



**American
Heart
Association.**

Federal nutrition research critical to improving public health

DALLAS, July 15, 2020 — The American Heart Association, the leading voluntary health organization devoted to a world of longer, healthier lives, released the following statement in response to the white paper, “Strengthening national nutrition research,” issued today by the [Federal Nutrition Research Advisory Group](#), a diverse collection of thought leaders supporting a coordinated federal nutrition research effort.

“Research has shown that poor diets, particularly those heavy in sugary drinks, processed foods and other low-nutrient foods, can increase one’s risk for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, obesity and numerous other health problems. But for all we know about the links between a good diet and good health, much remains unknown.

“This white paper stands as a reminder that federal nutrition research is currently fragmented, and there is a need for a robust, coordinated approach. Coordinating nutrition research efforts across federal agencies would speed the pace of scientific discovery to improve public health nationwide and address nutrition insecurity. The current pandemic has shown that food and nutrition safety nets need to be strengthened, and federal nutrition research could help determine how to close those gaps.

“The American Heart Association advocates at the federal, state and community levels in support of public policies that improve understanding of and access to healthy food while benefitting local economies. We thank the Federal Nutrition Research Advisory Group for its work to draw needed attention to the gaps in national nutrition research.”

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About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. We are dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities. Through collaboration with numerous organizations, and powered by millions of volunteers, we fund innovative research, advocate for the public’s health and share lifesaving resources. The Dallas-based organization has been a leading source of health information for nearly a century. Connect with us on heart.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.

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