

Diabetes: Food Pyramid

The **diabetes food pyramid** is a tool to help you eat a wide range of healthy foods. If you eat the lowest number of servings for each type of food, you'll eat about 1,600 calories a day. The highest number of servings will give you about 2,800 calories a day. Your calorie needs are based in part on your height, gender, and activity level. Your healthcare provider can help you determine a calorie level that's right for you.

Fruits

(2 to 4 servings a day)

A serving has 15 grams of carbohydrate, about 60 calories, and no fat.

Healthy low-fat choices: whole fresh fruits or canned fruit with no sugar added.

Milk and Yogurt

(2 to 3 servings a day)

A serving has 12 grams of carbohydrate and 8 grams of protein. Low-fat and fat-free choices have about 100 calories and little fat.

Healthy, low-fat choices: low-fat or fat-free milk and fat-free yogurt with artificial sweetener.

Breads, Grains, and Other Starches

(6 to 11 servings a day)

A serving has 15 grams of carbohydrate, 3 grams of protein, and about 80 calories. Most have no more than 1 gram of fat.

Healthy, low-fat choices: whole-grain breads and cereals, corn, tortillas, oatmeal, bulgur, brown rice, dried beans, lentils, peas, yams, acorn or butternut squash, pumpkin.

Fats, Sweets, and Alcohol

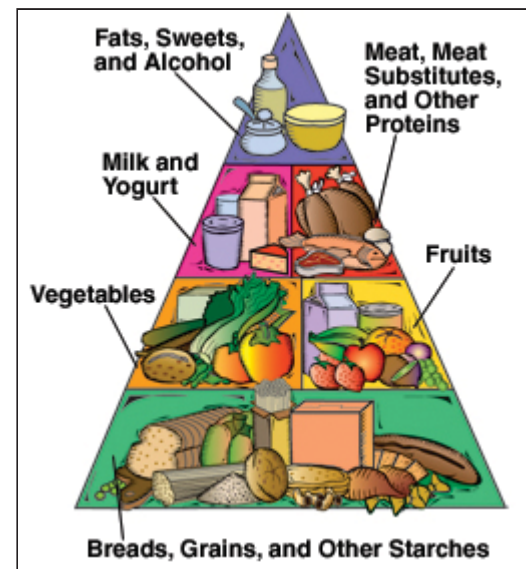
(use sparingly)

The foods in this group are high in calories. The best choices of fat are olive and canola oil and tub or liquid margarine. A serving of fat is 1 teaspoon. It has 45 calories and 5 grams of fat. Sweets often have fat and carbohydrate. Eat them in small amounts.

Meat, Meat Substitutes, and Other Proteins

(2 to 3 servings a day)

A serving has 21 grams of protein and no carbohydrate. Lean and very lean choices have the least fat and the fewest calories.



Healthy, low-fat choices: fish, white-meat chicken or turkey, lean red meat, reduced-fat or fat-free cheese.

Vegetables

(3 to 5 servings a day)

A serving has 5 grams of carbohydrate, about 25 calories, and no fat.

Healthy low-fat choices: fresh vegetables or frozen vegetables without sauce, butter, or margarine.

What About Alcohol?

Work with your healthcare team to decide if you can have alcohol. If you do drink, do so in moderation. And always eat a carbohydrate at the same time to avoid low blood sugar.

© 2000-2009 The StayWell Company, 780 Township Line Road, Yardley, PA 19067. All rights reserved. This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical care. Always follow your healthcare professional's instructions.