Introduction to Subcommittee Reports

Barbara Millen
Chair, 2015 DGAC
2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee

- Provides science-based recommendations to the Federal government on
  - How food, nutrition, and physical activity
    - Can promote the health of the U.S. population
    - Help reduce the burden from major chronic diseases and other lifestyle-related health problems
  - How best to accomplish these goals at individual and population levels

- Scientific report informs the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2015 policy document
2015 DGAC Themes

Core to the DGAC
Food, nutrient, and health-related recommendations

Themes
• Focus on **dietary patterns** related to
  • Meeting nutrient recommendations
  • Health outcomes
  • Sustainability
• “What works” to meet recommendations (best practices)
• “Systems” approach
### 2015 DGAC Subcommittees

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<td><strong>Dietary Patterns, Foods and Nutrients, and Health Outcomes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Diet and Physical Activity Behavior Change</strong></td>
<td><strong>Food and Physical Activity Environments</strong></td>
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Cross-cutting Topics

Examples

- Sodium
- Added Sugars
- Physical Activity
- Saturated Fat
- “What Works”
  - Health impact of and modes/methods/settings for helping Americans meet diet and physical activity recommendations to promote health
Invited Experts and Consultants

Invited Experts
Individuals invited by the SC, usually on a one time basis, to provide their expertise to inform the SC’s work. Invited experts do not participate in decisions at the SC level.

Consultant SC Members
Individuals sought by the SC to participate in SC discussions and decisions on an ongoing basis but are not members of the full DGAC. Like DGAC members, consultants complete training and have been reviewed and cleared through a formal process within the Federal government.
Examining the Evidence

- NEL systematic reviews
- Existing reports
  - Existing high-quality evidence-based reports
  - Existing systematic reviews
  - Existing meta-analyses
- Data analyses
- Food pattern modeling analyses
- Public comments

www.DietaryGuidelines.gov
Go to “Resources”
and select “Data Analyses”
USDA NEL Process

Step 1: Topic identification and systematic review question development

Step 2: Literature search, screening, and selection

Step 3: Data extraction and risk of bias assessment

Step 4: Evidence synthesis

Step 5: Conclusion statements and grading the evidence

Step 6: Research recommendations and technical abstracts

Introduction to SC Reports
2015 DGAC Systematic Reviews

- Materials presented today may include:
  - Analytical framework for the systematic review(s)
  - Inclusion/exclusion criteria
  - Literature search results
  - Description of the evidence reviewed, key findings
  - Conclusion statements, grades, implications statements with recommendations (Draft)
Conclusion Statements and Grading the Evidence

• **Conclusion statements**: Overall summary statement worded as an answer to the question; tightly associated with the evidence

• **Grading the evidence**: Considers risk of bias, quantity, consistency, impact, and generalizability of the body of evidence
Grading the Evidence

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<td><strong>Strong</strong></td>
<td>The conclusion statement is substantiated by a large, high quality, and/or consistent body of evidence that directly addresses the question. There is a high level of certainty that the conclusion is generalizable to the population of interest, and it is unlikely to change if new evidence emerges.</td>
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<td><strong>Moderate</strong></td>
<td>The conclusion statement is substantiated by sufficient evidence, but the level of certainty is restricted by limitations in the evidence, such as the amount of evidence available, inconsistencies in findings, or methodological or generalizability concerns. If new evidence emerges, there could be modifications to the conclusion statement.</td>
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<td><strong>Limited</strong></td>
<td>The conclusion statement is substantiated by insufficient evidence, and the level of certainty is seriously restricted by limitations in the evidence, such as the amount of evidence available, inconsistencies in findings, or methodological or generalizability concerns. If new evidence emerges, there could likely be modifications to the conclusion statement.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grade not assignable</strong></td>
<td>A conclusion statement cannot be drawn due to a lack of evidence, or the availability of evidence that has serious methodological concerns.</td>
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Implications Statements

- Builds on the conclusion statement to provide needed context
- Makes conclusion statement (*the answer to the question*) actionable
- Describes what the Committee advises the government to recommend
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