



444 N. Michigan Ave.
Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60611
P: 312/440-8900
F: 312/467-1806
www.adha.org

November 28, 2017

Brandon Lipps
Acting Deputy Under Secretary
USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

CC: Maggie Lyons, Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor
Kailee Tkacz, Policy Advisor
Jackie Haven, Deputy Director, USDA CNPP
Susan Cole, USDA CNPP Contractor

RE: Oral Health in the Dietary Guidelines

Dear Mr. Lipps,

The American Dental Hygienists' Association supports the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA's efforts to promote healthy eating habits and wellness. We would like you to consider us a partner in the process of developing the Dietary Guidelines and a resource for evidence to support the recommendations you move forward.

For children and adults, poor oral health status affects intake of nutrient-dense foods and can lead to subsequent poor health. Untreated dental caries can lead to pain, infection, speech impairment, disruption of daily living, as well as the transmission of oral bacteria to infants and young children. The 2005 and 2010 Dietary Guidelines included language supporting the role of regular oral hygiene practices in promoting nutritional health and well-being. Achieving and maintaining good oral health requires early adoption of oral hygiene practices, continuous implementation of preventive measures, and access to professional care. We urge you to review the evidence that has emerged in the past years regarding the critical role of oral health in overall health.

Our organizational policies have a strong focus on prevention. Dental Hygienists are oral health prevention experts. Two of our policy statements that are most applicable to your current work with the Dietary Guidelines read as follows:

- The American Dental Hygienists' Association advocates evidence based oral health management strategies for the prevention of oral and systemic diseases.

- The American Dental Hygienists' Association supports nutritional guidelines and programs that promote total health and encourages media advertising and public education that promote healthy eating habits and wellness.

We would like to encourage you, as you work through the Dietary Guidelines process, to revisit the importance of oral health on a healthy diet and the simple preventive steps the public can take to prevent oral health diseases such as dental caries.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and we look forward to working with you in the future. Should you have any questions, or we may be of assistance, please contact ADHA Director of Education & Professional Advocacy at anni@adha.net or 312.440.8942,

Sincerely,



Tammy Filipiak, RDH, MS
President, American Dental Hygienists' Association

cc: Michele Braerman, RDH, BS, President-Elect, ADHA
Ann Battrell, MSDH, Chief Executive Officer, ADHA
Ann Lynch, Director Education & Professional Advocacy, ADHA