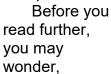


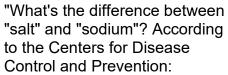


Test Your Salt Savvy

With salt making headlines frequently, it's important to understand its effects on our health. Reports suggest that Americans

consume too much salt, but how much do you really know about it? Put your knowledge to the test with our quiz!





- Sodium chloride is the chemical name for salt.
- The words salt and sodium are not exactly the same, yet these words are often used in place of each other. For example, the Nutrition Facts Label uses "sodium," whereas the front of the package may say "low salt."
- Ninety percent of the sodium we consume is in the form of salt.
- We all need a small amount of sodium to keep our bodies working properly.
 In the following questions and answers, the terms "salt" and "sodium" will be used

interchangeably.

Questions

- 1. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020-2025, recommends for most people 14 years and older, sodium intake should not exceed:
 - a. 1,500 mg/day
 - b. 2,300 mg/day
 - c. 3,000 mg/day
- 2. What is the approximate average daily sodium intake for Americans 2 years and older?
 - a. 800 mg
 - b. 1,500 mg
 - c. 2,300 mg
 - d. 3,400 mg
- 3. Which of the following are benefits from reducing the amount of sodium in our diets?
 - a. Lowered blood pressure
 - b. Reduced risk of heart disease
 - c. Reduced risk of stroke
 - d. All of the above
- 4. Approximately how much of our sodium comes from processed foods?
 - a. 45%
 - b. 55%
 - c. 65%
 - d. 71%

- 5. How much sodium is in a teaspoon of salt?
 - a. 1,300 mg
 - b. 2,300 mg
 - c. 3,300 mg
- 6. Can foods be high in salt without tasting salty?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 7. Based on the Nutrition Facts label below, how much sodium is in 2/3 cup of the food?
 - a. 30 mg
 - b. 160 mg
 - c. 470 mg

8 servings per container Serving size 2/3 (cup (55g)
Serving size 2/3 (Jup (33g
Amount per serving Calories	230
	% Daily Value
Total Fat 8g	10%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 160mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate 37g	13%
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Suga	ars 20 %
Protein 3g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 260mg	20%
Iron 8mg	45%
Potassium 240mg	6%

Nebraska Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United Sates Department of Agriculture.



Answers

- 1. 2,300 mg. The Dietary
 Guidelines for Americans
 2020-2025 recommends
 "For most people ages
 14 years and older,
 sodium intake should not
 exceed 2,300 mg/day.
 Intake below this level is
 recommended for
 children younger than 14
 years old and people
 who have
 prehypertension or
 hypertension (i.e., high
 blood pressure)."
- 2. **3,400 mg.** This amount equals about 1 ½ teaspoons of salt per day.
- 3. All of the above.
- 4. **71 percent.** About 71 percent of the salt we consume is added during processing by manufacturers. The most effective strategies for decreasing sodium are choosing more fresh, less processed items and using less salt during food preparation.
- 5. **2,300 mg.**
- Yes. For example, a food can taste sweet and still contain a significant amount of salt. The best

- way to determine the amount of salt in a food is to check the Nutrition Facts Label.
- 7. **160 mg.** When reading nutrition labels, it is important to check the amount of sodium in the serving size you are consuming. For example, if you ate 1 1/3 cups of this food, you would consume 320 mg of sodium.

To Reduce the Salt in Your Diet, Try These Tips

- Check food labels for salt and compare brands and varieties for those lower in salt. Many manufacturers are in the process of producing lower salt foods continue to check labels periodically for lowered amounts of sodium in foods.
- Eat more fresh foods (fruits, vegetables, lean meats, seafood, and poultry). Frozen vegetables are typically lower in sodium than canned vegetables.
- Look for low-sodium products or foods without added salt to replace regular higher-sodium foods. For example, check for no-added-salt

- or low-sodium versions of broth, vegetables, etc.
- Avoid salting food during cooking or reduce the amount of salt you add in cooking. An exception might be yeast breads where the salt works together with the yeast in the rising process.
- Request salt not be added to your food when eating out.
- Use flavorings other than salt, such as spices and herbs, citrus juices and zest, and flavored vinegars.

Sources:

- 1. Sodium, Potassium and Health: The Facts Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, https://www.cdc.gov/salt/potassium.htm
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Salt. https://www.cdc.gov/salt
- 3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2020 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. 8th Edition. https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/resources/2020-2025-dietary-guidelines-online-materials