

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
MEDICAL STUDENT SECTION

Resolution
(I-11)

Introduced by: Timothy Jelsema, Wayne State University School of Medicine,
tjelsema@med.wayne.edu

Subject: Recategorization of Sugar Sweetened Beverages into the Luxury Item Category
within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
(Remember that the resolution title will become the title of the new policy.)

Referred to: MSS Reference Committee
(-----, Chair)

1 Whereas, evidence suggests that sugar sweetened beverages are the single largest contributor to
2 obesity nationwide;^{1,2,3} and

3
4 Whereas, sugar sweetened beverages account for 58% of beverages purchased under SNAP; and

5
6 Whereas, increased calorie consumption (of 250-300 calories) between 1977 and 2001, 43% was
7 attributed to sugar sweetened beverages;⁴ and

8
9 Whereas, children who consume as little as one sugar sweetened beverage per day have a 55%
10 increased odds of becoming;⁵ and

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12 Whereas, 54% of SNAP participants support removing sugary drinks from SNAP;⁶ therefore be it

13
14 RESOLVED, That the AMA recommend to the United States Department of Agriculture and the Food &
15 Nutrition Service that sugar sweetened beverages be recategorized as luxury item purchases according
16 to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Fiscal note: (Leave blank)

Date received: (Leave blank)

References:

Insert numbered references here, corresponding to reference numbers cited in the text of the resolution. Please do not use automated footnotes/endnotes. Please format references according to the following examples:

1. Malik VS, Popkin BM, Bray GA, Despres J-P, Hu FB. Sugar-Sweetened Beverages, Obesity, Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, and Cardiovascular Disease Risk. *Circulation*. March 23, 2010;121(11):1356-1364.

2. Malik VS, Schulze MB, Hu FB. Intake of sugar-sweetened beverages and weight gain: a systematic review. *Am J Clin Nutr.* Aug 2006;84(2):274-288.
3. Schulze MB, Manson JE, Ludwig DS, et al. Sugar-sweetened beverages, weight gain, and incidence of type 2 diabetes in young and middle-aged women. *JAMA.* Aug 25 2004;292(8):927-934.
4. Woodward-LopezG, Kao J, Ritchie L. To what extent have sweetened beverages contributed to the obesity epidemic? *PublicHealthNutr.* Mar 2011;14(3):499-509.
5. Morenga LT, Mallard S, Mann J. Dietary sugars and body weight: systematic review and meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials and cohort studies. *Brit Med J.* Jan 15 2013;346.
6. M. Long, C. Leung, L. Cheung, et al. 2012. Public support for policies to improve the nutritional impact of the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). *Public Health Nutrition* 17 (1), 219-224.

Relevant AMA and MSS Policy:

List cited and other relevant AMA and MSS Policy, formatted as in the examples below. Use AMA PolicyFinder (www.ama-assn.org/go/policy) and the MSS Digest of Policy Actions (www.ama-assn.org/go/msspolicy) to search for policy.

D-150.975 Eligibility of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages for SNAP

Our AMA will: (1) publish an educational brief to educate physicians about the effects of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) on obesity and overall health, and encourage them to educate their patients in turn, (2) encourage state health agencies to include educational materials about nutrition and healthy food and beverage choices in routine materials that are currently sent to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients along with the revised eligible foods and beverages guidelines, and (3) work to remove SSBs from SNAP. (Res. 238, A-13)

June 19, 2013: Eligibility of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages for SNAP

Millions of Americans from low-income households receive assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Studies have shown that sugar-sweetened beverages account for 58 percent of beverages purchased under SNAP. Consumption of sugar sweetened beverages is associated with weight gain and a higher risk of future obesity in children. New AMA policy passed today calls on the AMA to work to remove sugar-sweetened beverages from the SNAP program and encourage state health agencies to include nutrition information in routine materials sent to SNAP recipients.

“The AMA is working to improve the nation’s health care outcomes, particularly cardiovascular disease and diabetes, which are often linked to obesity,” said AMA President Ardis D. Hoven, M.D. “Removing sugar-sweetened beverages from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will help encourage healthier beverage choices.”