

Average Healthy Eating Index-2015 Scores for Children and Adolescents by Age Groups, WWEIA, NHANES 2017-2018

Components	Maximum Points	Ages 2-18 Years	Ages 2-4 Years	Ages 5-8 Years	Ages 9-13 Years	Ages 14-18 Years
Mean Score						
Total HEI Score	100	54	62	54	53	49
Adequacy						
Total Fruits	5	3.7	5.0	4.3	3.4	2.4
Whole Fruits	5	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.8	3.2
Total Vegetables	5	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.5
Greens and Beans	5	1.6	2.0	1.2	1.6	1.6
Whole Grains	10	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.2	2.7
Dairy	10	7.4	9.8	7.8	7.4	6.0
Total Protein Foods	5	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.3	5.0
Seafood and Plant Protein	5	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.9	3.2
Fatty Acids	10	3.2	2.8	2.5	3.3	3.8
Moderation						
Refined Grains	10	4.6	6.1	4.6	4.1	4.5
Sodium	10	5.1	6.7	5.7	5.3	3.8
Added Sugars	10	6.2	7.5	6.2	5.9	5.9
Saturated Fats	10	4.7	5.1	4.3	4.7	4.8

Due to rounding, HEI component scores in each age group may not add up precisely to the total HEI score.

^a Calculated using the population ratio method.

Note: The Healthy Eating Index-2015 (HEI-2015) is a measure of diet quality with 13 components used to assess how well a set of foods aligns with the key recommendations of the 2015–2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Intakes equal to or better than the standards set for each component are assigned a maximum score. Maximum HEI-2015 component scores range from 5 to 10 points. Scores for intakes between the minimum and maximum standards are scored proportionately. Scores for each component are summed to create a total maximum HEI-2015 score of 100 points. Nine of the 13 components assess adequacy components. The remaining four components assess dietary components that should be consumed in moderation. For the adequacy components, higher scores reflect higher intakes. For the moderation components, higher scores reflect lower intakes because lower intakes are more desirable. A higher total score indicates a diet that aligns better with the Dietary Guidelines. HEI-2015 total and component scores reflect usual dietary intakes among Americans in the United States, during 2017-2018.

This tool was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Cancer Institute.

Sources: National Center for Health Statistics, What We Eat in America, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (2017–2018). [What We Eat in America, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey \(2017–2018\)](https://www.nchs.gov/data/what-we-eat-in-america).

Healthy Eating Index-2015 Scores—U.S. Department of Agriculture, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, access <https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/healthy-eating-index-hei>.

References:

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Update of the Healthy Eating Index: HEI-2015. Krebs-Smith S, Pannucci T, Subar A, Kirkpatrick S, Lerman J, Tooze J. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2018 Sep; 118(9):1591-1602.

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