** – The term atherosclerosis is introduced by German Pathologist **Dr. Felix Marchand** (1846-1928) at the University of Leipzig suggests it is responsible for most obstructive processes in the arteries. From the Greek "athere" meaning gruel, and "skleros", meaning hard¹
- **1908** – **Dr. Alexander Ignatowski** of the Imperial Medical Academy in St. Petersburg Russia fed rabbits full-fat milk, eggs, and meat and they developed yellow cobblestoning of the aorta which resembled atherosclerotic plaque². This formulated the idea that something in the diet was clogging the arteries.



1. Marchand, F. 1904. "Ueber Atherosclerosis" Verhandlungen der Kongresse fur Innere Medizin. 21 Kongresse.
2. Ignatowski A. Changes in parenchymatous organs and in the aorta of rabbits under the influence of animal protein [in Russian]. Izvestia Imperatorskoi Voenno-Medicinskoi Akademii (St. Petersburg) 1908;18:231-44.

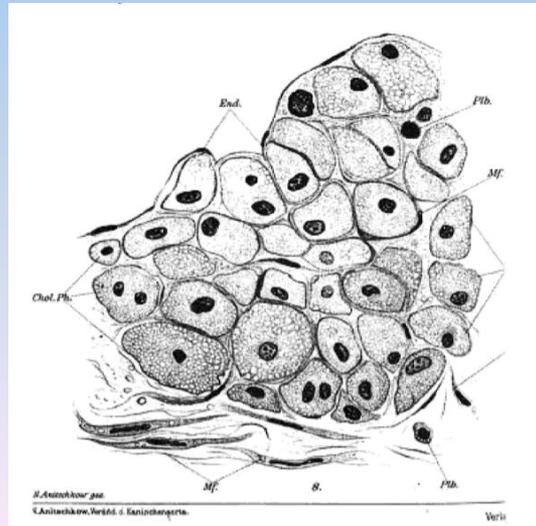
Dr. Nikolaj Anitschkow

(1885-1964)

Russian pathologist

#1

- **1913** –has just finished his PhD at the Imperial Medical Academy in St. Petersburg. He became interested in the work of Dr. Ignatowski.



- Over the next thirty years Dr. Anitschkow and his team determine that the material in the meat and eggs that produces the lesions is called cholesterol, and if rabbits are fed purified cholesterol instead of meat and eggs they develop even bigger plaques^{1,2}.
- These experiments became widely known, and replicated in sheep, cows, horses. His conclusion: “cholesterol in diet (eg. eggs, meat) causes heart disease”
- But these animals are strict herbivores and not evolved to eat meat. Less well known parallel experiments on dogs and rats (natural meat eaters) failed to produce lesions. And the cholesterol levels in rabbits fed pure cholesterol was five times what is seen in a human. The rabbits also accumulated cholesterol in connective tissues– they couldn't eliminate it³.
- These lesions could be also produced in a wide variety of animals fed an almost entirely plant-based diet which doesn't contain cholesterol, but this didn't seem relevant at the time.

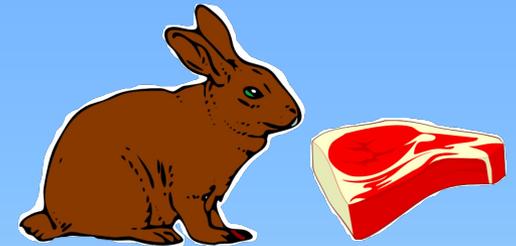


1. Anitschkow N, Chalato S. Ueber experimentelle Cholester- insteatose und ihre Bedeutung fuer die Entstehung einiger pathologischer Prozesse. Zentrbl Allg Pathol Pathol Anat 1913;24:1-9.
 2. Anitschkow N, Chatatow S. (translated by Mary Z. PeliasJ). 1983. Classics in arteriosclerosis research: On experimental cholesterin steatosis and its significance in the origin of some pathological processes by N. Anitschkow and S. Chalato, 1913. Arteriosclerosis 1983;3: 178-82.
 3. Shull K, Mann, GV, Andrus SB, and Stare FJ. 1954. Response of Dogs to Cholesterol Feeding. American Journal of Physiology Published 28 February 1954 Vol. 176 no. 475-482

1951

Lipid Hypothesis

Eat
Cholesterol



Increase
Blood
Cholesterol



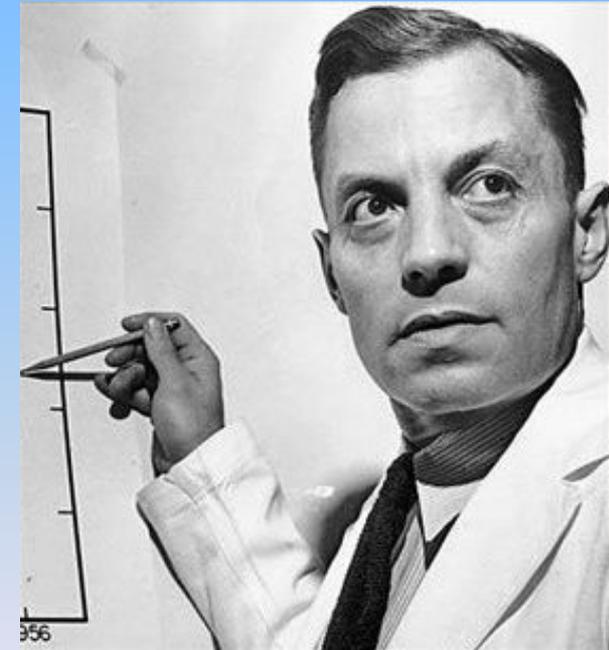
Increase CVD

Dr. Ancel Keys

(1904-2004)

American Physiologist
University of Minnesota

#2





U. S. ARMY FIELD RATION K
SUPPER UNIT



U. S. ARMY FIELD RATION K
DINNER UNIT

CONTENTS:
1 PKG. DEFENSE BISCUITS
1 PKG. COMPRESSED GRAHAM BISCUITS
1 CAN PORK LUNCHEON MEAT
1 TUBE CONCENTRATED BOUILLION
1 STICK CHEWING GUM
1 PKG. DEXTROSE TABLETS

U. S. ARMY FIELD RATION K
BREAKFAST UNIT

CONTENTS:
1 PKG. DEFENSE BISCUITS
1 PKG. COMPRESSED GRAHAM BISCUITS
1 CAN VEAL LUNCHEON MEAT
1 PKG. MALTED MILK — DEXTROSE TABLETS
2 PKGS. SOLUBLE COFFEE
3 TABLETS SUGAR
1 STICK CHEWING GUM



Diet-Heart Hypothesis

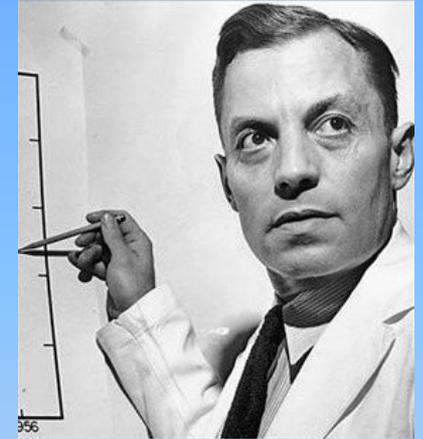
Eat Fat
Especially
Saturated Fat



Increase
Blood
Cholesterol



Increase CVD

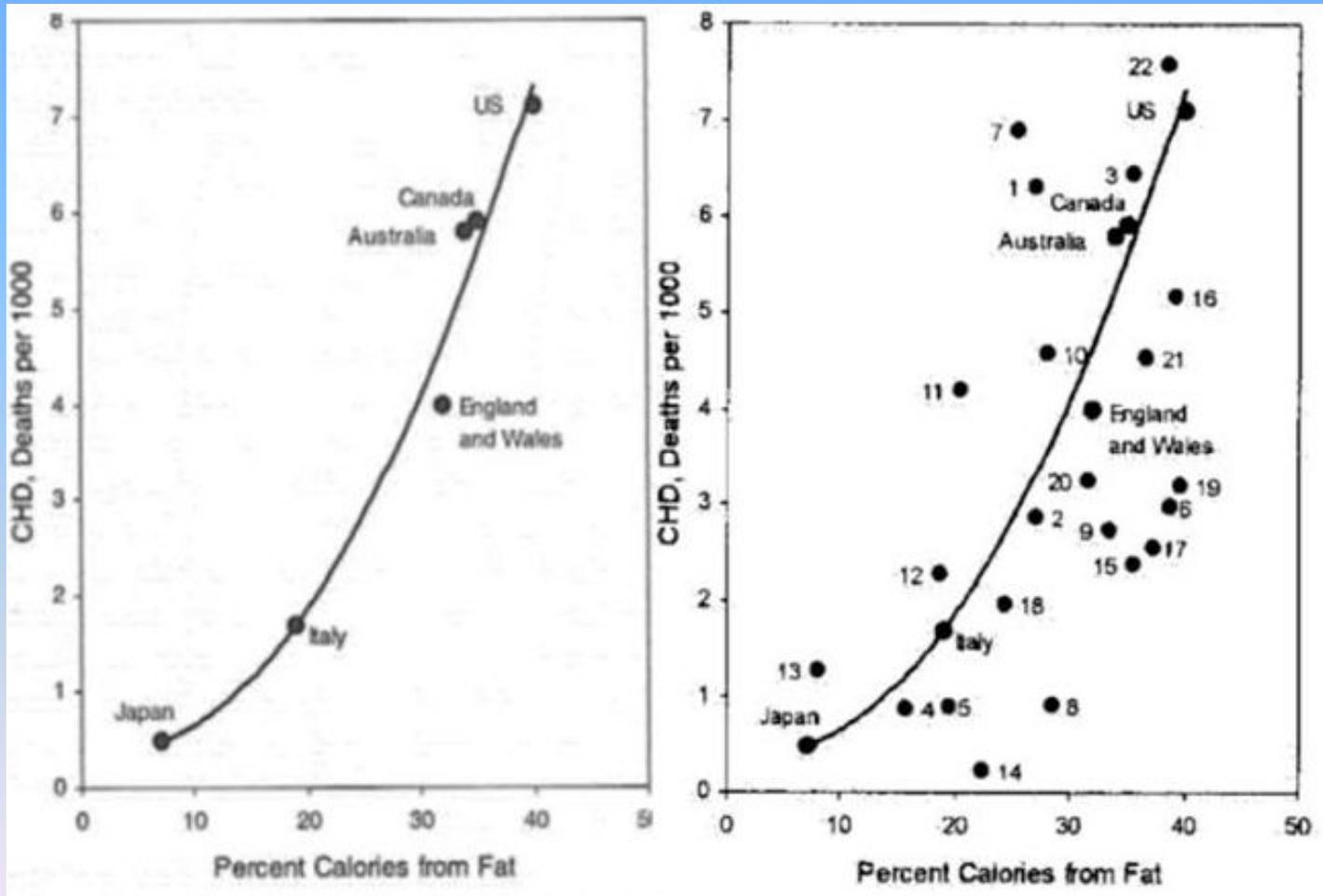


1950-1960



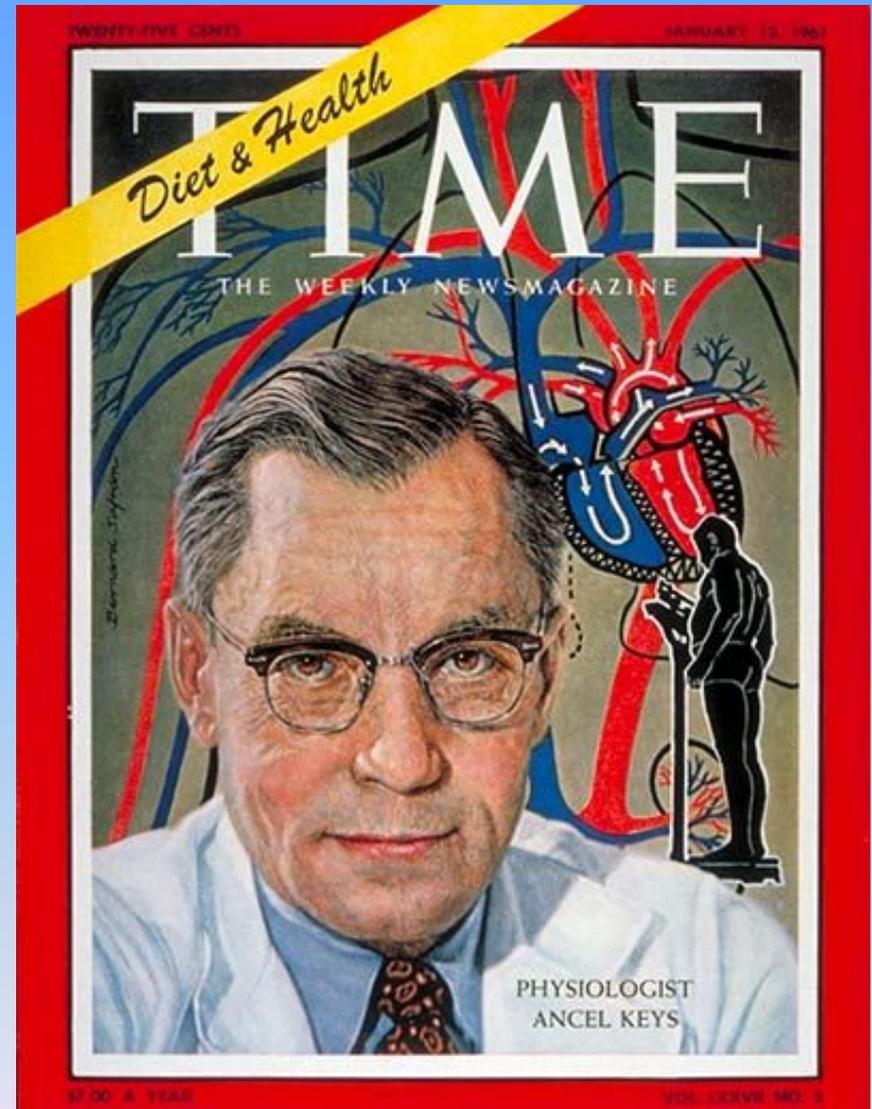
1. Jason Andrade, MD, FRCPC, Aneez Mohamed, MD, FRCPC, Jiri Frohlich, MD, FRCPC, Andrew Ignaszewski, MD, FRCPC. 2009. Ancel Keys and the lipid hypothesis: From early breakthroughs to current management of dyslipidemia. *BCMJ*, Vol. 51, No. 2, March 2009, page(s) 66-72
2. Teicholz, N. *The Big Fat Surprise*. Simon and Shuster. 479 pp.

- There was immediate criticism because Keys had selected a subset of countries out of the 21 for which were data. Analysis of the full dataset by Yerushalmy and Hilleboe (1957) showed the the link fat intake and heart disease much less clear, and some current analyses have shown an opposite effect.





- In the late 1950's the American Heart Association formed a nutrition committee.
- It did not support the diet-heart hypothesis of Keys, stating that “the evidence does not stand up under critical examination”
- This changed in 1961 when Keys became a member of the committee, and the diet-heart hypothesis became “the best scientific evidence available at the time”



Keys A (ed). Coronary heart disease in seven countries. *Circulation* 1970;41(4S1):1-198.

Yerushalmy J, Hilleboe HE. in the diet and mortality from heart disease; a methodologic note *NY State J Med.* 1957 Jul 15;57(14):2343-54.

Teicholz, N. *The Big Fat Surprise.* Simon and Shuster. 479 pp.

Adult Nutritional Guidelines 1961

- The advice to reduce fat in human diet to reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes has been a corner stone of world wide dietary guidelines for over 60 years
- *Journal of the American Medical Association* 1961:

Dietary Fat and Its Relation to Heart Attacks and Strokes

REPORT BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY
PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION*

- “ The reduction or control of fat consumption under medical supervision, with reasonable substitution of poly-unsaturated for saturated fats, is recommended as a possible means of preventing atherosclerosis and decreasing the risk of heart attacks and strokes”
- **“ More complete information must be obtained before final conclusions are reached”**
- Authors – Irvine Page MD (Cleveland), E.V. Allen MD (Rochester Minn), Francis Chamberlain MD (San Francisco), Ancel Keys PhD, Jeremiah Stamler MD (Chicago), Frederick Stare MD (Boston)



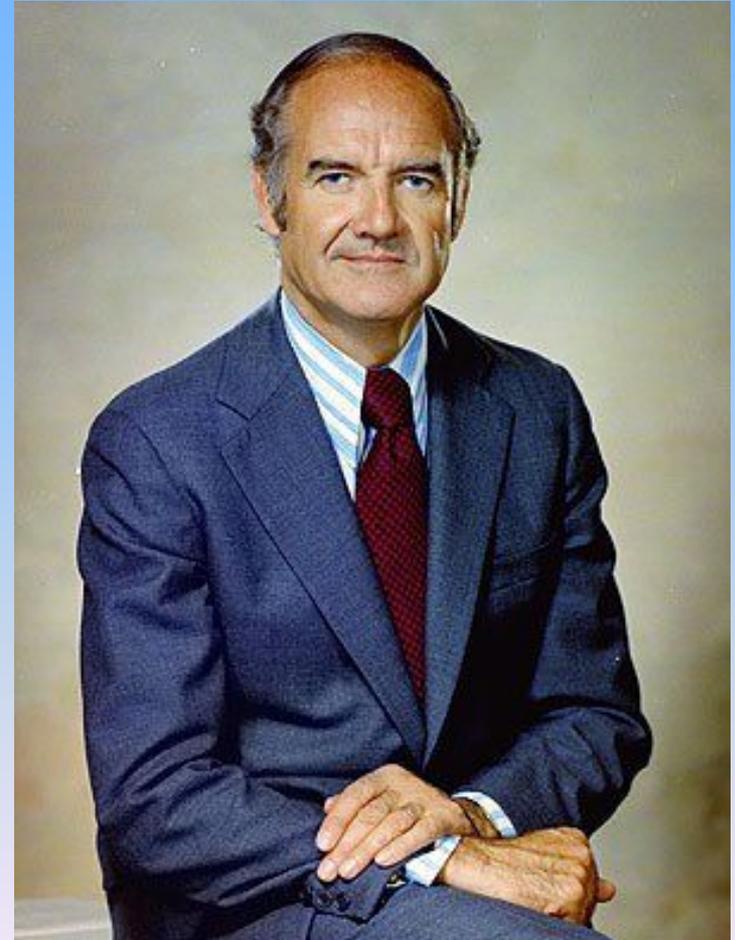
George McGovern

(1922-2012)

US Senator from South Dakota 1963-1981

#3

- World War II bomber pilot flew 35 missions over German-Occupied Europe, earned Distinguished Flying Cross
- Methodist Minister
- PhD in History from Northwestern University
- US House of Representatives (4 yrs) then Senate (18 yrs) representing South Dakota
- Democratic candidate for US President in 1972 against Richard Nixon, lost with a 61%-37% defeat, the second biggest landslide in American history, with Electoral College total 520 to 17.
- The Watergate break in in 1972 was targeting the DNC and an alternate to bugging McGovern's headquarters
- Guest host of Saturday Night Live in 1984



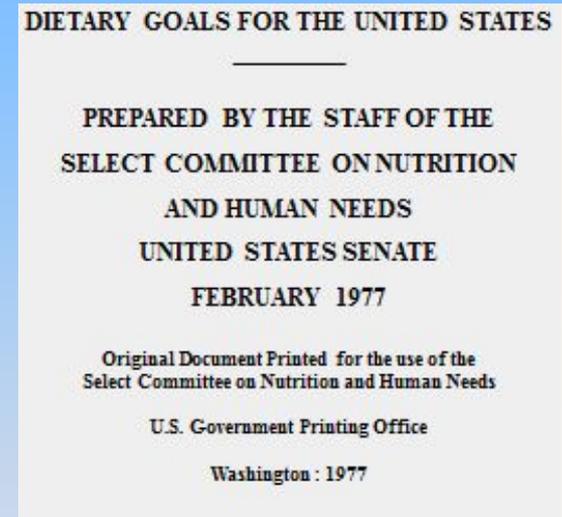
- The director of the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute Dr. Robert Levy said that **“no one knew if eating less fat would prevent heart attacks”**,
- Dr. Pete Ahrens said that **“advising Americans to eat less fat on the strength of such marginal evidence was equivalent to conducting a nutritional experiment with the American public as subjects”**.
- One scientist, Dr. Robert Olson said **“I plead in my report and will plead again orally here for more research on the problem before we make announcements to the American public.”** Senator McGovern replied: **“Senators don’t have the luxury that the research scientist does of waiting until every last shred of evidence is in.”**



“Dietary Goals for the United States” ‘The McGovern Report’

Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs
United States Senate - February 1977

- In simple terms, the senators were “faced with issues they were professionally incapable of resolving: conflicts within science over the interpretation of data, questions of scientific validity, and notions of proof”
- Ultimately there was a lack of scientific consensus, which led to a heavy influence from non-scientific groups

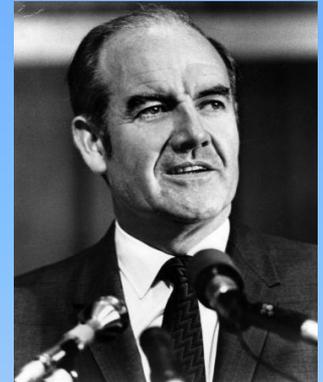


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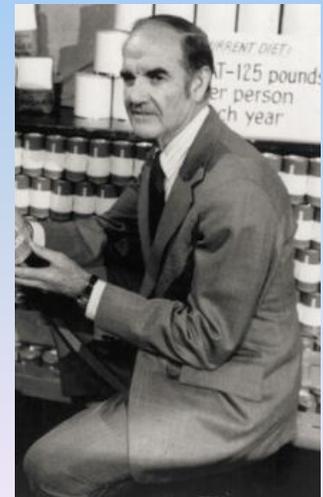
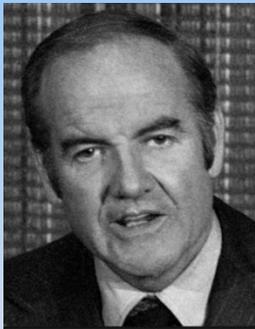


GEORGE MCGOVERN, South Dakota, Chairman
HERMAN E. TALMADGE, Georgia
GAYLORD NELSON, Wisconsin
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, Minnesota
ROBERT DOLE, Kansas
MARKO. HATFIELD, Oregon
EDWARD M. KENNEDY, Massachusetts
ALAN CRANSTON, California
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ALAN J. STONE, Staff Director
MARSHALL L. MATZ, General Counsel



U.S. DIETARY GOALS

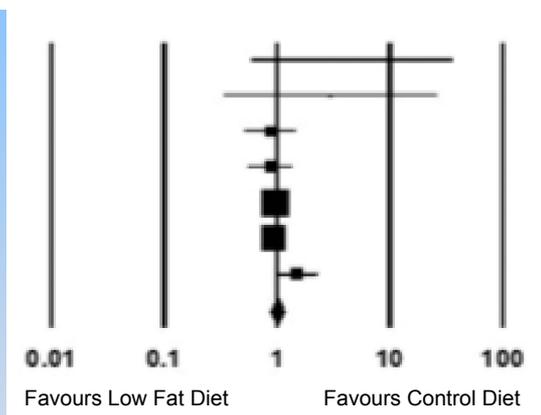
1. Increase carbohydrate consumption to account for 55 to 60 percent of the energy (caloric) intake.
2. Reduce overall fat consumption from approximately 40 to 30 percent energy intake.
3. Reduce saturated fat consumption to account for about 10 percent of total energy intake; and balance that with poly-unsaturated and mono-unsaturated fats, which should account for about 10 percent of energy intake each.
4. Reduce cholesterol consumption to about 300 mg. a day.
5. Reduce sugar consumption by about 40 percent to account for about 15 percent of total energy intake.
6. Reduce salt consumption by about 50 to 85 percent to approximately 3 grams a day.



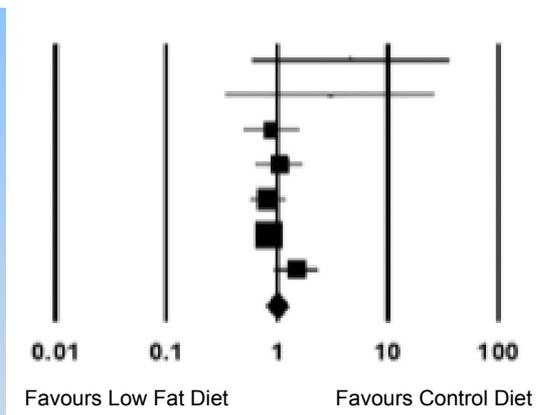
- **2015** Zoe Harcombe et al. publish paper in journal *Open Heart*



Dietary interventions and all deaths



Dietary interventions and heart deaths



- Concluded that even though dietary recommendations calling for the public to reduce total fat and saturated fat in their diet were introduced at the cost of \$200M USD and \$56M GBP, there was no supporting evidence from the seven RCTs that existed at the time



Canadian Council on Nutrition

Nutrition Division of the Federal Government



Canada's Official Food Rules 1942

Canada's Food Rules 1944

Canada's Food Rules 1949

Canada's Food Guide 1961

Canada's Food Guide 1977

Canada's Food Guide 1982

Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating 1992

Eating Well With Canada's Food Guide 2007



← 1977 the term "meat" is replaced with "cooked lean meat" and serving of carbohydrates increased

← 1982 new section titled "moderation" included which recommends "foods with limited amounts of fat"

← 1992 now suggests leaner meats, meat alternatives, and no more mention of cheese

- **1988-1999** US Surgeon General's Office commits to writing the definitive report on dietary fat, calling it "the most unwholesome part of the American Diet". There was four project officers in 10 years, finally halting the project after 11 years. The associate director of the office of prevention at the NIH said "the report was initiated with a preconceived opinion of the conclusions, but the science behind these opinions was not holding up"



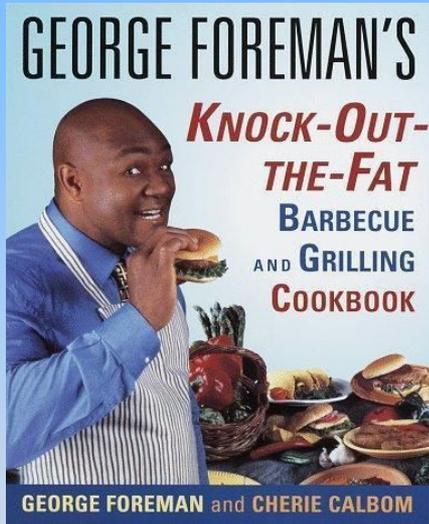
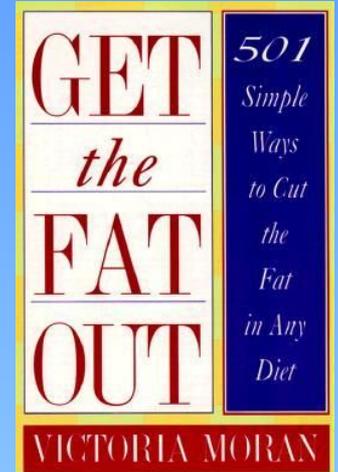
- **1970-2000** The production of low fat products became big business – 15,000 products introduced. A food science research industry arose to create palatable non-fat substitutes. The low fat message spread by what Gary Taubes calls "societal osmosis" - continually reinforced by physicians, dieticians, health organizations, journalists, and consumer advocacy groups.

Adult Nutritional Guidelines 2006

AHA 2006 Diet and Lifestyle Recommendations for Cardiovascular Disease Risk Reduction

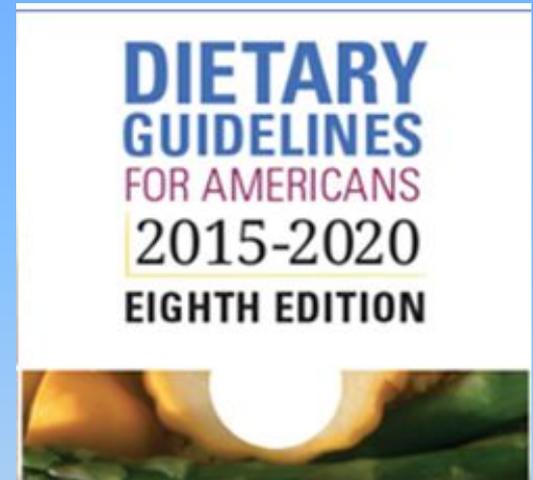
- Balance calorie intake and physical activity to achieve or maintain a healthy body weight
- Consume a diet rich in vegetables and fruits
- Choose whole-grain, high-fiber foods
- Consume fish, especially oily fish, at least twice a week
- ➔ • Limit your intake of saturated fat to 7% of energy, trans fat to 1% of energy, and cholesterol to 300 mg/d by
 - ➔ • Choosing lean meats and vegetable alternatives
 - ➔ • Selecting fat-free (skim), 1% fat, and low-fat dairy products
 - Minimizing intake of partially hydrogenated fats
- Minimize intake of beverages and foods with added sugars
- Choose and prepare foods with little or no salt
- If you consume alcohol, do so in moderation
- When you eat food prepared outside of home, follow the AHA diet and lifestyle recommendations





Dietary Cholesterol

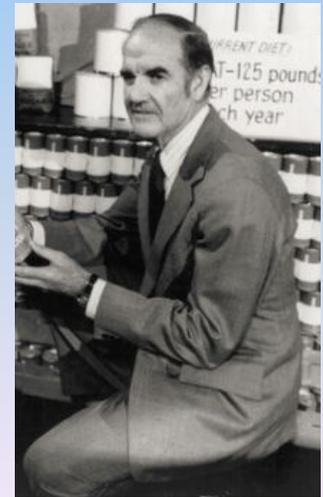
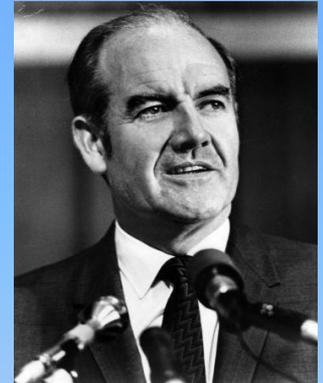
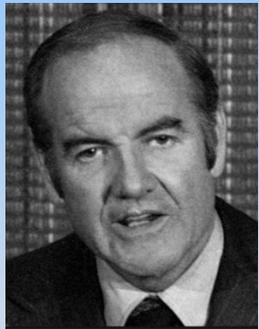
- In 2015, the US Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) finally acknowledged the research and changed, after 50 years of warnings about dietary cholesterol. Now the US is in line with other Western countries



*“Previously, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommended that cholesterol intake be limited to no more than 300 mg/day. The 2015 DGAC will not bring forward this recommendation because available evidence shows no appreciable relationship between consumption of dietary cholesterol and serum cholesterol... **Cholesterol is not a nutrient of concern for overconsumption.**”*

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4. ~~Reduce cholesterol consumption to about 300 mg. a day.~~
5. Reduce sugar consumption by about 40 percent to account for about 15 percent of total energy intake.
6. Reduce salt consumption by about 50 to 85 percent to approximately 3 grams a day.

MEAT ALTERNATIVES FACT #6

Nuts are cholesterol free, which is important in a heart healthy diet.



Valeur nutritive Nutrition Facts

pour 3/4 tasse (175 g)

Per 3/4 cup (175 g)

Teneur Amount	% valeur quotidienne % Daily Value
Calories / Calories 170	
Lipides / Fat 9 g	14 %
saturés / Saturated 5 g + trans / Trans 0,3 g	27 %
Cholestérol / Cholesterol 35 mg	
Sodium / Sodium 65 mg	3 %
Glucides / Carbohydate 6 g	2 %
Fibres / Fibre 0 g	0 %
Sucres / Sugars 6 g	
Protéines / Protein 15 g	
Vitamine A / Vitamin A	8 %
Vitamine C / Vitamin C	0 %
Calcium / Calcium	20 %
Fer / Iron	0 %

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How can you make a healthier choice?



- For a healthy diet, reduce the amount of cholesterol, saturated and trans fats you eat.
- Use the % Daily Value (% DV) in the Nutrition Facts table.
- Remember: 5% DV or less is a little and 15% DV or more is a lot for all nutrients.
- Cholesterol, saturated and trans fats are nutrients you may want **less** of.

How is the % DV for cholesterol calculated?

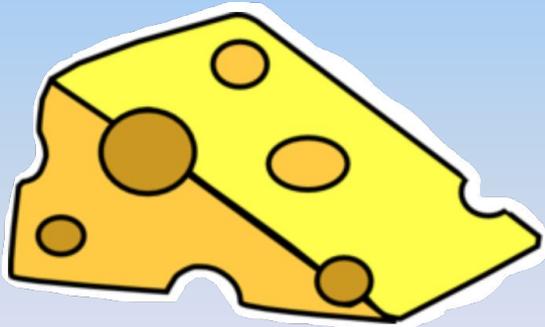
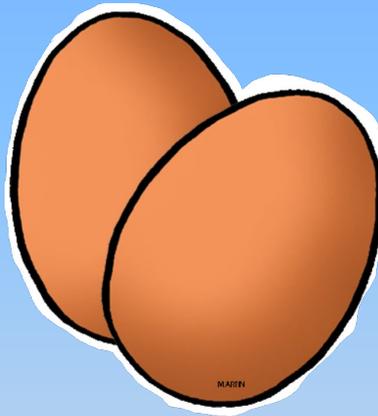


When there is a % DV for cholesterol, the Daily Value used in nutrition labelling is based on 300 mg of cholesterol for a reference diet.

For example, if the Nutrition Facts table shows 30 mg of cholesterol, the product would have a % Daily Value for cholesterol of 10%.
(30 mg ÷ 300 mg) × 100 = 10%.

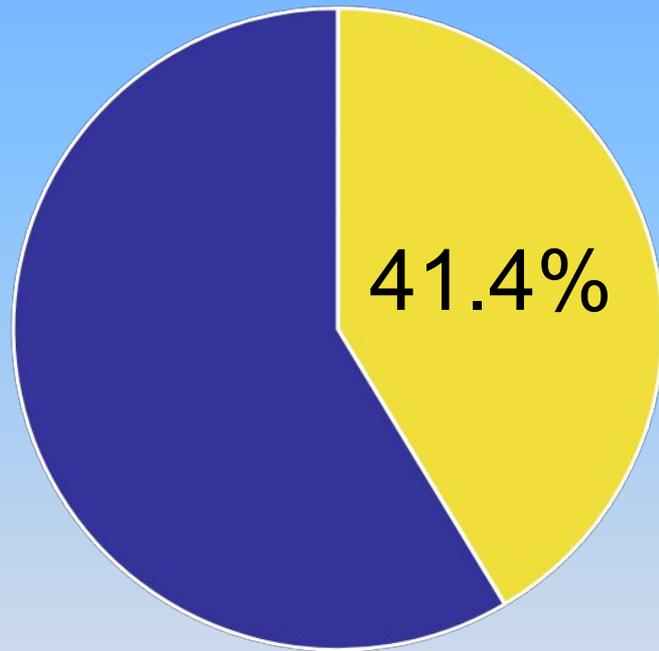
Remember: 5% DV or less is a little and 15% DV or more is a lot for all nutrients.

Total Dietary Fat

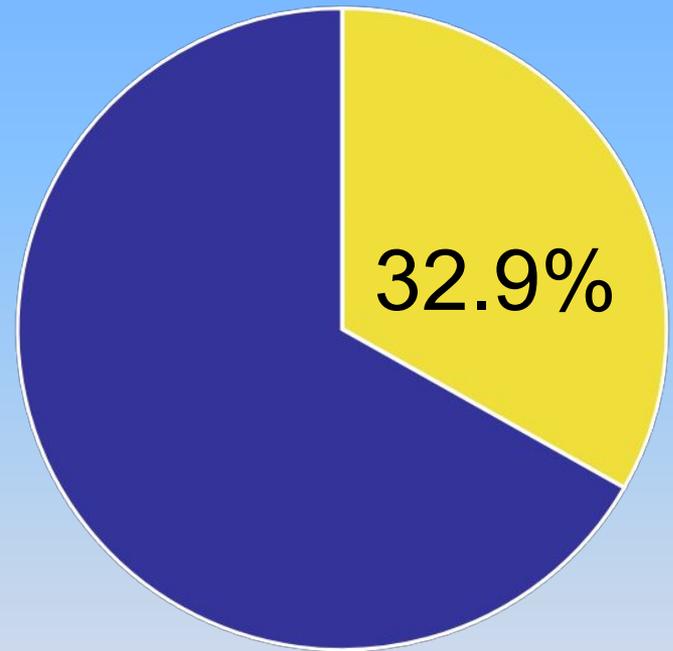
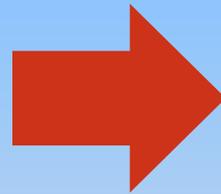


Percent kcal from Total Dietary Fat

U.S. Population



1977



2012



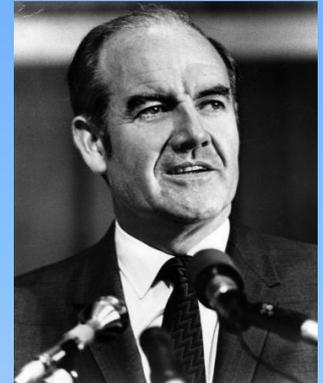
Cochrane Database 2012



- Results in terms of overall fat in diet:
 - **No effect** of reducing dietary fat on total mortality (RR 0.98, 95% CI 0.93 to 1.04, 71,790 participants)
 - **No effect** of reducing dietary fat on cardiovascular mortality (RR 0.94, 95% CI 0.85 to 1.04, 65,978 participants)
 - There are “**no clear health benefits**” of reducing the total amount of fat we eat. This included overall death rates, cardiovascular death rates, incidences of heart attacks, angina, strokes, sudden cardiovascular death and the need for heart surgery.

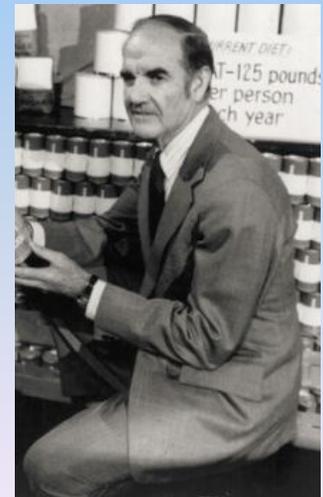
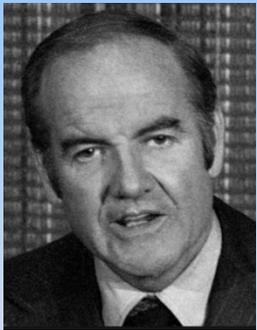
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Unsaturated vs Saturated Fat



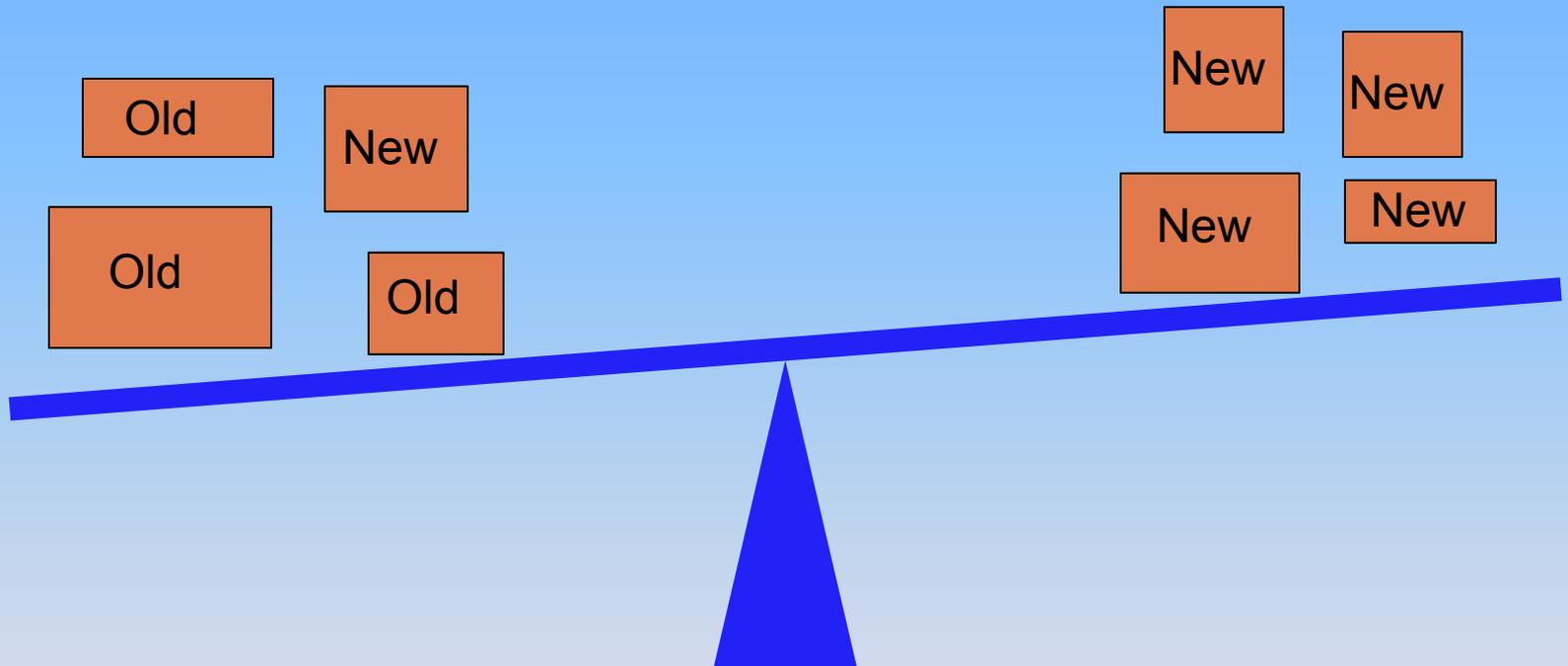
Unsaturated vs Saturated Fat

The Key

the most important question in human diet in developed countries

the chance of having a heart attack, stroke, angina, heart surgery

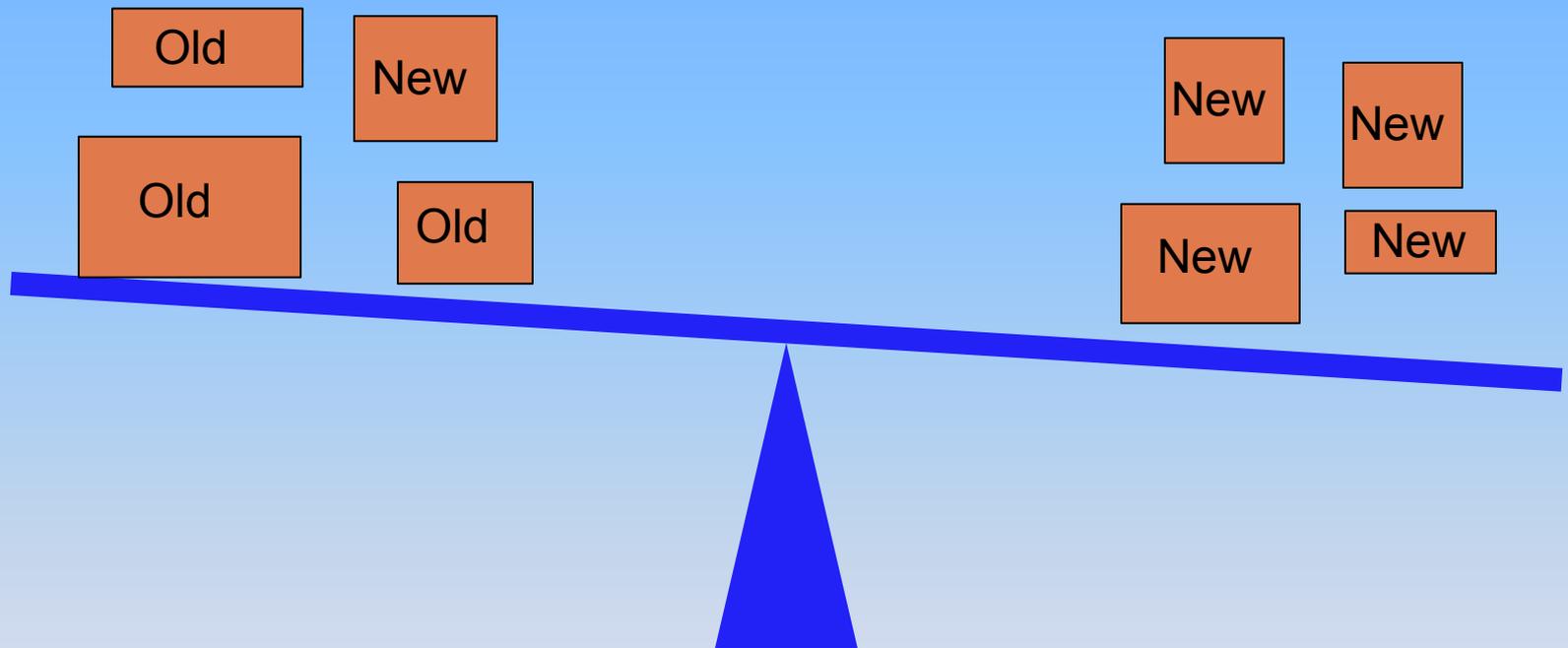
State of the Literature 2018



~~Fat and SFA~~ should be reduced in diet to prevent heart attack and stroke and obesity

Fat and SFA not related to heart attack and stroke

State of the Literature 2018



~~Fat and SFA~~ should be reduced in diet to prevent heart attack and stroke and obesity

Fat and SFA not related to heart attack and stroke

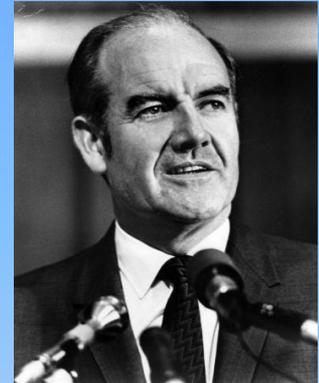
“Reduce Saturated Fat to decrease risk of CVD”



Sat Fat Increases CVD	Sat Fat Neutral for CVD	Sat Fat Decrease CVD
Zong et al. 2016 <i>BMJ</i>	Ramsden et al. 2016 <i>BMJ</i>	Dehghan et al. 2017 <i>The Lancet</i>
Wang et al. 2016 <i>JAMA Int Med</i>	de Souza et al 2015 <i>BMJ</i>	Grasgruber et al. 2016 <i>Food Nutr Res</i>
Hooper et al. 2015 <i>Cochrane Database</i>	Harcombe et al 2015 <i>Open Heart (BMJ)</i>	Praagman et al. 2016 <i>Am J Clin Nutr</i>
Li et al. 2015 <i>J Am Coll Cardiol</i>	Chowdhury et al. 2014 <i>Annals of Internal Medicine</i>	Praagman et al. 2016 <i>Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol</i>
de Oliveira et al. 2012 <i>Am J Clin Nutr</i>	Siri-Tarino et al. 2010 <i>Am J Clin Nutr</i>	Ramsden et al. 2013 <i>BMJ</i>
Mozaffarian et. al 2010 <i>PLoS Medicine</i>	Danaei et al. 2009 <i>PLoS Medicine</i>	de Oliveira et al. 2012 <i>Am J Clin Nutr</i>
	Mente et al. 2009 <i>Arch Intern Med</i>	

“Dietary Goals for the United States” ‘The McGovern Report’

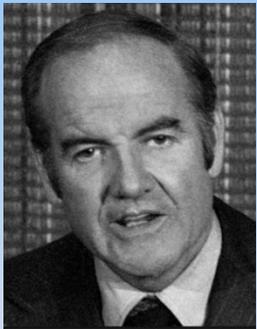
Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs
United States Senate - February 1977



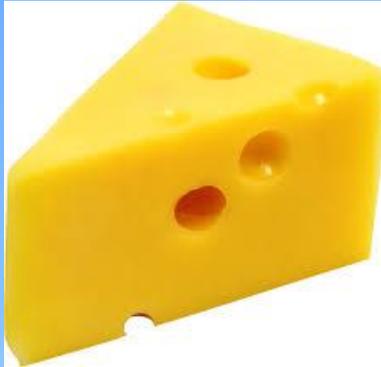
U.S. DIETARY GOALS

1. Increase carbohydrate consumption to account for 55 to 60 percent of the energy (caloric) intake.
- ~~2. Reduce overall fat consumption from approximately 40 to 30 percent energy intake.~~
3. Reduce saturated fat consumption to account for about 10 percent of total energy intake; and balance that with poly-unsaturated and mono-unsaturated fats, which should account for 10 percent of energy intake each.
- ~~4. Reduce cholesterol consumption to about 300 mg. a day.~~
5. Reduce sugar consumption by about 40 percent to account for about 15 percent of total energy intake.
6. Reduce salt consumption by about 50 to 85 percent to approximately 3 grams a day.

Still Unproven



Dairy Saturated Fat



Systematic Review of the Association between Dairy Product Consumption and Risk of Cardiovascular-Related Clinical Outcomes¹⁻³

Jean-Philippe Drouin-Chartier,⁴ Didier Brassard,⁴ Maude Tessier-Grenier,⁴ Julie Anne Côté,⁵ Marie-Ève Labonté,⁶ Sophie Desroches,⁴ Patrick Couture,^{4,7} and Benoît Lamarche^{4*}

⁴Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods, Laval University, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada; ⁵Institut Universitaire de Cardiologie et de Pneumologie de Québec, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada; ⁶Department of Nutritional Science, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and ⁷CHU de Québec-Université Laval, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

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Findings:

- the consumption of dairy products shows either **favorable** or **neutral** associations with CVD
- total dairy, cheese, and yogurt are associated with **decreased** risk of stroke, hypertension and diabetes
- “the recommendation to focus on low-fat in place of regular- and high-fat dairy is currently not evidence-based”



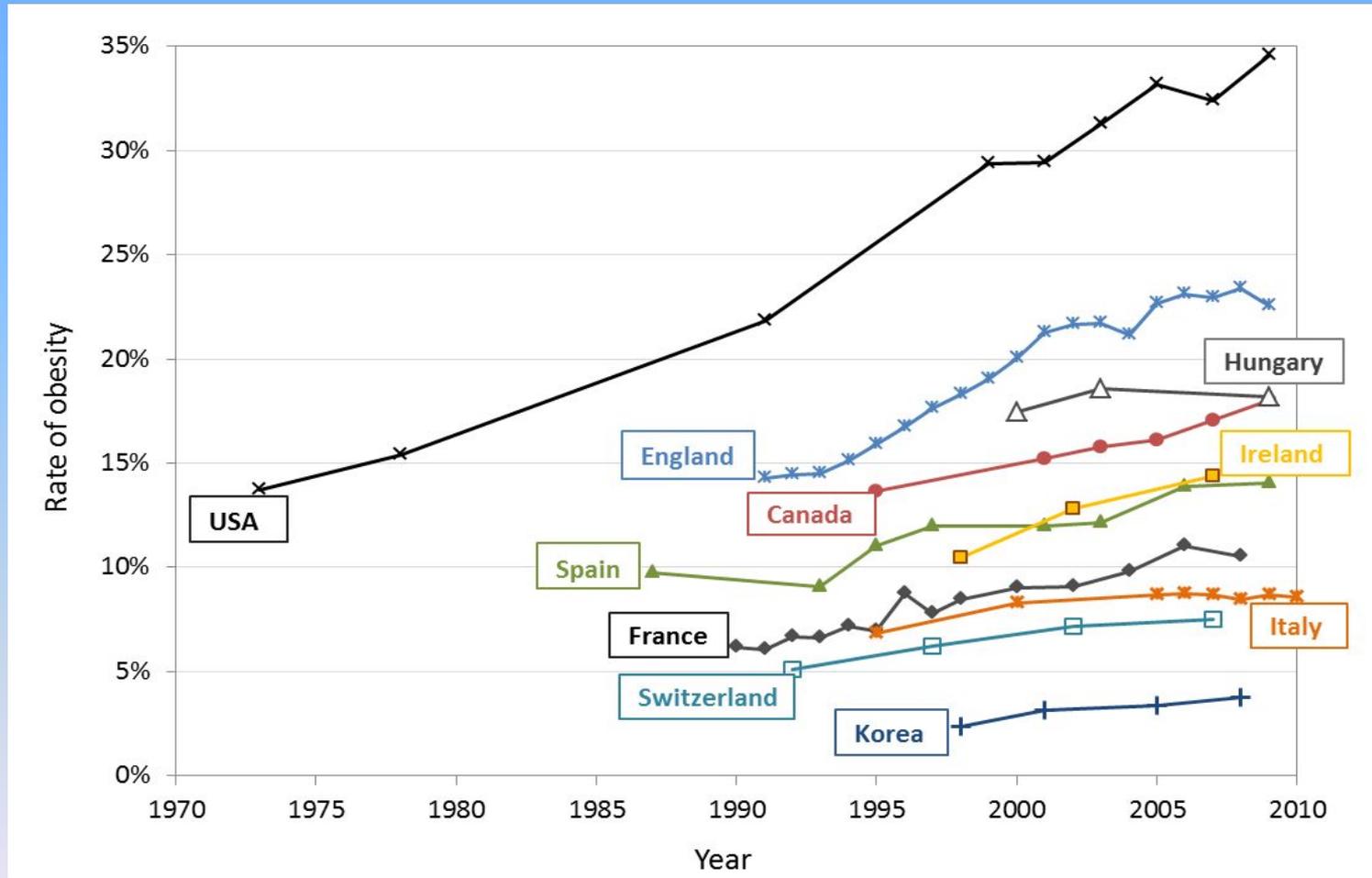
Summary: Dietary Fat



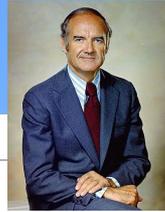
The current evidence as of 2018 with respect to dietary fat and cardiovascular disease indicates that:

- ➔ The consumption of **trans fats** increases CVD. Trans fats are not safe and should be removed from the food supply¹
- ➔ There is no increase in CVD from eating **cholesterol rich foods**, including eggs and butter
- ➔ There is no reduction in CVD by reducing **overall fat**
- ➔ The literature is unclear if reducing **saturated fat** has an impact on CVD

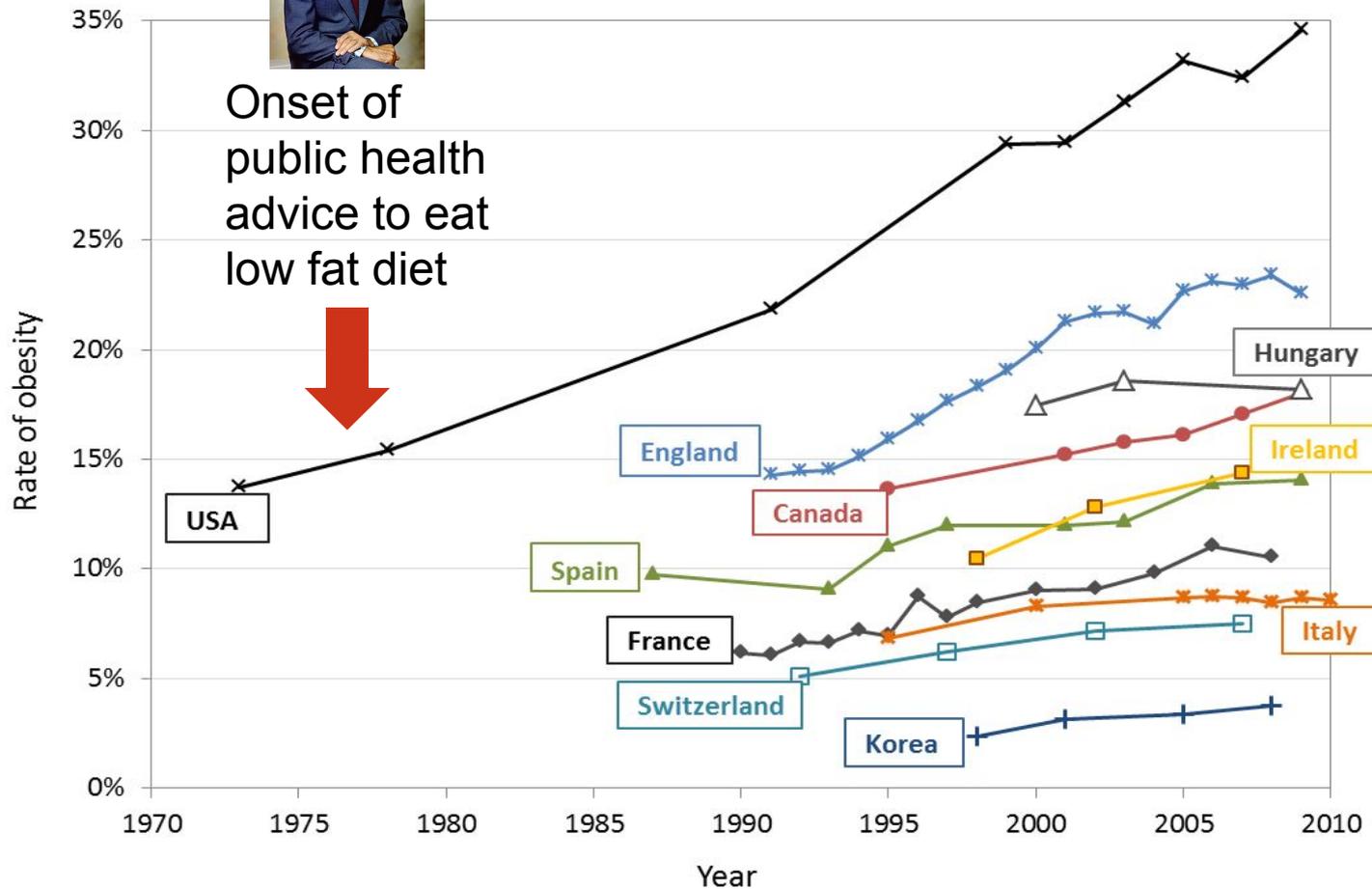
Obesity Rates



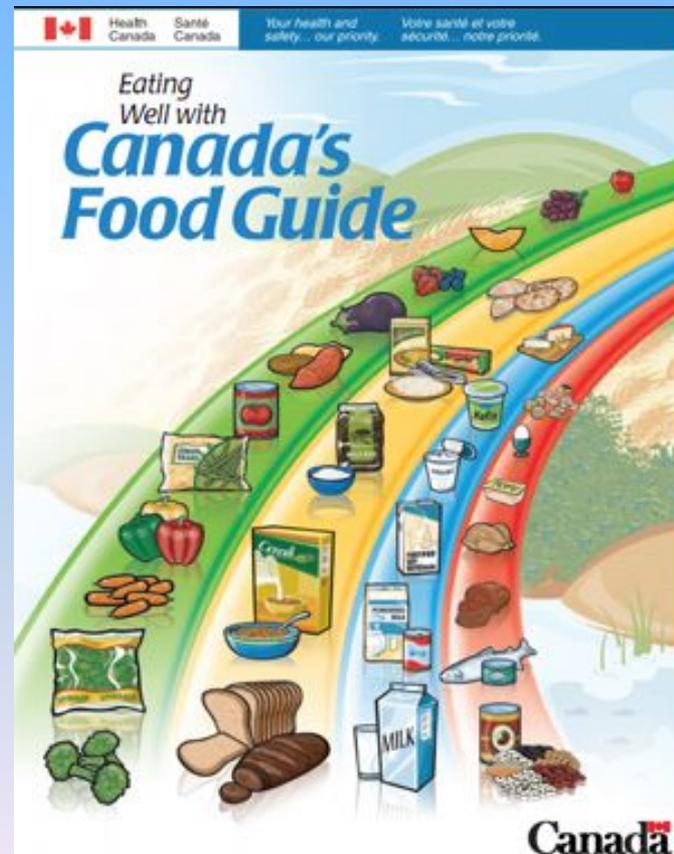
Obesity Rates



Onset of
public health
advice to eat
low fat diet



Criticism of the 2007 Canada's Food Guide



Canada's New Food Guide

Français



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

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Element A: Guiding Principle 1

Based on the available evidence, Health Canada is proposing the following Guiding Principle and Recommendations to focus on the regular intake of nutritious foods as the foundation for healthy eating.

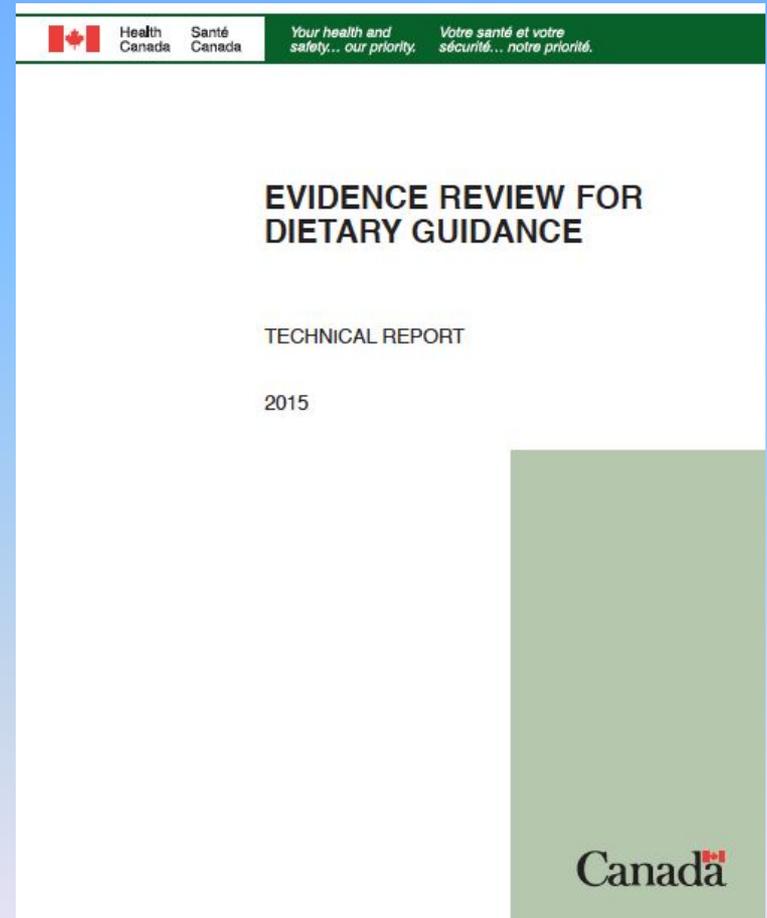
Guiding Principle 1: A variety of nutritious foods and beverages are the foundation for healthy eating.

Health Canada recommends:

- Regular intake of vegetables, fruit, whole grains, and protein-rich foods* – especially plant-based sources of protein
- Inclusion of foods that contain mostly unsaturated fat, instead of foods that contain mostly of saturated fat
- Regular intake of water

Canada's New Food Guide

- Improper scientific review methods which were non-rigorous and deeply flawed.
- This rigorous scientific method should be expected for all those areas where food recommendations are being made to prevent disease



Questions

