

NUTRITION IN ACTION

Nutrition Myths

MYTH: You have to consume milk or dairy to meet calcium needs.

FACT: Plants are the original source of calcium, absorbing minerals from the soil.



Daily recommended amount of calcium is 1000mg for adults ages 19-50. The amount for women and ages outside this range varies.

MYTH: Carbohydrates are bad for you.

FACT: Your focus should be on choosing the right type of carbohydrate sources, not getting rid of carbohydrate foods altogether. Carbohydrates from vegetables, fruits, whole grains, beans and other legumes provide energy and essential nutrients like fiber, protein, vitamins, minerals, phytonutrients, and healthy fats. They're linked to lower risk of heart disease, cancer, type 2 diabetes, and other health conditions.

Carbohydrates are the body's preferred source of energy and the brain's only source of energy.

Steel Cut Oatmeal - 1/2 cup

Plain Bagel - 1 large

Higher in fiber Higher in antioxidants Higher in potassium and calcium Higher in phytonutrients Lower in sodium



Lower in fiber Lower in antioxidants Lower in potassium and calcium Lower in phytonutrients Higher in sodium

MYTH: You need to eat animal protein to meet your protein needs.

FACT: Plant foods such as beans, lentils, nuts, and whole grains can provide ample protein for all life stages, as well as fiber and other essential vitamins, minerals, and phytonutrients not found in animal products such as meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy.



Sources: USDA Nutrient Analysis Database and Office of Dietary Supplements