

Wildcat District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE For more information, contact Katherine Pinto EFNEP and SNAP-Ed Agent, Wildcat Extension District kdpinto@ksu.edu, 620-232-1930

## **Simple Sodium Savers**

Do you like a salty snack? If your answer is yes, you are not alone in your snacking favorites! Among the 67% who reported snacking in the evening, the most popular option was savory/salty snacks (40%). This was followed by sweeter choices including candy, chocolate, and other treats (38%) as well as cookies, cake, or ice cream (37%).

The USDA'S Dietary Guidelines recommend no more than 2300 milligrams, about one teaspoon, per day. Sodium can sneak its way into your daily life in a variety of ways:

- Sodium is naturally occurring in some foods
- Sodium could be added in the cooking process through table salt and sauces
- Most processed foods contain a high amount of sodium to make them last longer on the grocery shelves

Here are 8 ways to help you stay within the USDA'S recommendations for sodium intake:

- 1. Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables.
- 2. When purchasing frozen or canned vegetables, choose the low-sodium options or no salt added.
- 3. Select processed foods that contain 140 milligrams or less per serving of sodium.
- 4. Skip the pre-season meat and opt for fresh or frozen poultry, beef, and seafood.
- 5. Try to cook more meals at home so that you are in charge of what goes into your food.
- 6. Instead of using salt as your primary seasoning, try using different herbs and spices.
- 7. Choose your condiments wisely; read the nutrition labels.
- 8. Taste your food before you salt it.

Sodium is something that can add up real fast if we do not pay close attention to it! Remember, it's okay to remain slightly salty, but we should aim to stay at 2300 milligrams or below.

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