

Carbohydrates and Health

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Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

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Preface

Dietary carbohydrates and their role in health were last considered by the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Food Policy in reports published in the 1980s and 1990s. Since then, considerable evidence has emerged on the role of carbohydrates in cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health. The present report details the evidence SACN has considered and the approach SACN has taken to reviewing the relationships between dietary carbohydrates and health. The evidence was assessed using the *SACN Framework for the Evaluation of Evidence* and graded according to a system developed specifically for this review. SACN commissioned systematic reviews of the evidence on cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health to inform this report and this is the first time the committee has taken that approach. The findings of the systematic reviews have been used to inform the very detailed main body of the text which thereby provides a comprehensive and transparent account of the evidence and how SACN drew its conclusions.

As a result of its deliberations, SACN is now recommending that a new definition of dietary fibre be adopted in the UK and that a definition of 'free sugars' be used in nutrition advice in place of 'non-milk extrinsic sugars'. Following careful consideration of the evidence, SACN is also recommending that the dietary reference value for carbohydrates be maintained at a population average of approximately 50% of total dietary energy intake and that the dietary reference value for dietary fibre for adults should be increased to 30g/day. Furthermore, SACN is recommending that population average intake of free sugars should not exceed 5% of total dietary energy. This advice, that people's intake of 'free sugars' should be lower than that currently recommended for non-milk extrinsic sugars, is based on SACN's assessment of evidence on the effect of free sugars on the risk of dental caries and on total energy intake. A higher sugars intake increases the risk of higher energy intakes - the higher the consumption of sugars, the more likely people are to exceed their estimated average requirement (EAR) for energy. Therefore, if intakes of free sugars are lowered, the more likely it is that the EAR for energy will not be exceeded, and this could go some way to addressing the significant public health problem of obesity.

I would like to thank those who provided comments on the draft version of this report during the public consultation. All the comments were carefully considered before the report was finalised. The process assisted the Committee in refining the text and its approach to making recommendations.

This has been a challenging and large undertaking for SACN and I would like to thank the Carbohydrates Working Group, particularly the Chair, Professor Ian Macdonald, and the Secretariat for their great commitment in producing this report. Particular thanks also go to those in the Nutritional Epidemiology Group at the University of Leeds who

performed the systematic review on cardio-metabolic health and the update search, and to Dr Peter Sanderson who performed the colo-rectal health and oral health systematic reviews; they thereby made substantial contributions to this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Prentice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Ann Prentice

Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

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Summary

S.1 Carbohydrates are a major source of energy in the diet. Classified according to their chemistry, carbohydrates can be divided into sugars (monosaccharides and disaccharides), polyols, oligosaccharides (malto-oligosaccharides and non-digestible oligosaccharides) and polysaccharides (starch and non-starch polysaccharides). However, this classification does not allow a simple translation into nutritional effects since each class of carbohydrates has overlapping physiological properties and effects on health. Carbohydrates can also be classified according to their digestion and absorption in the human small intestine. Digestible carbohydrates are absorbed and digested in the small intestine; non-digestible carbohydrates are resistant to hydrolysis in the small intestine and reach the large intestine where they are at least partially fermented by the commensal bacteria present in the colon. There is no universal definition of the term 'dietary fibre'; broadly speaking, it refers to some or all of the constituents of non-digestible carbohydrates and may also include other quantitatively minor components (e.g. lignin) that are associated with non-digestible carbohydrates in plant cell walls.

Background to this review

S.2 Dietary carbohydrates and their role in health were last considered by the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA) in reports published in the 1980s and 1990s. Since then, considerable evidence has emerged on the role of carbohydrates in cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health. In 2008, the Food Standards Agency and the Department of Health asked SACN to provide clarification of the relationship between dietary carbohydrates and health and to make public health recommendations. This report was prepared in response to this request.

Terms of reference

- S.3 The terms of reference of the carbohydrates working group were to review:
- the evidence on dietary carbohydrate and colo-rectal health in adults (including colo-rectal cancer, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation) and in childhood and infancy;
 - the evidence on dietary carbohydrate and cardio-metabolic health (including cardiovascular disease, insulin resistance, glycaemic response and obesity);
 - the evidence on dietary carbohydrates and oral health;
 - the terminology, classification and definitions of types of carbohydrates in the diet.

Methodology

- S.4 Only evidence from prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials was considered for this report. SACN commissioned systematic reviews of the evidence on cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health in literature published from 1990 up to and including December 2009, November 2010 and January 2011 respectively. In order to ensure that the evidence base was as current as possible while SACN was undertaking this review, the literature searches were subsequently updated for studies on important health outcomes published up to June 2012. The evidence was assessed using the SACN Framework for the Evaluation of Evidence and graded according to a system devised specifically for this review.
- S.5 SACN has evaluated evidence assessing whether intakes of specific carbohydrates are a factor in the risk for cardiovascular disease, obesity, type 2 diabetes mellitus and colo-rectal cancers. The relationship between dietary carbohydrate intake and a large number of risk factors and markers related to these diseases has been considered. Evidence on the relationship of carbohydrates to oral health has also been discussed. For many of the risk factors and disease markers identified, there was insufficient evidence of the required quality, therefore SACN has based its recommendations on those conclusions where the committee considered the evidence base to be of sufficient standard according to the SACN Framework for the Evaluation of Evidence and the grading system developed for this review.
- S.6 In this report, evidence has been considered under the broad headings of total carbohydrates; sugars and sugars-sweetened foods and beverages; starch and starch-rich foods; dietary fibre; non-digestible oligosaccharides, resistant starch, polyols and polydextrose; and the glycaemic characteristics of carbohydrate-rich foods and diets (glycaemic index and glycaemic load). The individual chapters provide extensive detail on the evidence considered for each type of carbohydrate in relation to health outcomes, SACN's view of the strength of the evidence and its conclusions.

Conclusions and recommendations

- S.7 The main findings of this review of the evidence on carbohydrates and health, upon which SACN has based its recommendations, are set out below. The report provides a detailed consideration of all the evidence considered by SACN.

Total dietary carbohydrate

- S.8 Overall, the evidence from both prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials indicates that total carbohydrate intake appears to be neither detrimental nor beneficial to cardio-metabolic health, colo-rectal health and oral health. However, this report highlights that there are specific components or sources of carbohydrates which are associated with other beneficial or detrimental health effects. The hypothesis that diets higher in total carbohydrate cause weight gain is not supported by the evidence from randomised controlled trials considered in this review.

Sugars and sugars-sweetened foods and beverages

- S.9 Prospective cohort studies indicate that higher consumption of sugars and sugars-containing foods and beverages is associated with a greater risk of dental caries. Prospective cohort studies indicate that greater consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages is associated with increased risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus. Randomised controlled trials conducted in adults indicate that increasing or decreasing the percentage of total dietary energy as sugars when consuming an *ad libitum* diet leads to a corresponding increase or decrease in energy intake. Reduction in the percentage of dietary energy as sugars was achieved in these trials either through the substitution of other macronutrient components or by replacing sugars with non-caloric sweeteners. Randomised controlled trials conducted in children and adolescents indicate that consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages, as compared with non-calorically sweetened beverages, results in greater weight gain and increases in body mass index.

Starch and starch-rich foods

- S.10 Prospective cohort studies suggest there is no association between total starch intake and incidence of coronary events or type 2 diabetes mellitus or between the intake of refined grains and risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus. Consumption of brown rice is associated with a reduction in risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus, but the evidence is limited to a small number of studies. Prospective cohort studies indicate an association between greater consumption of white rice and increased risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus in Asian populations (in Japan and China) consuming amounts of white rice that are not generally achieved in the UK. It is therefore uncertain whether this detrimental association is relevant to the whole UK population. A small number of studies suggest that higher consumption of potatoes is associated with a risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other dietary variables e.g. cooking methods for potatoes such as frying. There is insufficient evidence to draw a conclusion on the association between starch intake and weight gain.

Dietary fibre

- S.11 There is strong evidence from prospective cohort studies that increased intakes of total dietary fibre, and particularly cereal fibre and wholegrain, as they are classified in this report, are associated with a lower risk of cardio-metabolic disease and colo-rectal cancer. Randomised controlled trials indicate that total dietary fibre, wheat fibre and other cereal fibres, as they are classified in this report, increase faecal mass and decrease intestinal transit times. Randomised controlled trials also indicate that higher intake of oat bran and isolated β -glucans leads to lower total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol and triacylglycerol concentrations and lower blood pressure.

Non-digestible oligosaccharides, resistant starch, polyols and polydextrose

- S.12 In this report there is evidence to show that non-digestible oligosaccharides, resistant starch, polyols and polydextrose increase faecal mass. SACN concluded

that whilst there is evidence of potentially beneficial effects of these compounds on physiological parameters the health benefits relating to the consumption of these specific compounds is uncertain.

Glycaemic index and glycaemic load

- S.13 Prospective cohort studies indicate that diets with a higher glycaemic index or glycaemic load are associated with a greater risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus. Limited evidence from cohort studies and randomised controlled trials suggests that there may also be other adverse health effects. However, higher and lower glycaemic index/glycaemic load diets will, in most cases, differ in many ways other than the carbohydrate fraction and therefore study results are difficult to interpret as it is not possible to exclude confounding by other dietary variables.

Dietary carbohydrate recommendations for ages 2 years and above

- S.14 SACN's recommendations are set out below; the reasoning behind them is described, in full, in the report.
- S.15 The dietary recommendations for total carbohydrate, free sugars, starch and sugars contained within the cellular structure of food, and milk sugars have been proposed in the context of an energy intake which is appropriate to maintain a healthy weight (SACN, 2011).
- S.16 It is recommended that the dietary reference value for total carbohydrate should be maintained at an average population intake of approximately 50% of total dietary energy.¹
- S.17 It is recommended that the definition for 'free sugars' be adopted in the UK. This comprises all monosaccharides and disaccharides added to foods by the manufacturer, cook or consumer, plus sugars naturally present in honey, syrups and unsweetened fruit juices. Under this definition lactose when naturally present in milk and milk products is excluded.
- S.18 It is recommended that the average population intake of free sugars should not exceed 5% of total dietary energy for age groups from 2 years upwards.
- S.19 With the proposed reduction in the population intake of free sugars, their contribution toward recommended total carbohydrate intake should be replaced by starches, sugars contained within the cellular structure of foods and, for those who consume dairy products, by lactose naturally present in milk and milk products. The complete replacement of energy derived from free sugars by these carbohydrate sources would only apply to those people who are a healthy BMI and in energy balance. In those who are overweight, the reduction of free sugars would be part of a strategy to decrease energy intake.
- S.20 It is recommended that the consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages should be minimised in children and adults.

¹ The previous recommendation for total carbohydrate was 47% of daily total dietary energy intake or 50% of food energy (excluding alcohol) (COMA, 1991).

- S.21 It is recommended that dietary fibre should be defined as all carbohydrates that are neither digested nor absorbed in the small intestine and have a degree of polymerisation of three or more monomeric units, plus lignin. For extracted natural carbohydrate components or synthetic carbohydrate products to be defined as dietary fibre, beneficial physiological effects, similar to those demonstrated for the naturally integrated dietary fibre component of foods, must be demonstrated by accepted scientific evidence. Dietary fibre is to be chemically determined using the prevailing AOAC methods agreed by regulatory authorities.
- S.22 It is recommended that the dietary reference value for the average population intake of dietary fibre for adults should be 30g/day, as defined in the paragraph above and measured using the AOAC methods agreed by regulatory authorities. The previous dietary reference value of 18g/day of non-starch polysaccharides, defined by the Englyst method, equates to about 23-24 g/day of dietary fibre if analysed using these AOAC methods, thus the new recommendation represents an increase from this current value.
- S.23 It is recommended that the average population intake of dietary fibre for children aged 2 to 5 years should approximate 15g/day, for children aged 5 to 11 years 20g/day, for children aged 11 to 16 years 25 g/day and for adolescents aged 16 to 18 years about 30g/day.
- S.24 Most of the evidence for the wide range of health benefits of fibre comes from studies where the exposure reflects dietary fibre intakes achieved through a variety of foods where it is present as a naturally integrated component. There is evidence to show that particular extracted and isolated fibres have positive effects on blood lipids and colorectal function but due to the smaller evidence base, it is not known whether these components confer the full range of health benefits associated with the consumption of a mix of dietary fibre rich foods. Therefore, it is recommended that fibre intakes should be achieved through a variety of food sources.
- S.25 No quantitative recommendations are made for children aged under 2 years, due to the absence of information, but from about six months of age, gradual diversification of the diet to provide increasing amounts of whole grains, pulses, fruits and vegetables is encouraged.

Recommended dietary pattern in relation to carbohydrates

- S.26 The National Diet and Nutrition Survey shows that mean intakes of total carbohydrate meet, or are close to, the levels recommended by COMA in 1991 but that the population overall consumes more than the recommended amount of sugars and less than the recommended amount of dietary fibre. With the proposed increase in the dietary reference value for fibre and the new lower recommendation for free sugars, the difference between recommended intakes and current dietary intakes of the population would become greater for both. In order to address this imbalance, there needs to be a change in the population's diet so that people derive a greater proportion of total dietary energy from foods

that are lower in free sugars and higher in dietary fibre whilst continuing to derive approximately 50% of total dietary energy from carbohydrates.

- S.27 Evidence considered in this report shows that increasing sugars intake leads to a corresponding increase in energy intake. For overweight individuals, reducing the percentage energy intake from free sugars, in the absence of increased energy intake from other sources, could contribute to a reduction in total energy intake and result in weight loss. For individuals who are maintaining a healthy body weight, the reduced intake of energy from free sugars should be replaced by energy from starches, sugars contained within the cellular structure of foods and for those who consume dairy products, by lactose naturally present in milk and milk products. Reducing consumption of free sugars would help to lower the risk of dental caries in all individuals.

Research recommendations

- S.28 While discussing the evidence considered for this report, SACN noted gaps in the evidence base relating carbohydrates to health; the committee has therefore made a number of recommendations for research which are set out in Chapter 12.

1 Introduction and methods

Background

- 1.1 Dietary carbohydrates and their role in health were last considered by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA, the predecessor of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition) in the following reports: Sugars and Human Disease (COMA, 1989), Dietary Reference Values for Food Energy and Nutrients for the United Kingdom (COMA, 1991) and Nutritional Aspects of Cardiovascular Disease (COMA, 1994). Considerable evidence has emerged since these reports were published, particularly in the areas of cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health. It was therefore considered important to review the literature on carbohydrate intake in relation to these health outcomes and to ensure that the dietary reference values reflect the current evidence base.

Terms of Reference

- 1.2 The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) was requested by the Food Standards Agency and the Department of Health to provide clarification of the relationship between dietary carbohydrate and health and make public health recommendations. To achieve this they were asked to review:
 - The evidence for the role of dietary carbohydrate in colo-rectal health in adults (including colo-rectal cancer, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation) and in childhood and infancy.
 - The evidence on dietary carbohydrate and cardio-metabolic health (including cardiovascular disease, insulin resistance, glycaemic response and obesity).
 - The evidence in respect to dietary carbohydrates and oral health.
 - The terminology, classification and definitions of types of carbohydrates in the diet.

Methodology

- 1.3 Due to the wealth of data available and because of the concerns around their limitations, case-control, cross-sectional and ecological studies were not considered. Only prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials were considered for this report. Evidence on adverse effects of very high intakes of specific carbohydrates, e.g. gastrointestinal symptoms, was not part of the remit of this report.
- 1.4 Systematic reviews on cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health in relation to carbohydrates and food sources of carbohydrates were commissioned to inform this report (see Annex 1 for individual systematic reviews). These were based on literature published through December 2009, November 2010 and January 2011, respectively. The search strategy and inclusion and exclusion criteria are described

in the relevant systematic reviews and the cardio-metabolic health protocol in Annex 1.

- 1.5 Due to the cut-off dates used in the systematic reviews, there was concern that the evidence base would be incomplete (out of date) when the report was published. Therefore an updated literature search was performed using the search terms provided in the individual reviews from January 2010 (cardio-metabolic health), December 2010 (colo-rectal health review) and February 2011 (oral health review) up to June 2012. The same inclusion and exclusion criteria as detailed in the individual reviews were used to identify relevant articles; however, the update search was not a systematic review. After this cut-off date, additional studies were considered only if they were thought potentially to impact on, or inform, the conclusions drawn in this report.
- 1.6 More than two hundred prospective cohort studies and more than four hundred randomised controlled trials have been considered in this report. For the individual systematic reviews and the update search see Annex 1. A supplementary review of carbohydrate intake during pregnancy in relation to birth weight and cardio-metabolic health outcomes was conducted and is reported in Annex 7.
- 1.7 The evidence was assessed using the SACN framework for the evaluation of evidence (SACN, 2012) and graded according to the system described in Annex 2. This system was devised specifically for grading the evidence included in this report.

Interpretation of studies

- 1.8 With cohort studies there is substantial potential for biases and the possibility of confounding by factors that correlate with both the exposure and the outcome (residual confounding) and any associations must be interpreted with caution. As a range of dietary and lifestyle factors may be associated with the health outcome considered, it is possible that an indicated association could be due to an unidentified factor that correlates with the studied factor. The dietary assessment methods used in cohort studies are potentially subject to measurement error due to the inability to estimate portion sizes, under- and over-reporting of food items, and inherent limitations in the quality and completeness of food nutrient databases. A further issue is that the quality of the dietary assessment varies between studies, with some studies only making a single assessment before following up a health outcome many years later. Overall, this can affect the ability of studies to observe an association as well as affecting the magnitude of an indicated association with a dietary factor, e.g. under-reporting would diminish any indicated association with that dietary factor. Another consideration is that the definitions used in cohort studies to characterise and quantify a specific dietary exposure, e.g. 'whole grains', may vary between studies.
- 1.9 Dietary intake is difficult to measure, and any single method cannot assess dietary exposure perfectly (Shim *et al.*, 2014). Twenty four hour recalls, dietary history, and food frequency questionnaires are subjective estimates and there are intrinsic problems related to self-reporting. Food frequency questionnaires are widely

used as the primary dietary assessment tool in epidemiological studies, although substantial measurement error may exist. While food frequency questionnaires are generally validated against other methods of assessment, validity is an issue of degree rather than a dichotomy and a perfect standard for comparison is rarely available (Freedman *et al.*, 2007; Willett & Hu, 2007). Considerable efforts to improve the accuracy and feasibility of large epidemiological studies are still on going and a combination of subjective estimates with dietary biomarker measures may provide more accurate estimates of dietary intakes than that of individual methods. Any errors in dietary assessments generally inflate variance in a random rather than directional way and (in contrast to confounders) tend to obscure rather than generate observation of diet-outcome relationships. Thus, where relationships are observed it is in spite of rather than due to the difficulty of measuring actual food intakes.

- 1.10 The development of dietary biomarkers, which are able to objectively assess dietary consumption (or exposure) without the bias of self-reported dietary intake errors would improve dietary intake assessment (Hedrick *et al.*, 2012). Biomarkers of sugars intake and dietary fibre intake, in particular, are needed to support existing dietary recommendations. In relation to carbohydrate exposures there are, as yet, no biomarkers of dietary exposure that are validated, reproducible and able to detect changes in intake over time that are suitable for the general population. There are several potential biomarkers of carbohydrate exposure currently being investigated, such as: 24-hour urinary sucrose (Tasevska *et al.*, 2005; Joosen *et al.*, 2008; Tasevska *et al.*, 2009; Tasevska *et al.*, 2011); carbon stable isotope biomarkers of sugar intake from corn and sugar cane (Jahren *et al.*, 2014); and several studies have examined plasma alkylresorcinol and its metabolite concentrations as a possible whole grain wheat and rye intake biomarker (Landberg *et al.*, 2008; Söderholm *et al.*, 2009).
- 1.11 A general limitation with randomised controlled trials is that they investigate markers and risk factors, but not disease outcomes. Consideration of disease outcomes in relation to carbohydrate intake is, therefore, dependent on prospective cohort studies. Many of the trials included in this report involve mixed interventions that modify other dietary components, e.g. the proportion and type of fat or micronutrient content, and also involve energy restriction goals that result in weight loss, both of which could potentially affect the outcomes considered. This limits the conclusions that can be drawn; in particular this applies to the effect of variation in total carbohydrate intake and glycaemic index and glycaemic load on cardio-metabolic risk factors. A further limitation of some trials is that the dietary interventions vary greatly between trials examining a specific outcome and it is often not possible to consider dose-response effects; this is especially so with regard to trials varying total carbohydrate intake.
- 1.12 Where possible, the dose-response relationships between carbohydrate intakes and health outcomes has been considered and used to inform the dietary recommendations.

2 Classification, biochemistry, absorption, metabolism and definitions of carbohydrates

2.1 Carbohydrates are a major source of energy in the diet and include a range of compounds all containing carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. They are based on a common unit with varying linkages and chain lengths. The primary classification of carbohydrate is based on chemistry, i.e. the character of individual monomers (e.g. monosaccharides), degree of polymerisation² (DP) and type of linkage (α or β ³), as recommended at the Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization Expert Consultation in 1997 (FAO/WHO, 1998). This divides carbohydrates into three main groups, mono- and di-saccharides (DP 1–2), oligosaccharides (DP 3–9) and polysaccharides (DP ≥ 10) (see Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Chemical classification of carbohydrates (FAO/WHO, 1998)

Class	Sub-group	Components
Sugars (DP 1-2)	Monosaccharides	Glucose, fructose, galactose
	Disaccharides	Sucrose, lactose, maltose
Polyols (DP 1-2)*		Erythritol, xylitol, mannitol, sorbitol
		Lactitol, isomalt, maltitol
Oligosaccharides (DP 3-9)	Malto-oligosaccharides	Maltodextrins
	Non-digestible oligosaccharides	Raffinose, stachyose, fructo-oligosaccharides, verbascone
Polysaccharides (DP >9)	Starch	Amylose, amylopectin, modified starches
	Non-starch polysaccharides	Cellulose, hemicellulose, pectins, hydrocolloids (gums)

* there are also less common oligo- and poly-saccharide forms.

2.2 In 2006, a review commissioned by FAO/WHO on some of the key issues relating to carbohydrates in human nutrition endorsed the primary classification recommended by the 1997 Expert Consultation, but acknowledged that a chemical classification, although providing a practical basis for measurement and labelling, did not allow a simple translation into nutritional effects (Mann *et al.*, 2007). Each class of carbohydrate has overlapping physiological properties and effects on health.

2 The number of monomer units incorporated into polymer chains.

3 The linkages found in disaccharides, oligosaccharides and polysaccharides are classified as α or β . These glycosidic linkages are the bonds between two monosaccharides. The α -linkages are easily digested by the human body, but the β -linkages are stronger than α -linkages because they are more stable. Carbohydrates with β -linkages are not easily digested by the human body, except for lactose, because most humans have an enzyme which breaks down this disaccharide.

- 2.3 Carbohydrates can be classified based on their digestion and absorption in the small intestine rather than their chemical characteristics. Digestible carbohydrates are absorbed and digested in the small intestine; non-digestible carbohydrates are resistant to hydrolysis in the small intestine and reach the human large intestine where they are at least partially fermented by the commensal bacteria present in the colon. The term 'dietary fibre' refers to either some or all of the constituents of non-digestible carbohydrates and may also include other quantitatively minor components, e.g. lignin, that are associated with non-digestible carbohydrates in plant cell walls (see paragraphs 2.29 to 2.36 for a consideration of different dietary fibre definitions).

Chemical classification

Sugars

- 2.4 The term 'sugars' conventionally describes mono- and di-saccharides. Pentoses are five-carbon sugars that occur in polymeric forms and are collectively known as pentosans. Xylose and arabinose are the constituents of pentosans present in the non-starch polysaccharides hemicelluloses and pectin (McNaught, 1997). The three principal hexoses (six-carbon sugars) are glucose, fructose and galactose, which are the building blocks of naturally occurring di-, oligo- and poly-saccharides. The hexose mannose is present in some plant polysaccharides collectively termed mannans and is present in hemicelluloses. Glucose is widely distributed in small amounts in fruits, plant juices and honey. Fructose is found in the free state alongside glucose in ripening fruits and honey. Sucrose is the predominant disaccharide occurring in the free form and is composed of the monosaccharides glucose and fructose. Galactose occurs in milk, in chemical combination with glucose as lactose, while the disaccharide maltose, derived from starch hydrolysis, comprises two glucose molecules (Cummings & Stephen, 2007).

Polyols

- 2.5 Polyols include hydrogenated mono- and disaccharides ('sugar alcohols') used as sugar replacers, as well as hydrogenated oligo- and polysaccharides, e.g. hydrogenated starch hydrolysate and polyglycitol, respectively (Livesey, 2003). They are found naturally in some fruits and are made commercially by using aldose reductase to convert the aldehyde group of the glucose molecule to the alcohol (Cummings & Stephen, 2007). There is wide variation in the absorption of different polyols, ranging from almost complete absorption of erythritol, to partial absorption of sorbitol and almost complete lack of absorption of lactitol (Livesey, 2003). The metabolism of erythritol is, however, minimal and being poorly reabsorbed via the kidneys it is excreted in the urine. There is also a wide range in the colonic fermentation of polyols ranging from almost complete fermentation of lactitol, to almost complete lack of fermentation of erythritol (Livesey, 2003). This variation in availability for energy production leads to estimated caloric values ranging from almost 0 to about 3 kcal/g.

Oligosaccharides

- 2.6 Oligosaccharides include maltodextrins, which principally occur from the hydrolysis of starch and are widely used in the food industry to modify the texture of food products. Maltodextrins are digested and absorbed in the small intestine. Oligosaccharides that are not digested and absorbed in the small intestine include raffinose, stachyose and verbascose, which are three, four and five sugar polymers respectively. In effect these are sucrose joined to varying numbers of galactose molecules and are found in a variety of plant seeds e.g. peas, beans and lentils. Other non-digestible oligosaccharides are inulin and fructo-oligosaccharides. These have saccharide backbones that are mainly composed of fructose (fructans) and are the storage carbohydrates in artichokes and chicory; small amounts of low molecular weight substances are found in wheat, rye, asparagus and members of the onion, leek and garlic family (Cummings & Stephen, 2007). The DP of inulin varies from 2-60 sugar units (Roberfroid, 1993).
- 2.7 Human milk contains more than 100 different oligosaccharides of great diversity of structure that are predominantly galactose containing (Bode, 2006). The principal oligosaccharide in human milk is lacto-N-tetraose. Total oligosaccharides in human milk are in the range 5.0–8.0 g/l, but only trace amounts are present in cow's milk and these differ from those found in human milk (Ward *et al.*, 2006). Human milk oligosaccharides, among other functions, may serve as substrates for colonic fermentation (Kunz *et al.*, 1999; Bode, 2006). Small-chain non-digestible oligosaccharides, abundantly present in the early stage of lactation, are selectively fermented by specific strains of *Bifidobacterium longum biovar, infantis* (Ninonuevo & Lebrilla, 2009).

Polysaccharides

- 2.8 Starch is a high molecular weight polymer of glucose, and is the principal storage carbohydrate in plants, and the principal carbohydrate in most diets. Starch is defined as α 1-4 linked glucan (a polysaccharide of glucose monomers), which can have straight (amylose) or branched (amylopectin) chains. Amylopectin also has α 1-6 glycosidic bonds to branched chains. (Elia & Cummings, 2007). Enzymes capable of catalysing the hydrolysis of starch (α -amylases) are produced in the salivary gland and the pancreas.
- 2.9 Non-starch polysaccharides are plant cell wall constituents and comprise all other polysaccharides in the diet. They are not digested or absorbed in the small intestine. Non-starch polysaccharides are the most diverse of all the carbohydrate groups and comprise a mixture of many molecular forms, of which cellulose, a straight chain β 1-4-linked glucan (DP 103–106) is the most widely distributed (McNaught, 1997).
- 2.10 Other non-starch polysaccharides in common occurrence are the hemicelluloses and pentosans. Hemicellulose (e.g. arabinoxylan) contains a mixture of hexose and pentose sugars, often in highly branched chains. Common to all cell walls is pectin, which is primarily a galacturonic acid polymer, although 10–25% other sugars such as rhamnose, galactose and arabinose, may also be present as side chains.

β -glucans are a heterogeneous group of non-starch polysaccharides, consisting of D-glucose monomers linked by β -glycosidic bonds (Cummings & Stephen, 2007).

- 2.11 Plant gums and storage polysaccharides, e.g. gum Arabic, karaya (*sterculia*) and guar gum, plant mucilages, e.g. psyllium, and algal polysaccharides e.g. agar and carrageenan are all non-starch polysaccharides primarily found in manufactured foods, usually at low concentrations, as modifiers of texture or viscosity (Cummings & Stephen, 2007). Each sub-type comprises a diversity of naturally occurring and chemically modified molecular structures and weights, resulting in different properties.

Soluble and insoluble dietary fibre

- 2.12 The terms 'soluble' and 'insoluble' fibre arose out of the early chemistry of non-starch polysaccharides, which showed that the fractional extraction of non-starch polysaccharides could be controlled by changing the pH of solutions. This divides non-starch polysaccharides into those which may have effects on glucose and lipid absorption from the small intestine (soluble) and those which are slowly and incompletely fermented in the colon and have more pronounced effects on bowel habit (insoluble) (Cummings & Stephen, 2007). The separation of soluble and insoluble fractions is very pH dependent, making the link with specific physiological properties less certain. Much insoluble fibre is completely fermented and not all soluble fibre has effects on glucose and lipid absorption; furthermore, the various forms of fibre exist together mostly in intact plant cell walls.
- 2.13 As the differentiation is method-dependent, and solubility does not always predict physiological effects, it has been proposed that the distinction between soluble and insoluble fibre should be phased out (FAO, 2003). The terms are, however, still widely used. The soluble fibres include pectin and β -glucans and the insoluble fibres include cellulose and hemicelluloses.

Digestion and absorption

- 2.14 Only glucose and galactose are actively absorbed in the human small intestine via the sodium dependent transporter (SGLT1). Fructose is not actively absorbed, but is taken up via a specific facilitative transport pathway (Thorens & Mueckler, 2010).
- 2.15 Di-, oligo- and poly-saccharides must be hydrolysed to their component monosaccharides before being absorbed. Starch occurs in plants in the form of semi-crystalline granules that must be gelatinized by processing or cooking prior to digestion. The digestion of solubilised starch polysaccharides begins with salivary amylase, but this activity is much less important than that of pancreatic amylase in the small intestine. Amylase hydrolyses starch, with the primary end products being maltose, maltotriose, and α -dextrins, although some glucose is also produced. The products of α -amylase digestion are hydrolysed into their component monosaccharides by enzymes expressed on the brush border of the small intestinal cells, the most important of which are maltase, sucrase, isomaltase and lactase (FAO/WHO, 1998). Carbohydrates containing glycosidic linkages that are resistant to cleavage by the pancreatic and brush border enzymes, i.e.

non-digestible carbohydrates, are not hydrolysed in the small intestine and reach the human large intestine. There they may be fermented, to some degree, by the commensal bacteria which contain enzymes capable of hydrolysing the glycosidic linkages (Hawksworth *et al.*, 1971).

2.16 Resistant starch is the sum of starch and products of starch digestion that are not absorbed in the small bowel (Englyst *et al.*, 1992; Champ *et al.*, 2003). While all unmodified starch, if solubilised, can be hydrolysed by pancreatic α -amylase, the rate and extent to which starch is broken down is altered by a number of physical and chemical properties of food. This has led to the classification of resistant starch into four types (Englyst *et al.*, 1992):

- Physically inaccessible starch (RS₁), such as occurs in whole, and partly milled grains, seeds, and legumes;
- Resistant starch granules (RS₂), such as in raw potato, banana, and high amylose corn;
- Retrograded amylose (RS₃), formed in foods such as cooked, cooled potato, bread, and cornflakes; and
- Chemically modified starch (RS₄), which is commercially manufactured.

Metabolism

2.17 Carbohydrates are principally substrates for energy metabolism. The human body is able to capture some of the chemical energy from carbohydrates through cellular metabolism, resulting in the generation of an intermediary chemical form, adenosine triphosphate. Hydrolysis of the terminal phosphate bond generates free energy, which can be used for cellular processes. Adenosine triphosphate is regenerated from adenosine diphosphate using the energy in food. The brain, nervous system and red blood cells have an obligatory requirement for glucose as an energy source.

2.18 Following absorption, monosaccharides are transported to the liver and from there to the systemic circulation. The plasma concentration of insulin increases immediately after the ingestion of glucose in the form of sugars or digestible starch. Cellular uptake is via a family of glucose transporters (GLUT), and in some tissues (adipose tissue, skeletal muscle) is insulin-dependent. Fructose uptake into tissues is not insulin-dependent. Intracellular glucose is metabolised via glycolysis following phosphorylation by hexokinase (all cells) and glucokinase (liver only). Hexokinase and phosphofructokinase catalyse early regulatory steps in glycolysis. Galactose and mannose are metabolised to glycolytic intermediates (glucose 6 phosphate and fructose 6 phosphate, respectively) and progress through glycolysis is, therefore, subject to regulation by phosphofructokinase. In the adipose tissue and muscle, fructose can also be converted to the glycolytic intermediate fructose 6 phosphate, although this is probably not quantitatively very important; fructose metabolism in the liver is not directly under the regulation of hexokinase and phosphofructokinase (Feinman & Fine, 2013).

- 2.19 The amount of energy yielded by carbohydrates that are digested in the small intestine varies according to the molecular form e.g. for glucose, sucrose and starch the available energy content per unit weight is 15.56 kJ (3.72 kcal/g), 16.48 kJ (3.94 kcal/g) and 17.48 kJ (4.18 kcal/g), respectively (Elia & Cummings, 2007). Carbohydrate that is not digested and absorbed in the small intestine may also provide energy, as fermentation in the colon results in the formation of short-chain fatty acids, some of which are absorbed into the blood stream and are used as sources of energy. An available energy content per unit weight has been estimated as 8 kJ/g (1.9 kcal/g) for fermentable non-starch polysaccharide, 9 kJ/g (2.2 kcal/g) for resistant starch, 8-9 kJ/g (1.9-2.2 kcal/g) for non-digestible oligosaccharides and 6-10 kJ/g (1.4-2.4 kcal/g) for non-digestible polyols (Elia & Cummings, 2007).

Glycaemic index and glycaemic load

- 2.20 Glycaemic index (GI) and glycaemic load (GL) are two measures of the glycaemic characteristic of foods. GI is a relative measure of the capillary blood glucose response to a specific ingredient, food or portion of a meal, as compared with the response to a reference food having the same amount of available carbohydrate (usually 50g). The reference food can be either pure glucose or another, alternative, carbohydrate food (e.g. white bread). When alternative foods are used as reference they are calibrated against glucose (Brouns *et al.*, 2005). A food's GL is the product of GI and its available carbohydrate content (Brouns *et al.*, 2005), so taking into account both the quality of the carbohydrate food and the amount of available carbohydrate it contains. GI (thus also GL) is influenced mostly by the types and structures of carbohydrates present in foods and to lesser extents by the types and amounts of protein, fat and non-starch polysaccharide present. External influences on a food's GI include milling, cooking, cooling and storage conditions (Brouns *et al.*, 2005; Venn & Green, 2007). Variation in GI among foods reflects the variation in rates of carbohydrate digestion and absorption, as well as effects on variation in the rates of glucose production and its disposal from the circulation into the tissues (Schenk *et al.*, 2003; Eelderink *et al.*, 2012a; Eelderink *et al.*, 2012b). A benefit of lower GI and GL might be anticipated where a risk/benefit is mediated by post-prandial glycaemia. The majority of the literature on GI and GL, however, does not allow for certainty that the carbohydrate content of an exposure is the sole influence on the GI or GL of a diet, nor that a similar GI or GL for different foods has the same physiological basis. This limits the confidence in assigning cause-effect relationships for outcomes based on variation in diet GI or GL.

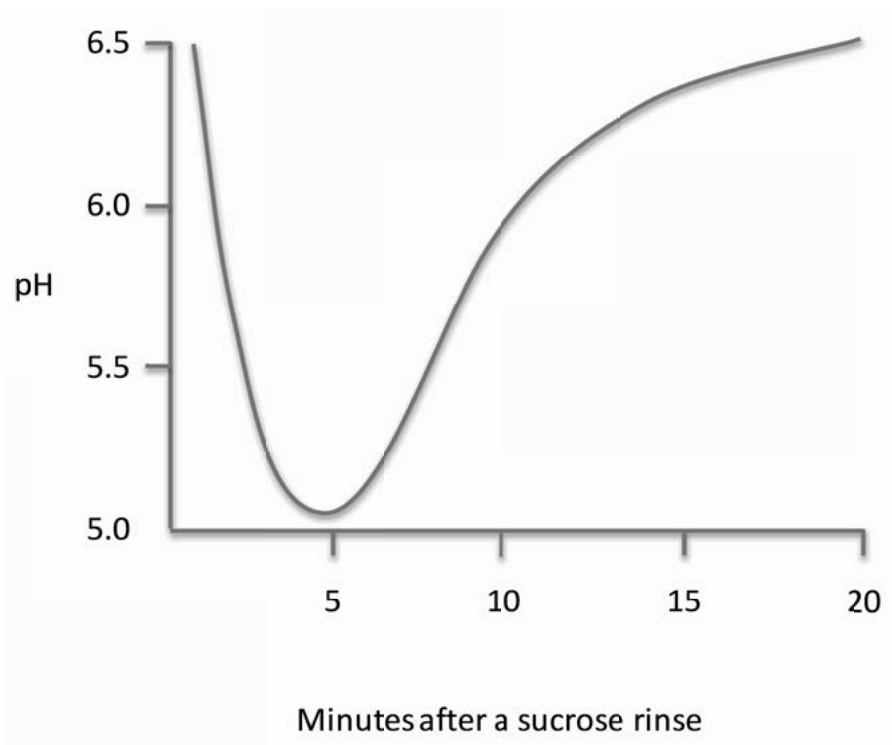
Fermentation of sugars in the oral cavity

- 2.21 Dental caries is the result of demineralisation of enamel and dentine in the presence of acid. The pH associated with decay is close to the 'critical pH for demineralisation' of the tissue or about 5.5 for enamel and about 6.0 for dentine. The acids that induce demineralisation at this level are produced by the fermentation of dietary sugars (including sugars produced by hydrolysis of starch in the mouth), particularly sucrose, by acidogenic bacteria from the oral microbiota. Lactose is fermented more slowly than sucrose (Birkhed *et al.*, 1993). Demineralisation from bacterially-derived acids (predominantly lactic acid) occurs during virtually every

meal as naturally occurring sugars are present in many food constituents (see Figure 2.1). Saliva is, however, a very efficient remineralising solution allowing for repair of demineralised dentine and enamel. Saliva neutralises and buffers acids, and is supersaturated for calcium and phosphate enabling repair of demineralised apatite (a major component of tooth enamel). Tooth decay occurs when the frequency or extent of demineralisation in any one person's mouth exceeds the capacity of saliva to remineralise the tissue (García-Godoy & Hicks, 2008).

2.22 In randomised controlled trials where subjects have worn enamel or dentine blocks contained within intra-oral appliances, the application of sucrose, and to a lesser extent glucose, fructose, lactose or starch, has been shown to result in demineralisation (Lingstrom *et al.*, 1994; Cury *et al.*, 2000; Aires *et al.*, 2002; Vale *et al.*, 2007; Aires *et al.*, 2008). The effects of sucrose were shown to be dependent of dose (Aires *et al.*, 2006) and the frequency of application, as well as being militated against by fluoride administration (Duggal *et al.*, 2001; Ccahuana-Vasquez *et al.*, 2007).

Figure 2.1: pH changes in mature dental plaque as bacteria in the biofilm metabolise sucrose to produce lactic acid



Definitions used in different dietary recommendations

- 2.23 The classification of carbohydrate components in dietary recommendations may vary between different authorities. The terms carbohydrate and starch have distinct chemical definitions that do not differ between different organisations. There is diversity of opinion regarding the measurement of dietary components defined on the basis of functionality rather than chemical composition (Englyst *et al.*, 2007). The classification used to define sugars and dietary fibre in dietary recommendations varies between different authorities and these differences are considered below.

Sugars

- 2.24 While the term ‘sugars’ refers to monosaccharides and disaccharides, various terms are used to define the types of sugars described in dietary recommendations. A summary of the different definitions for sugars is given in Table 2.2.
- 2.25 In the UK, dietary reference values have been provided for ‘non-milk extrinsic sugars’. Intrinsic sugars are those naturally incorporated into the cellular structure of foods; extrinsic sugars are those sugars not contained within the cellular structure of a food. The extrinsic sugars in milk and milk products (i.e. lactose) were deemed to be exempt from the classification of sugars in relation to the dietary reference value (COMA, 1991). Non-milk extrinsic sugars include sugars added to foods, e.g. sucrose, glucose and fructose, and sugars naturally present in fruit juices, e.g. glucose and fructose.
- 2.26 The 2002 FAO/WHO Expert Consultation defined the term ‘free sugars’ as all monosaccharides and disaccharides added to foods by the manufacturer, cook or consumer, plus sugars naturally present in honey, syrups and fruit juices (WHO, 2003). In 2015, the term was elaborated to ‘free sugars include monosaccharides and disaccharides added to foods and beverages by the manufacturer, cook or consumer, and sugars naturally present in honey, syrups, fruit juices and fruit juice concentrates (WHO, 2015).
- 2.27 In the United States, dietary reference intakes are set for ‘added sugars’, which are defined as sugars and syrups that are added to foods during processing and preparation. Added sugars do not include naturally occurring sugars such as lactose in milk or fructose in fruits (Institute of Medicine, 2005).
- 2.28 The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) defines sugars as total sugars, including both endogenous (sugars naturally present in foods such as fruit, vegetables, cereals and lactose in milk products) and added sugars (EFSA, 2009). The term ‘added sugars’ refers to sucrose, fructose, glucose, starch hydrolysates (glucose syrup, high-fructose syrup, isoglucose) and other isolated sugar preparations used as such, or added during food preparation and manufacturing.

Table 2.2: Different definitions used for sugars in dietary recommendations

Term	Definition
Non-milk extrinsic sugars* – UK, 1991	Sugars not contained within the cellular structure of a food except lactose in milk and milk products.
Free sugars* – WHO, 2015	Free sugars include monosaccharides and disaccharides added to foods and beverages by the manufacturer, cook or consumer, and sugars naturally present in honey, syrups, fruit juices and fruit juice concentrates.
Added sugars – US, 2005	Sugars and syrups that are added to foods during processing and preparation.
Added sugars – EFSA, 2009	Sucrose, fructose, glucose, starch hydrolysates (glucose syrup, high-fructose syrup) and other isolated sugar preparations used as such or added during food preparation and manufacturing.

* The only difference between non-milk extrinsic sugars and free sugars is that non-milk extrinsic sugars includes 50% of the fruit sugars from stewed, dried or canned fruit (Bates *et al.*, 2012), but free sugars includes none.

Dietary fibre

- 2.29 Differences in the definition for dietary fibre between dietary recommendations from different authorities to some extent reflect differences in the analytical methods used to determine dietary fibre, in conjunction with the degree to which indigestibility and non-absorbability in the small intestine are considered to be a satisfactory basis for the definition of dietary fibre. Dietary fibre analytical methodologies have adopted two general approaches: enzymic–gravimetric methods and enzymic–chemical methods. A summary of the different definitions for dietary fibre is given in Table 2.3.
- 2.30 In the UK, dietary fibre has been defined as non-starch polysaccharide, comprising cellulose and non-cellulose polysaccharides (e.g. pectins, glucans, arabinogalactans, arabinoxylans, gums and mucilages) (COMA, 1991; COMA, 1994). This is analytically defined using an enzymic–chemical method (Englyst *et al.*, 1994) and does not include resistant starches, non-digestible oligosaccharides or lignin.
- 2.31 In 2008, SACN reviewed the available scientific evidence for components under consideration for inclusion in the Codex definition of dietary fibre for nutrition labelling purposes (SACN, 2008). The Committee defined dietary fibre as material that is resistant to digestion and absorption in the small intestine and that has a demonstrable physiological effect potentially associated with health benefits in the body, such as increasing stool bulk, decreasing intestinal transit time, decreasing the lowering of total cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol concentrations. This includes non-starch polysaccharides. Inclusion of other components in the definition would require beneficial physiological effects to be demonstrated. The Committee considered that evidence only of increased fermentation in the gut should not be included in this definition, since although this has a direct effect on the microbiota, it would also need to be shown to have a demonstrable benefit to the host for material to be considered as dietary fibre.

- 2.32 In the United States ‘total dietary fibre’ is defined as the sum of dietary fibre and functional fibre (Institute of Medicine, 2005). Dietary fibre is defined as non-digestible carbohydrates and lignin that are intrinsic and intact in plants. Functional fibre is defined as isolated, non-digestible carbohydrate components that have beneficial physiological effects in humans, with a DP of 3 or more, and which may be isolated or extracted using chemical, enzymatic, or aqueous steps. Excluded are non-digestible mono- and disaccharides and all polyols, some resistant starch and non-digestible animal carbohydrates.
- 2.33 Total dietary fibre is analytically defined as the material isolated by enzymic–gravimetric methods approved by the AOAC, generally AOAC Methods 985.29 and 991.43 (Prosky *et al.*, 1988; Lee *et al.*, 1992). These AOAC methods determine non-starch polysaccharides, some resistant starches, lignin and some inulin, but do not measure most non-digestible oligosaccharides. AOAC methods have subsequently been developed to measure all resistant starches and low molecular weight dietary fibres such as non-digestible oligosaccharides and inulin, e.g. AOAC method 2009.01 (McCleary *et al.*, 2010; McCleary *et al.*, 2012).
- 2.34 The 2006 FAO/WHO scientific update on carbohydrates in human nutrition considered that the term ‘dietary fibre’ should be reserved for the cell wall polysaccharides of vegetables, fruits and whole grains, the health benefits of which have been clearly established, rather than synthetic, isolated or purified oligosaccharides and polysaccharides with diverse, and in some cases unique, physiological effects (Mann *et al.*, 2007).
- 2.35 In 2008, the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses agreed a definition of dietary fibre, which was agreed by the Codex Alimentarius Committee in 2009 (Cummings *et al.*, 2009; FAO/WHO, 2010). This defines dietary fibre as carbohydrate polymers with ten or more monomeric units, which are not hydrolysed by endogenous enzymes in the small intestine of human beings plus lignin and/or other compounds when associated with polysaccharides in plant cell walls. The decision on whether to include carbohydrates from three to nine monomeric units in the definition of dietary fibre was left to national authorities.
- 2.36 In 2010, EFSA established a dietary reference value for dietary fibre and concluded that dietary fibre should include all non-digestible carbohydrates and lignin (EFSA, 2010a). This includes non-starch polysaccharides, all resistant starches, all non-digestible oligosaccharides with three or more monomeric units and other non-digestible, but quantitatively minor components that are associated with dietary fibre polysaccharides, especially lignin. As in the Codex definition, to be defined as dietary fibre, natural carbohydrate polymers obtained from raw material in food by physical, enzymatic, chemical means, or synthetic polymers, must have beneficial physiological effects demonstrated by accepted scientific evidence (EFSA, 2010a). The Codex and European Food Safety Authority dietary fibre definitions are chemically defined using AOAC method 2009.01 (McCleary *et al.*, 2010; McCleary *et al.*, 2012).

Table 2.3: Different definitions used for dietary fibre in dietary recommendations

Term	Definition
Non-starch polysaccharides – UK, 1991	Non- α -glucan polysaccharides: cellulose and non-cellulose polysaccharides (e.g. pectins, glucans, arabinogalactans, arabinoxylans, gums, and mucilages).
Dietary fibre – WHO, 2006	Intrinsic plant cell wall polysaccharides, i.e. non-starch polysaccharides
Total dietary fibre – US, 2005	Non-digestible carbohydrates and lignin that are intrinsic and intact in plants, and isolated, non-digestible carbohydrate components that have beneficial physiological effects in humans, with a DP of three or more. It was noted that the methodologies used at that time chemically defined total dietary fibre as non-starch polysaccharides, some resistant starches, lignin and some inulin, but did not include non-digestible oligosaccharides.
Dietary fibre – Codex, 2008	Carbohydrate polymers with ten or more monomeric units, which are not hydrolysed by endogenous enzymes in small intestine of human beings plus lignin and/or other compounds when associated with polysaccharides in the plant cell walls. The decision on whether to include carbohydrates from three to nine monomeric units in the definition of dietary fibre was left to national authorities.
Dietary fibre – EFSA, 2010	Non-starch polysaccharides, all resistant starches, all non-digestible oligosaccharides with three or more monomeric units and other non-digestible, but quantitatively minor components that are associated with the dietary fibre polysaccharides, especially lignin.

A comparison of the previous UK dietary reference values for carbohydrate with dietary recommendations from other international authorities

- 2.37 A summary of the different dietary carbohydrate recommendations from different authorities is given in Table 2.4. The UK carbohydrate dietary reference values were set for adults and children aged five years and older (COMA, 1991; COMA, 1994). For total carbohydrates a population average of approximately 50% total dietary energy was recommended (COMA, 1994). This was derived from observations that diets high in fat, particularly saturated fatty acids, are associated with higher incidence of cardiovascular disease. The carbohydrate value was set to restore the energy deficit from reducing dietary fat intake. It was recommended that starches and intrinsic and milk sugars should provide the balance of total dietary energy not provided by alcohol, protein fat and non-milk extrinsic sugars, that is, on average 37% total dietary energy or 39% food energy (excluding alcohol⁴) for the population (COMA, 1994).
- 2.38 The dietary reference value for non-milk extrinsic sugars was for a population average of no more than 10% of total dietary energy or 11% of food energy (excluding alcohol) (COMA, 1991). This was based on evidence that sugar intake

4 Energy intake from alcohol was assumed to average 5% approximating current intakes at the time and was factored into the total dietary energy value, but excluded from the food energy value.

is associated with higher incidence of dental caries. The value was derived from the observation that dental caries is rare in countries which have a sugar supply approximately equating to 10% or less of total dietary energy. The dietary reference value for non-starch polysaccharides was for a population average of 18g/day, with an individual range of 12 g to 24 g/day. This was based on evidence that non-starch polysaccharide increases faecal weight and the observation that higher faecal weights were observed in populations with a lower incidence of bowel disease (COMA, 1991).

Table 2.4: Comparison of dietary carbohydrate recommendations by different authorities

	Total carbohydrate	Sugars	Dietary fibre*
UK, 1991	47% total dietary energy (50% food energy)	non-milk extrinsic sugars no more than 10% of total dietary energy	18g/day non-starch polysaccharide
US, 2005	Recommended daily allowance 130g/day	No limit set for added sugars **	Adequate intake level of 38g/day for men and 25g/day for women of 'total dietary fibre'
WHO, 2002	Range of 55 to 75% total dietary energy	Less than 10% of total dietary energy as free sugars, with a (proposed) conditional recommendation of less than 5% of total dietary energy as free sugars	Greater than 20g/day non-starch polysaccharide (Englyst <i>et al.</i> , 1994) or greater than 25g/day of 'total dietary fibre'
EU, 2009	Range of 45 to 60% total dietary energy	No limit set for added sugars	25g/day of dietary fibre

* For definitions of dietary fibre see Table 2.2; ** a maximum level of intake of 25% of energy or less due to decreased intakes of certain micronutrients observed at these consumption levels was suggested.

Whole grains

2.39 A central tenet of dietary recommendations in many countries is to eat a diet rich in whole grains, fruits and vegetables (Cummings & Stephen, 2007). Whole grains include whole wheat, whole wheat flour, wheat flakes, bulgar wheat, whole and rolled oats, oatmeal, oat flakes, brown rice, whole rye and rye flour and whole barley. A precise definition, however, is needed, and the role of intact versus milled grains needs to be established (Cummings & Stephen, 2007). An analysis of whole grains intake of adults in the 1986-7 and 2000-1 NDNS surveys, including foods with less than 51% whole grains content, estimated median intakes in 1986-7 and 2000-1 to be 16g/day (inter quartile range 0-45g/day) and 14g/day (inter quartile range 0-36g/day), respectively (Thane *et al.*, 2007).

2.40 There are discrepancies between definitions of a whole grain food (including whole grain flour) used for labelling purposes between countries and within and outside the EU. In the UK and the USA whole grain foods must contain 51% or more whole grain ingredients by wet weight, whereas in Sweden and Denmark the requirement is 50% or more whole grain ingredients on a dry matter basis. In Germany, whole grain bread must be 90% whole grains (EFSA, 2010b).

2.41 An EU research project (The Healthgrain Consortium) developed a single definition of whole grains for use across Europe and, where possible equivalent to definitions outside Europe, which aimed to also be in line with definitions outside of Europe, such as the American Association of Cereal Chemists International definition⁵ (van der Kamp *et al.*, 2014). A full definition describing the grains included and the processing aspects was developed and an overall definition of whole grains given as follows:

- Whole grains shall consist of the intact, ground, cracked or flaked kernel after the removal of inedible parts such as the hull and husk. The principal anatomical components – the starchy endosperm, germ and bran – are present in the same relative proportions as they exist in the intact kernel.
- Small losses of components – that is, less than 2% of the grain/10% of the bran – that occur through processing methods consistent with safety and quality are allowed.

5 Whole grains consist of the 'intact, ground, cracked or flaked caryopsis (grain), whose principal components – the starchy endosperm, germ and bran – are present in the same relative proportions as they exist in the intact caryopsis' (American Association of Cereal Chemists International, 1999). To be considered whole grain, a food may contain intact grains, minimally processed grains, or milled grains from which no component has been removed during the milling process.

3 Dietary sources and intakes of carbohydrates

- 3.1 Nationally representative data on carbohydrate intakes of the UK population were drawn from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) rolling programme, a continuous survey of diet and nutrition in adults and children aged 18 months upwards. Data presented in this chapter are based on 3450 adults aged 19 years and over and 3378 children aged 1½-18 years collected over years 1-4 combined (2008/09 to 2011/12) (Bates *et al.*, 2014).
- 3.2 Carbohydrate intake data are also available for infants and young children aged 4-18 months from the 2011 UK Diet and Nutrition Survey of Infants and Young Children (Lennox *et al.*, 2013). Carbohydrate intakes for the UK low income/ materially deprived population, collected in 2003-2005, are available from the Low Income Diet and Nutrition Survey (Nelson *et al.*, 2007).
- 3.3 Dietary sources of carbohydrates are presented at a broad category level⁶, for example, cereals and cereal products, milk and milk products (Annex 8). The top twenty contributors are also presented at a more detailed food group level (Annex 8).
- 3.4 In the NDNS rolling programme, diet was assessed by the participant (or the parent/carer for children) keeping a diary of all foods and drinks consumed for four consecutive days, using household measures and other methods to estimate quantities consumed. The survey was designed to represent all days of the week equally in the final data; however there is a slight over-representation of Fridays and weekend days in the dataset compared with other days (Bates *et al.*, 2014).
- 3.5 Dietary surveys are reliant on self-reported measures of intake. Misreporting of food consumption in dietary surveys, generally under-reporting, is known to be a problem in the NDNS, as it is in dietary surveys worldwide. A doubly-labelled water sub-study carried out as part of the NDNS rolling programme (Bates *et al.*, 2014) found that reported energy intake in adults aged 16-64 years was, on average, 34% lower than total energy expenditure (TEE) measured by doubly labelled water. The difference for other age groups was similar except for children aged 4-10 years where reported energy intake was 12% lower than TEE. This discrepancy between reported energy intake and TEE is likely to be due to a combination of underreporting actual dietary consumption, and changing the diet during the recording period. It is not possible to extrapolate these estimates of underreporting of energy intake to individual foods or nutrients, nor is it possible to correct or adjust the intake estimates to take account of under-reporting.

6 'Cereals and cereal products', 'milk and milk products', 'eggs and egg dishes', 'fat spreads', 'meat and meat products', 'fish and fish dishes', 'vegetables and potatoes', 'savoury snacks', 'nuts and seeds', 'fruit', 'sugar, preserves and confectionery', 'non-alcoholic beverages' and 'alcoholic beverages' are the broad food categories reported in the NDNS.

3.6 The carbohydrate intakes of the UK population have been tabulated and are included in Annex 8. Dietary intakes reported in this chapter are compared with the current dietary reference values (DRVs) set by COMA in 1991. Carbohydrate intakes are presented as grams/day, as a percentage of total dietary energy intake (that is including energy from alcohol) and as a percentage of food and drink energy intake (that is, excluding energy from alcohol).

Total carbohydrate intakes and dietary sources

3.7 In the UK, mean intakes of total carbohydrate in adults and children aged 4 years and over were 200-240g/day, and 150g/day in children aged 1½- 3 years. Mean intakes of total carbohydrate as a percentage of total dietary energy were 51-52% in children and 46% in adults. Mean intakes in children met the DRV and in adults were close to the DRV (Annex 8).

3.8 Cereals and cereal products were the main source of total carbohydrate intake in all age groups, providing around 45% of intake. Bread was the largest single source of total carbohydrate. The other food groups that made a substantial contribution to total carbohydrate intake were potatoes, fruit, drinks (soft and alcoholic), and table sugar, preserves and confectionery; each providing up to 10% of intake (Annex 8).

3.9 White bread was the top contributor to intake of total carbohydrate in adults and children aged 4 years and over, providing 10-12% of intake. In children aged 1½-3 years fruit and milk were the top contributors, each providing about 10% of intake. Soft drinks provided 10% of total carbohydrate intake in children aged 11-18 years (Annex 8).

3.10 In children aged 4-18 months, mean intakes of total carbohydrate ranged from 93 to 126g/day and contributed 49-52% of total dietary energy intake. The major contributor to total carbohydrate intake for children aged 4 to 11 months was infant formula which provided 46% of intake in the youngest children reducing to 28% in those aged 10-11 months. For children aged 12 to 18 months, the major contributor to total carbohydrate intake was cereals and cereal products (34%). Commercial infant foods were also major contributors to total carbohydrate intakes at the younger end of the age range, and milk and milk products at the older end.

Total and individual sugar intakes and dietary sources

3.11 Mean intakes of total sugar were around 95-103g/day in adults and children over 4 years and 76g/day in children aged 18 months to 3 years. This represented about a fifth of total dietary energy intake in older children and adults, and a quarter in children under 11 years. About half of total sugar intake was sucrose; mean intakes were 40-50g/day for adults and children over 4 years. Mean intakes of glucose and fructose (exclusive of that delivered as sucrose) were 15-18g/day each, lactose 10-13g/day and maltose 5-8g/day. The proportion of total sugar intake from lactose was slightly higher in children under 3 years (18g/day) due to higher milk consumption (Annex 8).

- 3.12 In adults aged 19-64 years, soft drinks and fruit were the top contributors to total sugar intakes, each providing 13% of intake, with table sugar providing 9% of intake. In older adults aged 65 years and over, fruit was the top contributor providing 18% of total sugar intake with table sugar and milk each providing 10%. Soft drinks were the main contributor to total sugar in children aged 11-18 years, providing 24% of intake. In the 4-10 year age group, fruit was the top contributor at 14% of total sugars intake, followed by soft drinks at 11% of intake, milk at 10% and fruit juice at 9%. In the youngest age group, 1½-3 years, fruit and milk each provided a fifth of total sugar intake (Annex 8).
- 3.13 In children aged 4-18 months, mean intakes of total sugar were 71g/day in the youngest group reducing to 66g/day in the oldest. Total sugars provided 38% of energy in the youngest group and 26% in the 12-18 month age group. For children aged 4 to 11 months the main contributor to total sugar intake was infant formula, providing over 50% of intake in the youngest age group and 40% in older children. For children aged 12 to 18 months, milk and milk products were the main source of total sugars (33%) followed by fruit (19%).

Non-milk extrinsic sugar intakes and dietary sources

- 3.14 Mean intakes of non-milk extrinsic sugars (NMES) exceed the DRV (that the population average intake should not exceed 10% of total dietary energy) in all age/sex groups. Older adults aged 65 years and over had mean intakes closest to the DRV (11.2% total dietary energy). The highest mean intakes of NMES were in children aged 4-10 years and 11-18 years (14.7% and 15.4% of total dietary energy respectively). Intakes at the 97.5th percentile provided 25-30% of total dietary energy intake (Annex 8).
- 3.15 The main contributors to NMES intake differed for adults and children. For older children aged 11-18 years, soft drinks were the largest single source of NMES providing 30% of intake, with a further 10% of intake from fruit juice. In younger children aged 4-10 years soft drinks provided 16% of NMES intake and fruit juice 13%. Cereals and cereal products provided about a quarter (22-29%) of NMES intake in children, mainly from sugars added to biscuits, buns, cakes, pastries and breakfast cereals. Table sugar, preserves and confectionery provided a fifth of intake. In adults aged 19-64 years, soft and alcoholic drinks and fruit juice combined provided a third of intake, table sugar, preserves and confectionery provided a quarter of intake (table sugar the largest source) and cereals and cereal products provided a fifth of intake. In older adults aged 65 years and over, the contribution from cereals and cereal products was higher and that from drinks was lower (Annex 8).
- 3.16 In children aged 4-18 months, mean intakes of NMES were 4.3% of energy intake in the youngest group and 7.7% in the 12-18 month age group. The main contributor to NMES intake for children aged 4-6 months and 7-9 months was commercial infant foods, which provided 44% of intake in children aged 4-6 months. Milk and milk products provided a fifth of NMES intake in this age group (from sugars added to yogurts, dairy desserts and ice-cream). For children aged 10 to 18 months, milk and milk products was the single largest contributor to NMES intake.

Intrinsic and milk sugars intakes and dietary sources

- 3.17 Mean intakes of intrinsic and milk sugars were 30-43g/day across the age groups, providing 6-10% of total dietary energy intake in adults and children aged 4 years upwards and 13% in children aged 1½-3 years. The main sources of intrinsic and milk sugars were milk and fruit (Annex 8).
- 3.18 In children aged 4-18 months, mean intakes of intrinsic and milk sugars were 34% of energy intake in 4-6 month olds, and 18% in 12-18 month olds. Infant formula was the largest contributor to intake of intrinsic and milk sugars intake for children aged 4-11 months. The second largest contributors were breast milk for those aged 4-6 months and 7-9 months and fruit for those aged 10-11 months. For the 12-18 month age group, the largest contributor was milk and milk products followed by fruit.

Starch intakes and dietary sources

- 3.19 Mean starch intakes were 110-135g/day in adults and children over 4 years, and 76g/day in younger children aged 1½-3 years. This represented 25-29% of total dietary energy (Annex 8).
- 3.20 White bread was the top contributor to starch intake in all age groups, providing around a fifth of intake in adults and children aged 4 years and over, and 16% in children aged 1½-3 years. Chips, fried and roast potatoes and potato products was the second largest contributor in children from 4 years and adults aged 19-64 years. Boiled, mashed and baked potatoes was the second largest contributor in older adults and high fibre breakfast cereals was the second largest contributor in children aged 1½-3 years. Pasta and pasta-based dishes provided 6-8% of starch intake in children and adults aged 19-64 years (Annex 8).
- 3.21 In children aged 4-18 months, mean starch intakes were 22g/day in the youngest group (11% of energy), increasing to 60g/day in the 12-18 month group (23% of energy). For children aged 4-6 months, the main contributor to starch intake was commercial infant foods. For children aged 7-9 months, the main contributors were commercial infant foods and cereals and cereal products. For children aged 10-11 months and 12-18 months, the main source of starch was cereals and cereal products.

Intrinsic and milk sugars and starch intakes

- 3.22 The DRV for intrinsic and milk sugars and starch combined is 37% of total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol) as a population average. The mean intakes for intrinsic and milk sugars and starch were 34-35% of total dietary energy in adults and children aged 11 years and over and 37-39% in younger children (Annex 8).

Non-starch polysaccharides intakes and dietary sources

- 3.23 In adults, mean intakes of non-starch polysaccharides were 14g/day, well below the population average DRV for adults of 18g/day, but above the individual minimum of 12g/day. Intakes at the 97.5th percentile were 25-26g/day. Mean intakes for children were lower at 11-12g/day (8g/day in children under 4 years) (Annex 8).

- 3.24 At a broad food category level, the main sources of non-starch polysaccharides were cereals and cereal products, which provided about 40% of intake across age groups, and vegetables and potatoes (a quarter to a third of intake) (Annex 8).
- 3.25 Vegetables and vegetable-based dishes was the single largest contributor to non-starch polysaccharides intake in all age groups, providing just under a fifth of intake in children and a quarter in adults. Fruit was the second largest contributor in all age groups except 11-18 years providing 13-17% of intake in children under ten years and 10-14% in adults. In the 11-18 year age group, white bread and chips and fried potatoes were the second largest sources each providing about 10% of intake (Annex 8).
- 3.26 In the 4-18 month age group, mean non-starch polysaccharide intakes were 4-7 grams per day. The main contributors to non-starch polysaccharide intake for children aged 4 to 11 months were commercial infant foods and infant formula. For children aged 12-18 months, the main contributor to non-starch polysaccharides intake was cereals and cereal products followed by vegetables and potatoes.

Consumption of selected carbohydrate-containing foods

- 3.27 Tables 3.13 to 3.15 in Annex 8 present consumption of selected carbohydrate-containing foods, based on data from NDNS. Consumption data are presented as population averages (including participants who did not consume the food over the four day diary) and as averages for consumers only (excluding non-consumers) with the percentage who consumed over four days.
- 3.28 Consumption of sugary soft drinks was highest in the 11-18 year age group. Population mean consumption of sugary soft drinks in boys aged 11-18 years was 310g/day, 80% of boys in this age group consumed sugary soft drinks over the four day period. For girls in the same age group, 75% consumed sugary soft drinks over the four days and mean population consumption was 210g/day. Mean consumption in the 4-10 year age group was lower at 128g/day with 69% consumers over four days.
- 3.29 Mean consumption of fruit juice was highest in children aged 4-10 years, 93g/day with 62% consumers over 4 days, followed by children aged 11-18 years, 83g/day with 49% consumers over 4 days. Mean consumption in other age groups was 50-60g/day with 40-50% consumers over four days.
- 3.30 White bread was the most commonly consumed food type and eaten in the greatest quantities in all age groups. Mean consumption of all bread was 80-90g/day in adults and older children.
- 3.31 Mean consumption of breakfast cereals was 22-28g/day across the age groups except in older adults aged 65 years and over for whom it was higher at 47g/day. Consumption of high fibre breakfast cereals was higher than that of other breakfast cereals in all age groups except for children aged 11-18 years.
- 3.32 Mean consumption of potatoes was about 90g/day for adults and older children. Children aged 11-18 years consumed 54g/day of chips and fried potatoes and 33g/day of boiled, mashed and baked potatoes.

- 3.33 Children aged 4-18 years consumed 18-19 g/day of sugar and chocolate confectionery. Adults consumed 11-14g/day of table sugar, preserves and sweet spreads (mainly as table sugar).

Socio-economic differences in carbohydrate intakes

- 3.34 Analysis by equivalised household income in NDNS showed that for adults aged 19-64 years the lowest income quintile for both men and women consumed a higher percentage of energy from total carbohydrate than did the highest quintile. No clear pattern was seen in other age groups.
- 3.35 Overall, mean intakes of NMES for adults tended to be higher in the lowest income quintile compared with the highest. For example in women aged 19-64 years mean NMES intake was significantly higher in the lowest quintile (12.7% total dietary energy) compared with the highest (10.0%). This pattern was not seen in children and in boys 4-10 years the lowest quintile had significantly lower % energy from NMES than did the highest.
- 3.36 There is a clear income gradient in non-starch polysaccharide intake with the NDNS showing lower intakes in the lowest income quintile compared to the highest in most age groups. This partly reflects lower fruit and vegetable consumption in lower income groups. For example in women 19-64 years, latest NDNS data show a significantly lower non-starch polysaccharide intake in the lowest quintile (11.8g/day) compared with the highest quintile (13.7g/day). However mean intakes were below the DRV in all income quintiles.
- 3.37 Evidence from other surveys confirm the socio-economic gradient. The Family Food Survey, based on household food purchases, found that the proportion of energy coming from NMES in the household diet was higher in the lowest income quintile compared with the highest while the non-starch polysaccharide content of food purchased by households in the lowest income quintile was lower than that of the food purchased by households in the highest quintile.
- 3.38 The UK Low income diet and nutrition survey carried out in 2003-2005 found that intakes of carbohydrates were generally similar to those in the general population although where intakes failed to meet DRVs this tended to be more marked in the low income/materially deprived population. Mean intakes of total carbohydrate were similar to intakes in the current NDNS (2008-2012) but mean intakes of non-milk extrinsic sugars as a percentage of energy were higher than the current NDNS and also higher than in previous NDNS carried out in the 1990s while mean intakes of non-starch polysaccharides were lower than current and previous intakes in NDNS.

Summary

- 3.39 UK NDNS data show that mean intakes of total carbohydrate meet or are close to meeting recommendations in all age groups while intake of NMES exceeded recommendations in all age groups and were particularly high in children. Soft drinks provided almost a third of the intake of non-milk extrinsic sugars in children aged 11-18 years. Biscuits, buns, cakes, and puddings, confectionery and fruit juice

were also significant contributors. Non-starch polysaccharide intakes were below recommended levels for adults. There is evidence from NDNS and other surveys of a socio-economic gradient in intakes of both sugar and fibre, with higher intakes of NMEs as a percentage of energy for adults and lower intakes of non-starch polysaccharide for both adults and children in the lower income groups.

- 3.40 Intake data for non-digestible oligosaccharides and resistant starches are not available from the UK NDNS. A consideration of other dietary surveys in the UK and other countries that do provide estimates of non-digestible oligosaccharides and resistant starches intakes is given in Chapter 9.

4 Background on health outcomes (disease prevention)

- 4.1 The relationships between dietary carbohydrate intake and cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health outcomes have been considered in this report. Evidence has been evaluated to assess whether intakes of specific carbohydrates are a factor in the risk for cardiovascular disease, obesity, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and colo-rectal cancers. The relationship between dietary carbohydrate intake and risk factors and markers related to these diseases has also been considered. Table 4.1 lists the risk factors and measures with the references substantiating their use for a given disease or function.

Cardiovascular disease

- 4.2 Cardiovascular disease is a major cause of disability and premature death throughout the world, and contributes substantially to the escalating costs of health care. Coronary heart disease is the UK's single biggest killer and is responsible for almost 74,000 deaths each year, while stroke causes more than 41,000 deaths in the UK each year (British Heart Foundation, 2014). The underlying pathology is atherosclerosis, which develops over many years and is usually advanced by the time symptoms occur, generally in middle age (WHO, 2007a).
- 4.3 The rate of progression of atherosclerosis is influenced by cardiovascular risk factors: poor diet and physical inactivity (which together increase the risk of obesity), tobacco use, elevated blood pressure (hypertension), abnormal blood lipids (dyslipidaemia) and elevated blood glucose (diabetes) (see the blood pressure, fasting blood lipid concentration, coronary and vascular factors, inflammatory markers and type 2 diabetes mellitus related risk factors sections in Table 4.1). Continuing exposure to these risk factors leads to further progression of atherosclerosis, resulting in unstable atherosclerotic plaques, narrowing of blood vessels and obstruction of blood flow to vital organs, such as the heart and the brain. The clinical manifestations of these diseases include angina, myocardial infarction, transient cerebral ischaemic attacks and strokes (WHO, 2007a).

Obesity

- 4.4 The prevalence of obesity (BMI 30 kg/m² or over) in the UK is high; for example in England there was an increase in obesity from 13.2% of men in 1993 to 24.4% in 2012 and from 16.4% of women in 1993 to 25.1% in 2012 (Health and Social Care Information Centre, 2013a). Obesity is associated with a range of health problems including type 2 diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular diseases and cancer (see the body weight and body composition section in Table 4.1). Type 2 diabetes and other metabolic diseases can also occur in non-obese individuals.

- 4.5 Obesity occurs when energy intake from food and drink consumption is greater than energy expenditure through the body's metabolism and physical activity over a prolonged period, resulting in the accumulation of excess body fat. There are, however, many complex behavioural and societal factors that combine to contribute to the causes of obesity, e.g. people's latent biological susceptibility interacting with a changing environment that includes more sedentary lifestyles and increased dietary abundance (Foresight, 2007). Dietary factors affecting energy intake and eating motivation are important factors in the aetiology of obesity (Blundell *et al.*, 2010).

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 4.6 In 2013, 6% of the UK population, over 3.2 million people, were identified as having diabetes, of which 90% had type 2 diabetes mellitus (Diabetes UK, 2014). Plasma glucose concentration is used to diagnose diabetes (WHO, 2006). A considerable body of research has indicated that diabetes is a strong independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease (Sarwar *et al.*, 2010). Often, cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes mellitus exist together as they share common modifiable risk factors such as obesity, and in particular elevated central adiposity. Of all serious diseases, type 2 diabetes has the strongest association with obesity, and body weight control is a key factor in the prevention of progression from impaired glycaemic control to type 2 diabetes mellitus (American Diabetes Association and National Institute of Diabetes Digestive and Kidney Diseases, 2002; Pi-Sunyer, 2007). (See the type 2 diabetes mellitus related risk factors and body weight and body composition sections in Table 4.1).
- 4.7 Diet and lifestyle management are of upmost importance in reducing the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Diabetes UK, 2013). It is important to identify which dietary aspects improve glycaemia, insulinaemia and insulin resistance in individuals with normal or moderately compromised glycaemic control to further elucidate the role of diet in the prevention of type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Colo-rectal health

- 4.8 Colo-rectal cancer is the third most common cancer in men and women in the UK, surpassed only by lung and breast cancers in women and lung and prostate cancers in men (Cancer Research UK, 2014b). While a small proportion (<5%) of colo-rectal cancers are attributable to familial cancer syndromes, familial adenomatous polyposis and hereditary non-polyposis colo-rectal cancer, the majority appear to arise sporadically. There is strong epidemiological evidence for environmental factors in the development of sporadic colo-rectal cancer.
- 4.9 A large body of evidence indicates that adenomatous polyps are the precursor for most colo-rectal cancers (Kinzler & Vogelstein, 1996; Leslie *et al.*, 2002), but only a small proportion of adenomas progress to invasive cancer (Schatzkin & Gail, 2002). There are, however, no other validated risk factors for colo-rectal cancer, and the evidence for faecal parameters in relation to colo-rectal cancer is putative

at best (see the colo-rectal cancer risk factor and colo-rectal function sections in Table 4.1).

- 4.10 The parameters faecal weight, moisture content and intestinal transit time are quantifiable aspects of colo-rectal function used as measures of laxation. They have, to a limited extent, been associated with different diseases, but these relationships are, as yet, not well defined (Cummings *et al.*, 1992; Lewis & Heaton, 1999). There is no single accepted definition of what constitutes normal laxation (Weaver, 1988). EFSA has suggested that an intestinal transit time of about two to three days, a defecation frequency of once a day and a faecal moisture of >70%, with a faecal weight of about 150g/day, may be considered adequate for normal laxation in adults and that this requires an intake of about 25g/day dietary fibre (EFSA, 2010a) (for EFSA's definition of fibre see Chapter 2).
- 4.11 Differences in faecal microbiota, short chain fatty acid content and pH have been associated with different diseases, but these relationships are, as yet, not well defined (Björkstén *et al.*, 2001; Kalliomaki *et al.*, 2001; Penders *et al.*, 2007; Takaishi *et al.*, 2008; Kalliomaki *et al.*, 2008; Packey & Sartor, 2009; Schwartz *et al.*, 2010). In infants, comparisons between breast feeding and breast milk substitute feeding have shown differences in these faecal parameters, where breast milk fed infant faecal microbiota and short chain fatty acid content and pH are defined as optimal or normal (Ogawa *et al.*, 1992; Penders *et al.*, 2006). In children and adults it is not possible to define optimal or normal faecal microbiota and short chain fatty acid content and pH, but they can act as indices for effects on colonic fermentation.
- 4.12 The human intestinal microbiota is a complex ecosystem, consisting of several hundred different bacterial species, and *Bifidobacterium* spp. is just one factor in the infant intestinal microbiota. In the first year of life, the infant intestinal tract progresses from sterility to extremely dense colonization, ending with a mixture of microbes that is broadly very similar to that found in the adult intestine. Being breast fed, mode of birth, perinatal antibiotics and country of birth are major factors influencing the composition of the infant intestinal microbiota (Fallani *et al.*, 2010). The composition of oligosaccharides in human milk is very complex, with great diversity of structure, and does not contain the non-milk oligosaccharides fructo-oligosaccharide and galacto-oligosaccharide (Boehm & Stahl, 2007).
- 4.13 Constipation is defecation that is unsatisfactory because of infrequent stools, difficult stool passage, or seemingly incomplete defecation. Faeces are often dry and hard, and may be abnormally large or abnormally small. Functional constipation is chronic constipation without a known cause. Constipation is more common in women, the elderly, and during pregnancy (Higgins & Johanson, 2004; Cullen & O'Donoghue, 2007). Reported prevalence rates vary widely, at least partly because criteria for diagnosis vary.
- 4.14 Constipation was traditionally defined as less than three bowel movements per week (Connell *et al.*, 1965). Subsequent evidence has suggested effort to defecate, and stool consistency, or form, to be more important in defining constipation (Spiller & Thompson, 2010). While hard stools correlate well with slow transit, and

loose stools with fast transit through the colon, difficulty with defecation and stool frequency do not, as they are determined by factors other than colon transit time (Spiller & Thompson, 2010).

Oral health

- 4.15 Humans have two dentitions, the deciduous (colloquially known as ‘milk teeth’) and the permanent. Deciduous teeth begin to erupt during the first year of life; the 20 teeth of the deciduous dentition are normally all present by the age of four years. These are progressively shed between the ages of 6 and 12 years, during the ‘mixed dentition’ phase. Each deciduous tooth is normally replaced by a permanent tooth during this time and as a consequence some deciduous and some permanent teeth are present in the mouth at the same time. In addition to the replacement of the 20 deciduous teeth, three pairs of permanent molar teeth erupt behind the rearmost tooth of the deciduous dentition in both the upper and lower jaws as they grow. The permanent dentition has 32 teeth in total; 16 in each of the lower and upper jaws, including the three molar teeth that erupt behind the deciduous dentition, and 20 teeth (premolars, canines and incisors) that directly replace the deciduous teeth during the ‘mixed dentition’ phase. Dental development and eruption is complete by around the age of 21 when the third molar teeth (colloquially known as ‘wisdom teeth’ have erupted. However the third molars often fail to develop or do not erupt into the mouth so many people have fewer than a full compliment of teeth.
- 4.16 The major disease processes that affect oral health are dental caries, periodontal disease, tooth wear and oral cancer. Sugars in the diet exert an effect after eruption when the teeth are exposed to the oral environment.
- 4.17 Oral health has improved among adults in the UK since the first Adult Dental Health Survey in 1968. However, there are many people whose oral health is poor and variations with social class are marked (Steele & O’ Sullivan, 2011). In 2009, just under a third of adults (31%) had obvious dental caries, with more men having dental caries than women (34% compared to 28%). Adults from routine and manual occupation households⁷ are more likely to have dental decay than those from managerial and professional occupational households (37% compared with 26%). Despite marked improvements in tooth retention over the past 40 years, pervasive inequalities in tooth loss by social class remain among British adults. In the whole adult population fewer people have no natural teeth or limited dentition now than previously; however the burden of edentulism is much greater in individuals from poorer social backgrounds (Bernabe & Sheiham, 2014).
- 4.18 In 15-year old children, 13% had obvious dental caries in permanent teeth in 2003 (Pitts *et al.*, 2006). In 2012 almost a third (27.9%) of 5-year olds in England had tooth decay (Public Health England, 2013). As in adults, the prevalence of dental decay among children is associated with social factors. Children from more deprived

7 The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) (routine and manual, intermediate, and managerial and professional occupations) replace Social Class based on Occupation (SC, formerly Registrar General’s Social Class) and Socio-economic Groups (SEG).

backgrounds or from lower social status groups being substantially more likely to have decay in most age groups, with the differences being most clear cut among younger children (Public Health England, 2013). Extraction of carious teeth is the most common cause for hospital admission for young children in the UK (Elmer *et al.*, 2014).

Markers and measures and their related health outcomes

Table 4.1: Risk factors and measures for cardio-metabolic and colo-rectal health

Risk factors and measures considered	Related outcomes	References
Blood pressure: Blood pressure Systolic blood pressure Diastolic blood pressure	cardiovascular diseases and renal impairment	MacMahon <i>et al.</i> , 1990; Whelton, 1994; Lewington <i>et al.</i> , 2002; Bidani & Griffin, 2002; Shammas, 2007
Fasting blood lipid concentrations: Total cholesterol HDL-cholesterol LDL-cholesterol LDL-cholesterol: HDL-cholesterol Total cholesterol: HDL-cholesterol Non-HDL-cholesterol Triacylglycerol Non esterified fatty acids Apolipoproteins (A1 & B) Lipoprotein (a)	cardiovascular diseases	Gordon & Rifkind, 1989; Rader <i>et al.</i> , 2003; Lewington <i>et al.</i> , 2007; Shammas, 2007; Brainin & Heiss, 2009; Goldberg <i>et al.</i> , 2011; Miller <i>et al.</i> , 2011
Coronary & vascular factors: Coronary calcification Aortic calcification Carotid plaque formation Pulse wave velocity Flow mediated dilatation Vascular compliance Arterial compliance	cardiovascular diseases	Wilson <i>et al.</i> , 2001; Kelm, 2002; Witte <i>et al.</i> , 2005; Mattace-Raso <i>et al.</i> , 2006; Yeboah <i>et al.</i> , 2007; Finn <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Janner <i>et al.</i> , 2012
Inflammatory markers: Acute phase protein (including CRP, serum amyloid A) Cytokines (including IL-6, tumour necrosis factor- α) Adhesion molecules Clotting cascade (including clotting associated factor PAI-1, fibrinogen, factor VII)	cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes mellitus	Ross, 1999; Libby <i>et al.</i> , 2002; Kolb & Mandrup-Poulsen, 2005; Basu <i>et al.</i> , 2006; Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2013

Risk factors and measures considered	Related outcomes	References
Body weight & body composition: Body weight BMI Fat distribution Fat free mass Total body fat Body fatness Waist circumference Hip circumference Waist to hip ratio	hypertension, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus, various cancers and dyslipidaemias	World Cancer Research Fund & American Institute for Cancer Research, 2007; WHO, 2007b; Klop <i>et al.</i> , 2013
Energy intake & eating motivation	overweight/obesity	Blundell JE <i>et al.</i> , 2008; Hetherington <i>et al.</i> , 2013
Type 2 diabetes mellitus related risk factors: Glycaemia Insulinaemia Insulin resistance Glycosylated blood proteins	type 2 diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease	Barr <i>et al.</i> , 2007; Shamma, 2007; Brainin & Heiss, 2009; Sarwar <i>et al.</i> , 2010; WHO, 2011
Colo-rectal cancer risk factors: Colo-rectal adenomas	colo-rectal cancer	Kinzler & Vogelstein, 1996; Leslie <i>et al.</i> , 2002; World Cancer Research Fund & American Institute for Cancer Research, 2007
Colo-rectal function: Faecal weight Intestinal transit time Faecal moisture Faecal microbiota Faecal pH Faecal short chain fatty acid content	colo-rectal function	Weaver, 1988; Cummings <i>et al.</i> , 1992; Ogawa <i>et al.</i> , 1992; Lewis & Heaton, 1999; Björkstén <i>et al.</i> , 2001; Kalliomaki <i>et al.</i> , 2001; Takaishi <i>et al.</i> , 2008; Packey & Sartor, 2009; Schwiertz <i>et al.</i> , 2010

5 Total carbohydrates

- 5.1 This assessment is based on prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials investigating the relationship between total carbohydrate intake and cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health outcomes. Links to the individual systematic reviews and update search are given in Annex 1.
- 5.2 Evidence on health/disease outcomes has been discussed in detail only where there are sufficient data for a conclusion to be drawn from studies meeting the pre-agreed inclusion criteria. Outcomes where there are too few studies to reach a conclusion are listed at the end of the chapter (see Tables 5.1 and 5.2). Outcomes where the evidence was considered too inconsistent to make a valid judgement are also listed at the end of the chapter (see Tables 5.3 and 5.4).
- 5.3 Prospective cohort studies included in this chapter either provide data on total carbohydrate intake, as g/day or % energy, or on dietary patterns. For dietary patterns, a low-carbohydrate-diet score based on the percentage of energy from carbohydrate, fat and/or protein in the diet has been constructed: the higher the score, the more closely the participant followed a low carbohydrate diet. Alternatively, cohort studies have used substitution models to observe the outcome of replacing fat with total carbohydrate or lower, medium or higher glycaemic index carbohydrates.
- 5.4 For the prospective cohort study meta-analyses the relative risks for total carbohydrate intake are presented for either each 8% energy or each 70g/day increase, both equivalent to approximately one standard deviation in adult carbohydrate intake, as based on UK data from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey (Bates *et al.*, 2009).
- 5.5 The randomised controlled trials considered in this section involve manipulating the macronutrient composition of the diet so that subjects consume differing proportions of total carbohydrate. Where there are only a few studies, the evidence has been considered under a heading of higher carbohydrate diets. If there are enough trials, these have been grouped into three main categories according to whether the dominant dietary change was in total carbohydrate and fat, total carbohydrate and protein or whether the changes involved all three macronutrients. The mean macronutrient intakes values from NDNS were used to determine whether intakes in the trials were high, average or low. For inclusion in a meta-analysis, a 5% difference in energy from total carbohydrate and a 2% difference in fat and/or protein are considered as being meaningful. Where possible, actual consumption is used rather than the intended diet.
- 5.6 Nearly all trials are conducted in overweight or obese individuals and the diets involve energy restriction goals and most trials result in weight loss. Consideration has been given to whether an effect indicated on the studied parameters could be due to greater weight loss in one of the experimental groups. This is particularly

important in trials assessing effects on cardio-metabolic risk markers, as weight loss and gain influence fasting insulin levels and insulin sensitivity (Weyer *et al.*, 2000), blood pressure (Truesdale *et al.*, 2008) and fasting blood lipids (Poobalan *et al.*, 2004).

- 5.7 Nearly all the trials presenting evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat or fat and protein result in a reduction of saturated fatty acid intake in the higher carbohydrate group, as well as affecting the proportion of total fat in the diet. As variation in fat and fatty acid intake affects fasting blood lipid concentrations (Mensink *et al.*, 2003) consideration has been given to whether an effect indicated on the studied parameters could be due to greater fat or saturated fatty acid intake in one of the experimental groups. The degree by which saturated fatty acid intakes are affected differs greatly between trials. For example in some trials saturated fatty acids are reduced and replaced with carbohydrate, whereas in others unsaturated fatty acids are replaced with carbohydrate, leading to different effects.

Adults

Cardiovascular disease events

- 5.8 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as % energy in relation to incident cardiovascular disease events (Farchi *et al.*, 1995; Esrey *et al.*, 1996; Liu *et al.*, 2000c; Oh *et al.*, 2005), three of which were included in a meta-analysis. One cohort study could not be included in the meta-analysis and indicated no significant association between carbohydrate intake as % energy and incident cardiovascular disease events (Farchi *et al.*, 1995). Two cohort studies were identified in the update search (Nilsson *et al.*, 2012; Wallstrom *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search).
- 5.9 No significant association is indicated between carbohydrate intake as % energy and incidence of stroke and coronary events combined (RR 1.00, 95% CI 0.89, 1.12, for each 8% energy increase; $p=0.97$). The meta-analysis combines different cardiovascular events including both ischaemic and haemorrhagic strokes. These events have different aetiologies and associated risks. The two cohort studies identified in the update search indicate no significant association between carbohydrate intake as % energy and incidence of stroke and coronary events.
- 5.10 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as g/day and incident cardiovascular disease events (Fehily *et al.*, 1993; Esrey *et al.*, 1996; Beulens *et al.*, 2007; Drogan *et al.*, 2007). Three cohort studies could not be included in a meta-analysis, which left an insufficient number of studies to provide a meta-analysis. No further studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter).
- 5.11 No significant association is observed in any of the studies between total carbohydrate intake as g/day and cardiovascular disease events.

Total carbohydrate (g/day or % energy) and cardiovascular disease events

- No association
- Moderate evidence

Coronary events

- 5.12 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as % energy and incidence of coronary events (Farchi *et al.*, 1995; Esrey *et al.*, 1996; Liu *et al.*, 2000c). One cohort study could not be included in a meta-analysis (Farchi *et al.*, 1995), which left an insufficient number of studies to provide a meta-analysis. No further cohort studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter).
- 5.13 There is no consistent direction of association in these studies and overall they indicate no significant association between total carbohydrate intake as % energy and incidence of coronary heart disease.
- 5.14 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as g/day and incidence of coronary events (Fehily *et al.*, 1993; Esrey *et al.*, 1996; Beulens *et al.*, 2007). Two cohort studies could not be included in a meta-analysis, which left an insufficient number of studies to provide a meta-analysis. Two cohort studies were identified in the update search (Sieri *et al.*, 2010; Burger *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search).
- 5.15 The three cohort studies identified in the original review indicate no significant association between carbohydrate intake as g/day and incidence of coronary events. Of the two cohort studies identified in the update search, one indicates higher carbohydrate intake as g/day is associated with a higher incidence of coronary events in men, but not in women (Burger *et al.*, 2011). The other study indicates higher incidence of coronary events in women, but not men, is associated with higher carbohydrate intake as g/day (Sieri *et al.*, 2010).

Total carbohydrate (g/day or % energy) and coronary events

- No association
- Limited evidence

Stroke

- 5.16 One cohort study was identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as % energy and incident stroke events (Oh *et al.*, 2005). One cohort study was identified in the update search (Wallstrom *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search).
- 5.17 No significant association is indicated between total carbohydrate intake as % energy and incident stroke events in either study.

- 5.18 Two cohort studies were identified in the update search that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as g/day and incidence of stroke (Oba *et al.*, 2010a; Burger *et al.*, 2011) (Update search).
- 5.19 No significant association is indicated between total carbohydrate intake as g/day and incident stroke events in either study. There is inadequate evidence to distinguish the impact of total carbohydrate consumption on ischaemic or haemorrhagic stroke separately.

Total carbohydrate (g/day or % energy) and stroke
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Limited evidence

Vascular function

- 5.20 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to flow mediated dilatation, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Keogh *et al.*, 2007; Keogh *et al.*, 2008; Phillips *et al.*, 2008). One trial was identified in the update search (Wycherley *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, vascular function chapter; Update search).
- 5.21 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to flow mediated dilatation (0.68% difference between groups, 95% CI -0.47, 1.83; $p=0.25$). The trial identified in the update search reports a decrease in flow mediated dilatation in the lower carbohydrate group compared with the lower fat (higher carbohydrate) group. All trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets with wide ranges of both carbohydrate (between 5% and 60% energy) and fat intakes (between 18% and 37% energy) between groups.

Higher carbohydrate diets and vascular function
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Limited evidence

Blood pressure

- 5.22 Thirty one randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to blood pressure. Five trials were not included in any of the meta-analyses: one trial (Tinker *et al.*, 2008) duplicated the results of the study by Howard *et al.*, (2006); three trials (Wolever & Mehling, 2002; O'Brien *et al.*, 2005; Noakes *et al.*, 2006) did not provide sufficient information and one trial was excluded because the differences in carbohydrate intake were less than 5% energy between groups (Dale *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, incident hypertension and blood pressure chapter). The trials have been stratified according to whether fat or protein, or both, were adjusted as a result of changes in carbohydrate intake.

Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets

- 5.23 Fourteen randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on blood pressure, all of which were included in the meta-analysis (Golay *et al.*, 2000; Foster *et al.*, 2003; Lovejoy *et al.*, 2003; Clifton *et al.*, 2004; Ley *et al.*, 2004; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2007; Gardner *et al.*, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007b; Phillips *et al.*, 2008; Frisch *et al.*, 2009; Sacks *et al.*, 2009). Five trials were identified in the update search (Foster *et al.*, 2010; Gulseth *et al.*, 2010; Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Howard *et al.*, 2010; Brooking *et al.*, 2012). All trials report effects on systolic and diastolic blood pressure, except one that reported effects on diastolic blood pressure only (Howard *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, incident hypertension and blood pressure chapter; Update search).
- 5.24 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on systolic blood pressure at the end of the intervention (0.71mmHg, 95% CI -0.71, 2.14; $p=0.33$). Of the five trials identified in the update search, three report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to total fat on systolic blood pressure (Gulseth *et al.*, 2010; Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Brooking *et al.*, 2012). The other two trials provide follow-up measures from trials already included in the meta-analysis and report no significant effect on systolic blood pressure (Foster *et al.*, 2010; Howard *et al.*, 2010). Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets that varied both carbohydrate (from 5% to 65% energy) and fat (from 20% to 40% energy) between groups.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and systolic blood pressure

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

- 5.25 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on diastolic blood pressure (0.02mmHg, 95% CI -0.81, 0.86; $p=0.96$). Of the four trials identified in the update search which reported on diastolic blood pressure, three report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to total fat on diastolic blood pressure (Gulseth *et al.*, 2010; Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Brooking *et al.*, 2012). The other trial provides follow-up measures from trials already included in the meta-analysis and reports no significant effect on diastolic blood pressure (Foster *et al.*, 2010). Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets that varied both carbohydrate (from 5% to 65% energy) and fat (from 20% to 40% energy) between groups.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and diastolic blood pressure

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher protein diets

- 5.26 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on systolic and diastolic blood pressure, all of which were included in the meta-analysis (Appel *et al.*, 2005; Leidy *et al.*, 2007; Claessens *et al.*, 2009; Delbridge *et al.*, 2009). Three trials were identified in the update search (Aldrich *et al.*, 2011; Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011; Toscani *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, incident hypertension and blood pressure chapter; Update search). The proportion of carbohydrate in the diets varies between 40-62% energy and protein varies between 15-30% energy.
- 5.27 An effect is demonstrated, with higher carbohydrate, average protein diets resulting in less of a reduction in systolic blood pressure (2.17mmHg, 95% CI 0.08, 4.25; $p=0.04$) as compared with the lower carbohydrate, higher protein diets. Body weight is kept constant in one of the trials (Appel *et al.*, 2005), but the other three are weight loss trials. When the difference in weight loss between experimental groups in these trials is plotted on a forest plot it is proportional for each trial to the relative reduction in systolic blood pressure. It is not possible, therefore, to exclude confounding by concomitant weight loss on the effect on systolic blood pressure. The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on systolic blood pressure.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and systolic blood pressure

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- A higher carbohydrate, average protein diet may result in less of a reduction in systolic blood pressure as compared with a lower carbohydrate, higher protein diet, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables, e.g. less weight loss in one of the experimental groups
- The effect is biologically relevant

- 5.28 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on diastolic blood pressure (0.81mmHg, 95% CI -0.83, 2.46; $p=0.33$). The three trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on diastolic blood pressure.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and diastolic blood pressure

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat and average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate, average or higher fat and higher protein diets

- 5.29 Seven randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on systolic and diastolic blood pressure, all of which were included in the meta-analysis (Brehm *et al.*, 2003; Meckling *et al.*, 2004; Brehm *et al.*, 2005; Keogh *et al.*, 2007; Meckling & Sherfey, 2007; Keogh *et al.*, 2008; de Luis *et al.*, 2009b). Two trials were identified in the update search (Lim *et al.*, 2010; Wood *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, incident hypertension and blood pressure chapter; Update search).
- 5.30 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on systolic blood pressure (0.55mmHg, 95% CI -3.01, 1.91; $p=0.44$). One of the trials identified in the update search reported no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on systolic blood pressure. The other trial reported a significant decrease in systolic blood pressure with very low carbohydrate, very low fat and high unsaturated fat diets compared to the control diet; however, there was no significant difference between the intervention groups (Lim *et al.*, 2010). All trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets that varied carbohydrate (from 12% to 57% energy), fat (from 54% to 20% energy) and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and systolic blood pressure

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

- 5.31 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on diastolic blood pressure (1.16mmHg, 95% CI -0.96, 3.27; $p=0.29$). One of the trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on diastolic blood pressure. The other trial reported a significant decrease in diastolic blood pressure with very low carbohydrate, very low fat and high unsaturated fat diets compared to the control diet; however, there was no significant difference between the intervention groups (Lim *et al.*, 2010). All trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets that varied carbohydrate (from 12% to 57% energy), fat (from 54% to 20% energy) and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and diastolic blood pressure

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Fasting blood lipids

- 5.32 Fifty eight randomised trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate on fasting blood lipid concentration. The outcomes examined were fasting total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol, triacylglycerol, total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio and LDL-cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio. For fasting total cholesterol concentration, ten trials could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report sufficient information (Peterson & Jovanovic-Peterson, 1995; Wolever & Mehling, 2002; Drummond *et al.*, 2003; Foster *et al.*, 2003; O'Brien *et al.*, 2005; Johnston *et al.*, 2006; Dyson *et al.*, 2007; Kirkwood *et al.*, 2007; Dale *et al.*, 2009; Layman *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyper lipidaemias and blood lipids chapter). For fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration, six trials could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report sufficient information (Wolever & Mehling, 2002; Johnston *et al.*, 2006; Kirkwood *et al.*, 2007; Dyson *et al.*, 2007; Lasker *et al.*, 2008; Layman *et al.*, 2009) and for triacylglycerol concentration, eight trials could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report sufficient information (Peterson & Jovanovic-Peterson, 1995; Wolever & Mehling, 2002; Johnston *et al.*, 2006; Kirkwood *et al.*, 2007; Dyson *et al.*, 2007; Lasker *et al.*, 2008; Dale *et al.*, 2009; Layman *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter). The trials have been stratified according to whether fat or protein, or both, were adjusted as a result of changes in carbohydrate intake.

Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets

Fasting total cholesterol

- 5.33 Nineteen randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting total cholesterol were included in the meta-analysis (Campos *et al.*, 1995; Nelson *et al.*, 1995; Ginsberg *et al.*, 1998; Turley *et al.*, 1998; Zambon *et al.*, 1999; Golay *et al.*, 2000; Colette *et al.*, 2003; Couture *et al.*, 2003; Lovejoy *et al.*, 2003; Clifton *et al.*, 2004; Ley *et al.*, 2004; Pelkman *et al.*, 2004; Segal-Isaacson *et al.*, 2004; Cornier *et al.*, 2005; Lofgren *et al.*, 2005; Petersen *et al.*, 2006; Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Due *et al.*, 2008b; Frisch *et al.*, 2009). Four trials were identified in the update search (Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Howard *et al.*, 2010; Haufe *et al.*, 2011; Brooking *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search).
- 5.34 An effect is demonstrated, with diets higher in carbohydrate and lower in fat decreasing fasting total cholesterol concentration (-0.16mmol/L, 95% CI -0.28, -0.04; p=0.01), but in some of the trials that also result in weight loss in both experimental groups, a difference in the reduction of fasting total cholesterol concentration is reported. The diets vary both in carbohydrate (between 5% and 65% energy) and fat (between 18% and 40% energy), including saturated fatty acid intakes, between groups. Saturated fatty acid intakes, in particular, are reduced in most of the higher carbohydrate diets. In those trials which try to maintain saturated fatty acid intakes at similar levels between experimental groups there

is still a lower intake of between 1-3% energy in the higher carbohydrate diets (Golay *et al.*, 2000; Couture *et al.*, 2003; Colette *et al.*, 2003; Pelkman *et al.*, 2004; Appel *et al.*, 2005; Due *et al.*, 2008; Jebb *et al.*, 2010; de Souza *et al.*, 2012). It is not possible, therefore, to exclude confounding by concomitant decreases in saturated fatty acid intake or possibly weight loss on the effect on fasting total cholesterol concentration. Of the trials identified in the update search, two report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate and fat on fasting total cholesterol concentration (Howard *et al.*, 2010; Brooking *et al.*, 2012). One reports a higher carbohydrate and lower fat diet to reduce fasting total cholesterol concentration as compared with a lower carbohydrate and higher fat diet, with a higher saturated fatty acid content, but not a higher monounsaturated fatty acid content (Jebb *et al.*, 2010). The other trial reports weight loss in both experimental groups and a higher carbohydrate and lower fat diet result in a greater reduction in fasting total cholesterol concentration as compared with a lower carbohydrate and higher fat diet (Haufe *et al.*, 2011).

- 5.35 A meta-analysis has been conducted for fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration, but the heterogeneity is above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=76%$) and, therefore, the pooled estimate has not been reported. There is, however, no evidence of an effect of higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets on fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration, which is inconsistent with effects on fasting total cholesterol concentration (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter).

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and fasting total cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Adequate evidence
- A diet higher in carbohydrate and lower in fat may decrease fasting total cholesterol concentration, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables, e.g. a concomitant reduction in saturated fat intake and/or weight loss
- The effect is biologically relevant

Fasting LDL-cholesterol

- 5.36 Twenty randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting LDL cholesterol were included in the meta-analysis (Campos *et al.*, 1995; Nelson *et al.*, 1995; Ginsberg *et al.*, 1998; Turley *et al.*, 1998; Zambon *et al.*, 1999; Colette *et al.*, 2003; Couture *et al.*, 2003; Foster *et al.*, 2003; Lovejoy *et al.*, 2003; Clifton *et al.*, 2004; Ley *et al.*, 2004; Pelkman *et al.*, 2004; Segal-Isaacson *et al.*, 2004; Cornier *et al.*, 2005; Bhargava, 2006; Howard *et al.*, 2006; Petersen *et al.*, 2006; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2007; Due *et al.*, 2008; Frisch *et al.*, 2009). Six trials were identified in the update search (Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Howard *et al.*, 2010; Foster *et al.*, 2010; Haufe *et al.*, 2011; de Souza *et al.*, 2012; Brooking *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search).
- 5.37 A meta-analysis has been conducted for fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration, but the heterogeneity is above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=76%$) and, therefore, the pooled estimate has not been reported. There is, however, no

evidence of an effect of higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets on fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration, which is inconsistent with effects on fasting total cholesterol concentration (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter). Of the trials identified in the update search, four report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration (Howard *et al.*, 2010; Haufe *et al.*, 2011; de Souza *et al.*, 2012; Brooking *et al.*, 2012). One trial reports a decrease in fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration on the higher total carbohydrate, lower fat diet compared with the lower carbohydrate, higher fat diets (both higher saturated and higher monounsaturated fatty acid diets) (Jebb *et al.*, 2010). A follow-up of a trial included in the meta-analysis reports fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration to be lower after the higher carbohydrate, lower fat diet as compared with the lower carbohydrate, lower fat diet (Foster *et al.*, 2010).

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Adequate evidence

Fasting HDL-cholesterol

- 5.38 Twenty two randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting HDL-cholesterol were included in the meta-analysis (Campos *et al.*, 1995; Nelson *et al.*, 1995; Ginsberg *et al.*, 1998; Turley *et al.*, 1998; Zambon *et al.*, 1999; Golay *et al.*, 2000; Wolever & Mehling, 2002; Foster *et al.*, 2003; Colette *et al.*, 2003; Couture *et al.*, 2003; Lovejoy *et al.*, 2003; Clifton *et al.*, 2004; Ley *et al.*, 2004; Pelkman *et al.*, 2004; Segal-Isaacson *et al.*, 2004; Cornier *et al.*, 2005; Bhargava, 2006; Petersen *et al.*, 2006; Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2007; Due *et al.*, 2008b; Frisch *et al.*, 2009). Six trials were identified in the update search (Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Howard *et al.*, 2010; Foster *et al.*, 2010; Haufe *et al.*, 2011; de Souza *et al.*, 2012; Brooking *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search).
- 5.39 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate and fat on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration (0.03mmol/L, 95% CI -0.06, 0.01; p=0.11). Several of the trials were weight loss trials and diets vary both carbohydrate (between 5% and 65% energy) and fat (between 18% and 40% energy) between groups. Of the trials identified in the update search, four report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration (Howard *et al.*, 2010; Haufe *et al.*, 2011; de Souza *et al.*, 2012; Brooking *et al.*, 2012). One trial reports a decrease in fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration on the higher total carbohydrate, lower fat diet compared with the lower carbohydrate, higher fat diets (both higher saturated and higher monounsaturated fatty acid diets) (Jebb *et al.*, 2010). A follow-up of a trial included in the meta-analysis reports fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration to be lower after the higher carbohydrate, lower fat diet as compared with the lower carbohydrate, lower fat diet (Foster *et al.*, 2010).

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio

- 5.40 Five randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio were included in the meta-analysis (Ginsberg *et al.*, 1998; Colette *et al.*, 2003; Ley *et al.*, 2004; Pelkman *et al.*, 2004; Howard *et al.*, 2006b). One trial was identified in the update search (Foster *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search).
- 5.41 A revised meta-analysis was conducted subsequent to the cardio-metabolic health review because the mean difference values used for one of the trials (Howard *et al.*, 2006) were incorrect (Annex 1, additional meta-analyses). The results from the revised meta-analysis are reported below. No statistically significant effect was demonstrated with higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate, higher fat diets on fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio (-0.03, 95% CI -0.12, 0.05; $p=0.73$). The diets varied both carbohydrate (between 40% and 64% energy) and fat (between 18% and 39% energy), including saturated fatty acid intakes, between groups. The trial identified in the update search reports no significant difference in effect on the total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio between dietary groups (Foster *et al.*, 2010).

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Fasting LDL-cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio

- 5.42 Five randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting LDL-cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio were included in the meta-analysis (Turley *et al.*, 1998; Zambon *et al.*, 1999; Colette *et al.*, 2003; Pelkman *et al.*, 2004; Due *et al.*, 2008b) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter).
- 5.43 No significant effect is demonstrated for higher carbohydrate lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets on fasting LDL-cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio (0.04, 95% CI -0.36, 0.44; $p=0.84$). The diets vary both carbohydrate (between 40% and 64% energy) and fat (between 18% and 39% energy) between groups.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and fasting LDL-cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher protein diets

Fasting total cholesterol

- 5.44 Six randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting total cholesterol were included in the meta-analysis (Due *et al.*, 2004; Appel *et al.*, 2005; Noakes *et al.*, 2005; Leidy *et al.*, 2007; Claessens *et al.*, 2009; Delbridge *et al.*, 2009). Two trials were identified in the update search (Toscani *et al.*, 2011; Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search). The proportion of carbohydrate in the diets varies from 40-63% energy and protein varies from 14-31% energy.
- 5.45 An effect is demonstrated, with higher carbohydrate, average protein diets resulting in less of a reduction in fasting total cholesterol concentration (0.15mmol/L, 95% CI 0.01, 0.28; p=0.03) as compared with the lower carbohydrate, higher protein diet. Of the six trials identified, body weight increases in one (Delbridge *et al.*, 2009), is kept constant in another (Appel *et al.*, 2005) and the remaining four are weight loss trials. When the difference in weight loss between experimental groups in these trials is plotted on a forest plot it is proportional for each trial to the change in fasting blood cholesterol. The heterogeneity is above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=97%$) and, therefore, the pooled estimate is not reported. It is not possible, therefore, to exclude confounding by concomitant weight loss on the effect on fasting total cholesterol. The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting total cholesterol concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and fasting total cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- A higher carbohydrate, average protein diet may result in less of a reduction in fasting cholesterol concentration as compared with the lower carbohydrate, higher protein diet, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables, e.g. less weight loss in one of the experimental groups
- The effect is biologically relevant

Fasting HDL-cholesterol

- 5.46 Five randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration were included in the meta-analysis (Due *et al.*, 2004; Appel *et al.*, 2005; Noakes *et al.*, 2005; Claessens *et al.*, 2009; Delbridge *et al.*, 2009). Two trials were identified in the update search (Toscani *et al.*, 2011; Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search). The proportion of carbohydrate in the diets varies from 40-63% energy and protein varies from 14-31% energy.

5.47 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration (0.0mmol/L, 95% CI -0.04, 0.04; $p=0.98$). The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Fasting LDL-cholesterol

5.48 Five randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration were included in the meta-analysis (Due *et al.*, 2004; Appel *et al.*, 2005; Noakes *et al.*, 2005; Claessens *et al.*, 2009; Delbridge *et al.*, 2009). Two trials were identified in the update search (Toscani *et al.*, 2011; Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search). The proportion of carbohydrate in the diets varies from 40-63% energy and protein varies from 14-31% energy.

5.49 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration (0.06mmol/L, 95% CI -0.03, 0.16; $p=0.20$). The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Fasting triacylglycerol

5.50 Six randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting triacylglycerol concentration were included in the meta-analysis (Due *et al.*, 2004; Appel *et al.*, 2005; Noakes *et al.*, 2005; Leidy *et al.*, 2007; Claessens *et al.*, 2009; Delbridge *et al.*, 2009). Two trials were identified in the update search (Toscani *et al.*, 2011; Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search). The proportion of carbohydrate in the diets varies from 40-63% energy and protein varies from 14-31% energy.

5.51 An effect is demonstrated, with higher carbohydrate, average protein diets resulting in less of a reduction in fasting triacylglycerol concentration (0.18mmol/L, 95% CI 0.07, 0.29; $p=0.001$) as compared with the lower carbohydrate, higher protein diet. The effect could be due to difference in weight loss between the experimental groups, as discussed in paragraphs 5.27 and 5.45 above, in relation to systolic blood pressure and fasting total cholesterol concentration. It is not possible, therefore,

to exclude confounding by concomitant weight loss on the effect on fasting triacylglycerol. The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting triacylglycerol concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and fasting triacylglycerol concentration

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- A higher carbohydrate, average protein diet may result in less of a reduction in fasting triacylglycerol concentration as compared with the lower carbohydrate, higher protein diet, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables, e.g. less weight loss in one of the experimental groups
- The effect is biologically relevant

Fasting total cholesterol

- 5.52 Twenty three randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on fasting total cholesterol were included in the meta-analysis (Clevidence *et al.*, 1992; Golay *et al.*, 1996; Brehm *et al.*, 2003; Johnston *et al.*, 2004; Meckling *et al.*, 2004; Sharman *et al.*, 2004; Brehm *et al.*, 2005; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; Layman *et al.*, 2005; Krauss *et al.*, 2006; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Noakes *et al.*, 2006; Keogh *et al.*, 2007; Mahon *et al.*, 2007; Meckling & Sherfey, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007b; Keogh *et al.*, 2008; Lasker *et al.*, 2008; Phillips *et al.*, 2008; Stoernell *et al.*, 2008; Sacks *et al.*, 2009; de Luis *et al.*, 2009b). Two trials were identified in the update search (Lim *et al.*, 2010; Wycherley *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search).
- 5.53 An effect is demonstrated, with higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets resulting in a decrease in fasting total cholesterol concentration (-0.26mmol/L , 95% CI $-0.40, -0.12$; $p < 0.001$), but in some of the trials that also result in weight loss in both experimental groups a difference in the reduction of fasting total cholesterol concentration is reported. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 4% to 67% energy), fat (from 10% to 54% energy), including saturated fatty acid intakes, and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups. Saturated fatty acid intakes, in particular, are reduced in most of the higher carbohydrate diets, although weight loss differences between experimental groups appears to be less of an issue. In the trials which try to maintain saturated fatty acid intakes at similar levels between experimental groups there is still a lower intake of between 1-3% energy in the higher carbohydrate diets (Golay *et al.*, 1996; Krauss *et al.*, 2006; Mahon *et al.*, 2007; Stoernell *et al.*, 2008; Sacks *et al.*, 2009; de Souza *et al.*, 2012). It is not possible, therefore, to exclude confounding by concomitant decreases in saturated fatty acid intake on the effect on fasting total cholesterol concentration. One trial identified in the update search reported a significant decrease in total cholesterol with very low carbohydrate, very low fat and high unsaturated fat diets compared to the control diet (Lim *et al.*, 2010). The other trial reported a significantly greater increase in total cholesterol with a low carbohydrate diet compared to a high carbohydrate low fat diet (Wycherley *et al.*, 2010).

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and fasting total cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Adequate evidence
- A higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diet may decrease fasting total cholesterol concentration, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables, e.g. a concomitant reduction in saturated fat intake and/or weight loss
- The effect is biologically relevant

Fasting HDL-cholesterol

- 5.54 Twenty seven randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on fasting HDL-cholesterol were included in the meta-analysis (Clevidence *et al.*, 1992; Golay *et al.*, 1996; Brehm *et al.*, 2003; Johnston *et al.*, 2004; Pereira *et al.*, 2004; Sharman *et al.*, 2004; Meckling *et al.*, 2004; Brehm *et al.*, 2005; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; Layman *et al.*, 2005; Appel *et al.*, 2005; Krauss *et al.*, 2006; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Noakes *et al.*, 2006; Keogh *et al.*, 2007; Gardner *et al.*, 2007; Leidy *et al.*, 2007; Mahon *et al.*, 2007; Meckling & Sherfey, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007b; Keogh *et al.*, 2008; Phillips *et al.*, 2008; Stoernell *et al.*, 2008; Layman *et al.*, 2009; Morgan *et al.*, 2009; Sacks *et al.*, 2009; de Luis *et al.*, 2009b). Three trials were identified in the update search (Lim *et al.*, 2010; Wycherley *et al.*, 2010; Wood *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search).
- 5.55 An effect is demonstrated, with higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets decreasing fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration (-0.06mmol/L, 95% CI -0.01, -0.02; p=0.006), but in some of the trials that also result in weight loss in both experimental groups a lower relative increase of fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration is reported. Nearly all of the trials are weight loss trials. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 4% to 67% energy), fat (from 54% to 10% energy), including saturated fatty acid intakes, and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups. The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration.
- 5.56 The fat content of the diet may affect fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration, with higher intake raising concentrations, which may in turn be affected by fatty acid composition (Mensink *et al.*, 2003).

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- A higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diet may decrease fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables, e.g. a concomitant reduction in fat intake
- The effect is biologically relevant

Fasting LDL-cholesterol

- 5.57 Twenty four randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on fasting LDL-cholesterol were included in the meta-analysis (Clevidence *et al.*, 1992; Brehm *et al.*, 2003; Johnston *et al.*, 2004; Pereira *et al.*, 2004; Sharman *et al.*, 2004; Meckling *et al.*, 2004; Brehm *et al.*, 2005; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Layman *et al.*, 2005; Krauss *et al.*, 2006; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Noakes *et al.*, 2006; Gardner *et al.*, 2007; Keogh *et al.*, 2007; Leidy *et al.*, 2007; Mahon *et al.*, 2007; Meckling & Sherfey, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007b; Keogh *et al.*, 2008; Phillips *et al.*, 2008; Stoernell *et al.*, 2008; Morgan *et al.*, 2009; Sacks *et al.*, 2009; de Luis *et al.*, 2009b). Two trials were identified in the update search (Lim *et al.*, 2010; Wycherley *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search).
- 5.58 An effect is demonstrated, with higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets decreasing fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration (-0.27mmol/L, 95% CI -0.36, -0.18; $p < 0.001$), but in some of the trials a difference in the reduction of fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration is reported. Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 4% to 67% energy), fat (from 54% to 10% energy), including saturated fatty acid intakes, and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups. Saturated fatty acid intakes, in particular, are reduced in most of the higher carbohydrate diets, although weight loss differences between experimental groups appears to be less of an issue (see paragraph 5.53). It is not possible, therefore, to exclude confounding by concomitant decreases in saturated fatty acid intake on the effect on fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration. The trials identified in the update search report that higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein including lower saturated fatty acid, diets reduce fasting LDL-cholesterol.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Adequate evidence
- A higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diet may decrease fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables, e.g. a concomitant reduction in saturated fat intake
- The effect is biologically relevant

Fasting triacylglycerol

- 5.59 Twenty seven randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on fasting triacylglycerol were included in the meta-analysis (Clevidence *et al.*, 1992; Golay *et al.*, 1996; Brehm *et al.*, 2003; Johnston *et al.*, 2004; Pereira *et al.*, 2004; Meckling *et al.*, 2004; Sharman *et al.*, 2004; Brehm *et al.*, 2005; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; Layman *et al.*, 2005; O'Brien *et al.*, 2005; Seshadri *et al.*, 2005; Krauss *et al.*, 2006; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Noakes *et al.*, 2006; Keogh *et al.*, 2007; Gardner *et al.*, 2007; Mahon *et al.*, 2007; Meckling & Sherfey, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007b; Keogh *et al.*, 2008; Phillips *et al.*, 2008; Stoernell *et al.*, 2008; Morgan *et al.*,

2009; Sacks *et al.*, 2009; de Luis *et al.*, 2009b). Three trials were identified in the update search (Lim *et al.*, 2010; Wycherley *et al.*, 2010; Wood *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search).

- 5.60 An effect is demonstrated, with higher carbohydrate, average protein and lower fat diets resulting in less of a reduction in fasting triacylglycerol concentration, as indicated from the forest plot, but the heterogeneity is above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=82\%$) and, therefore, the pooled estimate is not reported. Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 4% to 67% energy), fat (from 54% to 10% energy), including saturated fatty acid intakes, and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups. Of the trials identified in the update search two report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on fasting triacylglycerol concentration. One reports an increase in fasting triacylglycerol concentration in response to a higher carbohydrate, average protein and lower fat diet (Wood *et al.*, 2012).
- 5.61 The fat content of the diet affects fasting triacylglycerol concentration, with higher intakes reducing concentrations (Mensink *et al.*, 2003), thus the effect may be due to a concomitant change in fat intake in relation to carbohydrate intake.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and fasting triacylglycerol concentration

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- A higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diet may result in less of a reduction in fasting triacylglycerol concentration as compared with a lower carbohydrate, average or higher fat and higher protein diet, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables, e.g. a concomitant reduction in fat intake
- The effect is biologically relevant

Fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio

- 5.62 Nine randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio were included in the meta-analysis (Clevidence *et al.*, 1992; Johnston *et al.*, 2004; Sharman *et al.*, 2004; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Krauss *et al.*, 2006; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Mahon *et al.*, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007b; Layman *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter).
- 5.63 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio (0.06, 95% CI -0.14, 0.27; $p=0.42$). Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 5% to 67% energy), fat (from 46% to 10% energy) and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Fasting LDL-cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio

- 5.64 Three randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on fasting LDL-cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio were included in the meta-analysis (Clevidence *et al.*, 1992; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Layman *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter).
- 5.65 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and fat on fasting LDL-cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio (-0.10, 95% CI -0.34, 0.14; $p=0.43$). All trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 10% to 67% energy), fat (from 41% to 19% energy) and protein (from 15% to 30% energy) between groups.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and fasting LDL-cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Higher carbohydrate diets and fasting non-HDL-cholesterol

- 5.66 Three randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and/or fat on fasting non-HDL-cholesterol were included in the meta-analysis (Pelkman *et al.*, 2004; Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Gardner *et al.*, 2007). One trial was identified in the update search (Toscani *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search).
- 5.67 An effect is demonstrated, with higher carbohydrate diets resulting in more of a reduction in fasting non-HDL-cholesterol concentration (-0.03mmol/L, 95% CI -0.06, -0.00; $p=0.04$) as compared with a lower carbohydrate diet. All trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 18% to 64% energy), fat (from 44% to 20% energy) and protein (from 16% to 30% energy) between groups. One trial aims to maintain saturated fatty acid intakes at similar levels between experimental groups (Pelkman *et al.*, 2004). The other two trials reduce saturated fatty acid intakes in the higher carbohydrate group relative to other experimental groups. One trial contributes 87% to the pooled estimate and results in more weight loss and reduced saturated fatty acid intake in the higher carbohydrate diet group (Howard *et al.*, 2006b). It is not possible, therefore, to exclude confounding by concomitant decreases in saturated fatty acid intake on the effect on fasting non-HDL-cholesterol concentration. The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and/or fat on fasting non-HDL-cholesterol concentration.

Higher carbohydrate diets and fasting non-HDL-cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- A higher carbohydrate diet may result in more of a reduction in fasting non-HDL-cholesterol concentration as compared with a lower carbohydrate diet, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables, e.g. a concomitant reduction in saturated fat intake and/or weight loss
- The effect is biologically relevant

Higher carbohydrate diets and fasting non-esterified fatty acids

- 5.68 Nine randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and/or fat on fasting non-esterified fatty acids were included in the meta-analysis (Helge, 2002; Wolever & Mehling, 2003; Due *et al.*, 2004; Cornier *et al.*, 2005; Lofgren *et al.*, 2005; Noakes *et al.*, 2005; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Claessens *et al.*, 2009; Kirk *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter).
- 5.69 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and/or fat on fasting non-esterified fatty acid concentration (0.00mmol/L, 95% CI -0.04, 0.05; $p=0.82$). All trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 30% to 63% energy), fat (from 41% to 10% energy) and protein (from 15% to 35% energy) between groups.

Higher carbohydrate diets and fasting non-esterified fatty acid concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Higher carbohydrate diets and tumour necrosis factor- α

- 5.70 Three randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and/or fat on blood tumour necrosis factor- α were included in the meta-analysis (Sharman & Volek, 2004; Seshadri *et al.*, 2005; de Luis *et al.*, 2007). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, markers of inflammation chapter).
- 5.71 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or fat on blood tumour necrosis factor- α concentration (0.16pg/mL, 95% CI -0.20, 0.51; $p=0.39$). All trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 8% to 51% energy), fat (from 25% to 63% energy) and protein (from 16% to 25% energy) between groups.

Higher carbohydrate diets and tumour necrosis factor- α

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Carbohydrate diets and C-reactive protein

- 5.72 Sixteen randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and/or fat on C-reactive protein (CRP). Two trials could not be included in the meta-analyses as they did not report the necessary variance data (O'Brien *et al.*, 2005; Stoernell *et al.*, 2008) (Cardio-metabolic review, markers of inflammation chapter). The trials have been stratified according to whether fat or protein, or both, were adjusted as a result of changes in carbohydrate intake.

Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets

- 5.73 Five randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on blood CRP were included in the meta-analysis (Lovejoy *et al.*, 2003; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Johnston *et al.*, 2006; Phillips *et al.*, 2008; Due *et al.*, 2008b). Two trials were identified in the update search (Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Haufe *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, markers of inflammation chapter; Update search).
- 5.74 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on blood CRP concentration (-0.38mg/L, 95% CI -1.10, 0.33; $p=0.29$). Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary both carbohydrate (from 20% to 65% energy) and fat (from 20% to 40% energy) between groups. The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on blood CRP concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and CRP concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Adequate evidence

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher protein diets

- 5.75 Three randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on blood CRP were included in the meta-analysis (Due *et al.*, 2005; Noakes *et al.*, 2005; Mahon *et al.*, 2007). One trial was identified in the update search (Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, markers of inflammation chapter; Update search).
- 5.76 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on blood CRP concentration (0.49mg/L, 95% CI -0.19, 1.16; $p=0.16$). All trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary both carbohydrate (from 10% to 60% energy) and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups. The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of a diet differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on blood CRP concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and CRP concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat and average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate, average or higher fat and higher protein diets

- 5.77 Six randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on blood CRP were included in the meta-analysis (Pereira *et al.*, 2004; Sharman & Volek, 2004; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Noakes *et al.*, 2006; de Luis *et al.*, 2007; Keogh *et al.*, 2008). One trial was identified in the update search (Lim *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, markers of inflammation chapter; Update search).
- 5.78 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on blood CRP concentration (0.09mg/L, 95% CI -0.42, 0.61; p=0.72). Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 10% to 67% energy), fat (from 10% to 54% energy) and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups. The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on blood CRP concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein and diets CRP concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 5.79 Seven cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as % energy and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Feskens *et al.*, 1995; Monterrosa *et al.*, 1995; Schulze *et al.*, 2004a; Lindstrom *et al.*, 2006; Gunderson *et al.*, 2007; Villegas *et al.*, 2007; Schulze *et al.*, 2008). Five cohort studies could not be included in a meta-analysis, which left an insufficient number of studies to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. One cohort study was identified in the update search (Simila *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search).
- 5.80 The seven cohort studies present conflicting results, but the larger studies that took important covariates into consideration indicate a lack of association between total carbohydrate intake as % energy and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus. The cohort study identified in the update search indicates that higher intakes of total carbohydrate as % energy are associated with a lower incidence of type 2 diabetes.
- 5.81 Nine cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as g/day and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus; two studies could

not be included in a meta-analysis because the results were unadjusted for any potential confounders (Leonetti *et al.*, 1996; Montonen *et al.*, 2007). The remaining seven cohort studies were included in the meta-analysis (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997a; Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b; Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Barclay *et al.*, 2007; Villegas *et al.*, 2007; Schulze *et al.*, 2008). Two cohort studies were identified in the update search (Sluijs *et al.*, 2010; Mekary *et al.*, 2011), one of which (Mekary *et al.*, 2011) was a later follow-up of the Nurses' Health Study cohort identified in the initial search (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search). An updated meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Greenwood *et al.*, 2013), which included the studies found in the update search and excluded the earlier follow-up of the Nurses' Health Study cohort (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b). One study conducted in China presents a very different background diet, and the risk estimates in this cohort are markedly elevated in particular sub groups of women, therefore the findings were not included in the analysis (Villegas *et al.*, 2007). The results from the later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.

- 5.82 No significant association was found between total carbohydrate intake as g/day and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 0.96, 95% CI 0.86, 1.08 for each 70g/day increase; p=0.5).

Total carbohydrate (% energy or g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Moderate evidence

Higher carbohydrate diets and impaired glucose tolerance

- 5.83 One randomised controlled trial was identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to impaired glucose tolerance (Swinburn *et al.*, 2001). Two trials were identified in the update search (Toscani *et al.*, 2011; Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search).
- 5.84 No significant effect is reported of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate intake on impaired glucose tolerance in any of the trials.

Higher carbohydrate diets and impaired glucose tolerance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Limited evidence

Glycaemia and insulinaemia

Cohort studies

- 5.85 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as either g/day or % energy and glycaemia (Feskens *et al.*, 1995; Leonetti *et al.*, 1996; Mayer-Davis *et al.*, 2006; Schroeder *et al.*, 2007). No further cohort studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter).

5.86 The outcome measure is defined as either blood glucose level or area under the curve following a two-hour glucose tolerance test. One study also presents results according to fasting glucose concentration (Mayer-Davis *et al.*, 2006). Due to variation in methodologies a meta-analysis is not possible. None of the studies indicate an association between total carbohydrate intake as either g/day or % energy and glycaemia.

Total carbohydrate (g/day or % energy) and glycaemia (blood glucose level or area under the curve following a two-hour glucose tolerance test)

- No association
- Moderate evidence

Randomised controlled trials

5.87 Forty six randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and/or protein in relation to measures of glycaemia. Four trials could not be included in the meta-analyses as they did not report the necessary data (Kirkwood *et al.*, 2007; Mahon *et al.*, 2007; Clifton *et al.*, 2008; Dale *et al.*, 2009). The trials have been stratified according to whether fat or protein, or both, were adjusted as a result of changes in carbohydrate intake (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter).

Higher carbohydrate diets and response to oral glucose tolerance test

5.88 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat or protein in relation to blood glucose response two hours after an oral glucose tolerance test (Swinburn *et al.*, 2001; Foster *et al.*, 2003; Lasker *et al.*, 2008; Due *et al.*, 2008a). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter).

5.89 No significant effect is reported for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate intake on glucose tolerance test in any of the trials.

Higher total carbohydrate diets and oral glucose tolerance test

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Fasting blood glucose

Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets

5.90 Twenty six randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting glucose were included in the meta-analysis (Racette *et al.*, 1995; Golay *et al.*, 1996; Golay *et al.*, 2000; Swinburn *et al.*, 2001; Helge, 2002; Colette *et al.*, 2003; Landry *et al.*, 2003; Lovejoy *et al.*, 2003; Wolever & Mehling, 2003; Clifton *et al.*, 2004; Segal-Isaacson *et al.*, 2004; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Lofgren *et al.*, 2005; Raatz *et al.*, 2005; Petersen *et al.*, 2006; Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2007; Gardner *et al.*, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007b;

Phillips *et al.*, 2008; Due *et al.*, 2008a; Frisch *et al.*, 2009; Grau *et al.*, 2009; Kirk *et al.*, 2009; Morgan *et al.*, 2009; Sacks *et al.*, 2009). Four trials were identified in the update search (Goree *et al.*, 2011; Haufe *et al.*, 2011; Shikany *et al.*, 2011; Brooking *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search). Shikany *et al.* (2011) presents data from the same trial as Howard *et al.* (2006b) but over a longer time period.

- 5.91 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting glucose concentration (-0.01mmol/L, 95% CI -0.06, 0.04; p=0.75). Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets that vary both carbohydrate (between 5% and 65% energy) and fat (between 18% and 40% energy) between groups. Of the four trials identified in the update search three report no significant effect, while one reports lower carbohydrate, higher fat diet to increase fasting glucose concentration (Goree *et al.*, 2011).

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and fasting blood glucose concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher protein diets

- 5.92 Five randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting glucose were included in the meta-analysis (Due *et al.*, 2004; Noakes *et al.*, 2005; Bowden *et al.*, 2007; Leidy *et al.*, 2007; Claessens *et al.*, 2009). Two trials were identified in the update search (Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011; Toscani *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search).
- 5.93 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting glucose concentration (-0.08mmol/L, 95% CI -0.26, 0.09; p=0.36). Nearly all trials are energy restricted weight loss trials. The proportion of carbohydrate in the diets varies from 40-63% energy and protein varies from 14-31% energy. The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting glucose concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and fasting blood glucose concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat and average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate, average or higher fat and higher protein diets

- 5.94 Twelve randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on fasting glucose were included in the meta-analysis (Brehm *et al.*, 2003; Johnston *et al.*, 2004; Meckling *et al.*, 2004; Sharman *et al.*, 2004; Seshadri *et al.*, 2005; McMillan-Price *et al.*,

2006; Noakes *et al.*, 2006; Keogh *et al.*, 2007; Meckling & Sherfey, 2007; Lasker *et al.*, 2008; Keogh *et al.*, 2008; de Luis *et al.*, 2009b). Two trials were identified in the update search (Lim *et al.*, 2010; Wood *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search).

- 5.95 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on fasting glucose concentration (0.02mmol/L, 95% CI -0.14, 0.17; $p=0.84$). Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 4% to 67% energy), fat (from 10% to 54% energy) and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups. The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on fasting glucose concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and fasting blood glucose concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Fasting blood insulin

Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets

- 5.96 Thirty randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting insulin (Peterson & Jovanovic-Peterson, 1995; Racette *et al.*, 1995; Golay *et al.*, 1996; Golay *et al.*, 2000; Swinburn *et al.*, 2001; Helge, 2002; Colette *et al.*, 2003; Landry *et al.*, 2003; Lovejoy *et al.*, 2003; Wolever & Mehling, 2003; Clifton *et al.*, 2004; Cornier *et al.*, 2005; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Lofgren *et al.*, 2005; Petersen *et al.*, 2006; Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2007; Gardner *et al.*, 2007; Kirkwood *et al.*, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007b; Phillips *et al.*, 2008; Tinker *et al.*, 2008; Due *et al.*, 2008b; Dale *et al.*, 2009; Grau *et al.*, 2009; Kirk *et al.*, 2009; Morgan *et al.*, 2009; Sacks *et al.*, 2009; Sloth *et al.*, 2009; de Luis *et al.*, 2009a). Five trials were identified in the update search (Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Goree *et al.*, 2011; Haufe *et al.*, 2011; Shikany *et al.*, 2011; Brooking *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter ; Update search). Shikany *et al.* (2011) presents the data from the same trial as Howard *et al.* (2006b) but over a longer follow-up period.
- 5.97 Due to variation between the different methodologies used to measure fasting insulin concentration, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. Twenty four trials report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting insulin; six trials do report an effect (Swinburn *et al.*, 2001; Clifton *et al.*, 2004; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Due *et al.*, 2008b; Kirk *et al.*, 2009; de Luis *et al.*, 2009a). One of these trials reports that the extent of weight loss predicts the decrease in insulin concentration regardless of dietary group (Dansinger *et al.*, 2005). Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets that vary both carbohydrate (between 5% and 65% energy) and fat (between 18% and 40% energy) between groups. It is not possible, therefore, to exclude confounding by

concomitant weight loss on fasting insulin concentration. The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on fasting insulin concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and fasting blood insulin concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher protein diets

5.98 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting insulin (Due *et al.*, 2004; Noakes *et al.*, 2005; Clifton *et al.*, 2008; Claessens *et al.*, 2009; Sacks *et al.*, 2009). Two trials were identified in the update search (Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011; Toscani *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search).

5.99 Due to variation between the different methodologies used to measure fasting insulin concentration, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. All trials report no significant effect from diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting insulin concentration. Nearly all trials are weight loss trials. The proportion of carbohydrate in the diets varies between 40-63% energy and protein varies between 14-31% energy. The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein on fasting insulin concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and fasting blood insulin concentration

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat and average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate, average or higher fat and higher protein diets

5.100 Seventeen randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on fasting insulin (Golay *et al.*, 1996; Brehm *et al.*, 2003; Johnston *et al.*, 2004; Meckling *et al.*, 2004; Sharman *et al.*, 2004; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Layman *et al.*, 2005; Seshadri *et al.*, 2005; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Noakes *et al.*, 2006; Keogh *et al.*, 2007; Mahon *et al.*, 2007; Meckling & Sherfey, 2007; Keogh *et al.*, 2008; Lasker *et al.*, 2008; Sacks *et al.*, 2009; de Luis *et al.*, 2009a). One trial was identified in the update search (Lim *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search).

5.101 Due to variation between the different methodologies used to measure fasting insulin concentration, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. One trial reports that a higher proportion of dietary carbohydrate to fat and protein increased fasting insulin concentration (Seshadri *et al.*, 2005); whereas all other

trials report no significant effect on fasting insulin concentration. Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets. The trials vary carbohydrate (from 4% to 67% energy), fat (from 10% to 54% energy) and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups. The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on fasting insulin concentration.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and fasting blood insulin concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Adequate evidence

Insulin response to oral glucose tolerance test

Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets

- 5.102 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on the insulin response to an oral glucose tolerance test (Swinburn *et al.*, 2001; Foster *et al.*, 2003; Raatz *et al.*, 2005; Due *et al.*, 2008a; Frisch *et al.*, 2009). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter).
- 5.103 Due to variation between the different methodologies used to measure fasting insulin concentration, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. Four trials report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on the insulin response to an oral glucose tolerance test. One trial reports that a higher carbohydrate, lower fat diet lowered the insulin response to an oral glucose tolerance test (Swinburn *et al.*, 2001).

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and insulin response to oral glucose tolerance test
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Insulin resistance/sensitivity

Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets

- 5.104 Thirteen randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on measures of insulin resistance/sensitivity (Helge, 2002; Wolever & Mehling, 2002; Foster *et al.*, 2003; Lofgren *et al.*, 2005; Raatz *et al.*, 2005; Johnston *et al.*, 2006; Maki *et al.*, 2007b; Tinker *et al.*, 2008; Due *et al.*, 2008a; Grau *et al.*, 2009; Kirk *et al.*, 2009; Sacks *et al.*, 2009; de Luis *et al.*, 2009a). Four trials were identified in the update search (Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Goree *et al.*, 2011; Haufe *et al.*, 2011; Shikany *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search). Shikany *et al.* (2011) reports data from the same trial as Tinker *et al.* (2008) but over a longer time period.

5.105 Due to variation between the different methodologies used to measure insulin resistance/sensitivity, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. Three trials report an effect of varying the proportion of total carbohydrate to fat on measures of insulin resistance/sensitivity. Two of these trials report improvements in both diet groups, but this is greater in the lower total carbohydrate intervention (Due *et al.*, 2008a; Kirk *et al.*, 2009). One trial reports that in subjects with the *FTO* gene *TT* genotype only, there is a beneficial effect on insulin release in those who consume a higher carbohydrate, lower fat diet (Grau *et al.*, 2009). Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets that varied both carbohydrate (from 5% to 65% energy) and fat (from 20% to 40% energy) between groups. The four trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on the insulin resistance/sensitivity.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and insulin resistance/sensitivity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Moderate evidence

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat and average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate, average or higher fat and higher protein diets

5.106 Fifteen randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on measures of insulin resistance/sensitivity (Helge, 2002; Wolever & Mehling, 2002; Johnston *et al.*, 2004; Pereira *et al.*, 2004; Sharman *et al.*, 2004; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; O'Brien *et al.*, 2005; Seshadri *et al.*, 2005; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Mahon *et al.*, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007b; Gray *et al.*, 2008; Lasker *et al.*, 2008; Sacks *et al.*, 2009; de Luis *et al.*, 2009a). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter).

5.107 Due to variation between the different methodologies used to measure insulin resistance/sensitivity, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. Four trials report an effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on measures of insulin resistance/sensitivity. Overall, findings from the fifteen trials tend to show improvements in insulin resistance in both dietary groups studied, which is likely to be a reflection of decreasing weights in the majority of the studies. Nearly all trials employ energy restricted weight loss diets that varied carbohydrate (from 12% to 57% energy), fat (from 54% to 20% energy) and protein (from 18% to 37% energy) between groups.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and insulin resistance/sensitivity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Moderate evidence

Higher carbohydrate diets and haemoglobin A1c

- 5.108 Six randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to glycosylated blood proteins. Five trials were included in the meta-analysis (Wolever & Mehling, 2003; Seshadri *et al.*, 2005; Claessens *et al.*, 2009; Frisch *et al.*, 2009; Sloth *et al.*, 2009). One trial could not be included in an analysis because it did not provide any measures of variation (Dyson *et al.*, 2007). No trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter).
- 5.109 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate on haemoglobin A1c concentration (-0.01%, 95% CI -0.06, 0.05; $p=0.82$). The largest trial contributed 87% to the pooled estimate (Frisch *et al.*, 2009).

Higher carbohydrate diets and haemoglobin A1c concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Obesity

Higher carbohydrate diets and fat free mass

- 5.110 Four randomised controlled trials presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to change in fat free mass. One trial could not be included in the meta-analysis because the percentage energy difference in carbohydrate between the intervention groups was less than 5% (Dale *et al.*, 2009). Three trials were included in a meta-analysis (Due *et al.*, 2004; Delbridge *et al.*, 2009; Frisch *et al.*, 2009). Two of the trials varied the proportion of carbohydrate to protein (Due *et al.*, 2004; Delbridge *et al.*, 2009) and the other varied the proportion of carbohydrate to fat (Frisch *et al.*, 2009). One trial was identified in the update search (Foster *et al.*, 2010), which varied the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter; Update search).
- 5.111 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or fat on loss of fat mass (0.03kg, 95% CI -0.77, 0.83; $p=0.95$). The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on fat free mass.

Higher carbohydrate diets and fat free mass

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Higher carbohydrate diets and waist to hip ratio

- 5.112 Four randomised controlled trials presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to waist to hip ratio. One could not be included in a meta-analysis because the percentage energy difference from

carbohydrates was less than 5% between the intervention groups (McManus *et al.*, 2001). Three trials were included in the meta-analysis (Due *et al.*, 2004; Howard *et al.*, 2006a; Gardner *et al.*, 2007). One trial varied the proportion of carbohydrate to protein (Due *et al.*, 2004); one varied the proportion of carbohydrate to fat (Howard *et al.*, 2006a); and the other varied the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein (Gardner *et al.*, 2007). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter).

- 5.113 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein and/or fat on change in waist to hip ratio (0.00, 95% CI -0.01, 0.01; p=0.87).

Higher carbohydrate diets and waist to hip ratio
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Limited evidence

Total carbohydrate and body weight change

- 5.114 Twenty randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to body weight were considered for inclusion in a meta-analysis. Six trials could not be included in the meta-analysis (McManus *et al.*, 2001; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2007; Gardner *et al.*, 2007; Clifton *et al.*, 2008; Dale *et al.*, 2009; Sacks *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter). The trials have been stratified according to whether fat or protein, or both, were adjusted as a result of changes in carbohydrate intake.

Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets

- 5.115 Eight randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat in relation to body weight were included in a meta-analysis (Sheppard *et al.*, 1991; Shah *et al.*, 1996; Swinburn *et al.*, 2001; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; Bhargava, 2006; Howard *et al.*, 2006a; Frisch *et al.*, 2009; Greenberg *et al.*, 2009). Two follow-up analyses from a trial included in the meta-analysis (Howard *et al.*, 2006a) were identified in the update search (Howard *et al.*, 2010; Shikany *et al.*, 2011) however, these reported on a smaller number of participants and over a shorter time period than the original paper and were not considered further. One additional trial identified in the update search reported no effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate on body weight (Foster *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter; Update search).
- 5.116 No significant effect is demonstrated for higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets on body weight change (-0.93kg, 95% CI -1.87, 0.01; p=0.05). The result is of borderline statistical significance, but is in the opposite direction to the borderline effect for fat mass (see paragraph 5.126).

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and body weight

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and higher carbohydrate, lower fat and average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher protein diets and lower carbohydrate, average or higher fat and higher protein diets

- 5.117 Six randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or to fat and protein in relation to body weight were included in a meta-analysis (Foster *et al.*, 2003; Due *et al.*, 2004; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Keogh *et al.*, 2007; Delbridge *et al.*, 2009; Layman *et al.*, 2009). Two trials were identified in the update search (Wycherley *et al.*, 2010; Lim *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter; Update search).
- 5.118 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or fat and protein on body weight change (0.48kg, 95% CI -0.79, 1.74; $p=0.46$). The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or fat and protein on body weight.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and body weight

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Total dietary carbohydrate and body mass index

- 5.119 Eight randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to body mass index were considered for inclusion in a meta-analysis. Two trials could not be included in the meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (McManus *et al.*, 2001; Dale *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter). The trials have been stratified according to whether fat or protein, or both were adjusted as a result of changes in carbohydrate intake.

Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets

- 5.120 Four randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat in relation to body mass index were included in a meta-analysis (Swinburn *et al.*, 2001; Bhargava, 2006; Howard *et al.*, 2006a; Frisch *et al.*, 2009). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter).

- 5.121 The heterogeneity is above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=80\%$) and, therefore, the pooled estimate is not reported. The forest plot does show that all four trials demonstrate a change in the same direction, with a lower BMI at the end of the intervention following a higher carbohydrate, lower fat diet. The magnitude of this change between trials is inconsistent.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and body mass index
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect • Limited evidence • The direction of the effect demonstrates energy restricted, higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets may be beneficial to reducing body mass index • The effect is biologically relevant

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and higher carbohydrate, lower fat and average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher protein diets and lower carbohydrate, average or higher fat and higher protein diets

- 5.122 Four randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or to fat and protein in relation to body mass index were included in a meta-analysis (Due *et al.*, 2004; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Gardner *et al.*, 2007; Delbridge *et al.*, 2009). One trial was identified in the update search (Wycherley *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter; Update search).
- 5.123 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or protein and fat on body mass index change (0.26 kg/m^2 , 95% CI $-0.46, 0.98$; $p=0.48$). The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or protein and fat on change in body mass index.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and body mass index
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Limited evidence

Total dietary carbohydrate and total body fat

- 5.124 Six randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to fat mass were considered for inclusion in the meta-analysis. Three trials could not be included in the meta-analysis because the percentage energy difference in carbohydrate between the intervention groups was less than 5% (McManus *et al.*, 2001; Clifton *et al.*, 2008; Dale *et al.*, 2009). The trials have been stratified according to whether fat or protein or both were adjusted as a result of changes in carbohydrate intake.

Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets

- 5.125 Three randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein in relation to fat mass were included in a meta-analysis (Ebbeling *et al.*, 2007; Gardner *et al.*, 2007; Frisch *et al.*, 2009). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter).
- 5.126 No significant effect is demonstrated for higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets on change in fat mass (0.30kg, 95% CI -0.01, 0.62; p=0.06). The result is of borderline statistical significance, but is in the opposite direction to the borderline effect for body weight.

Higher carbohydrate lower fat diets and fat mass

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and higher carbohydrate, lower fat and average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher protein diets and lower carbohydrate, average or higher fat and higher protein diets

- 5.127 Three randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or to fat and protein in relation to fat mass were included in a meta-analysis (Due *et al.*, 2004; Delbridge *et al.*, 2009; Layman *et al.*, 2009). One trial was identified in the update search (Foster *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter; Update search).
- 5.128 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or fat and protein on change in fat mass (-0.57kg, 95% CI -2.58, 1.44; p=0.58). The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect on fat mass of a diet differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or fat and protein.

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and fat mass

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Total dietary carbohydrate and waist circumference

- 5.129 Nine randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to waist circumference were considered for inclusion in a meta-analysis. Two trials could not be included in the meta-analysis (McManus *et al.*, 2001; Dale *et al.*, 2009). The trials have been stratified according to whether fat or protein or both were adjusted as a result of changes in carbohydrate intake.

Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher fat diets

- 5.130 Three randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein in relation to waist circumference were included in a meta-analysis (Bhargava, 2006; Howard *et al.*, 2006a; Frisch *et al.*, 2009). Two follow-up analyses from a trial included in the meta-analysis (Howard *et al.*, 2006a) were identified in the update search (Howard *et al.*, 2010; Shikany *et al.*, 2011) however, these reported on a smaller number of participants and over a shorter time period than the original paper and were not considered further (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter; Update search).
- 5.131 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat on change in waist circumference (0.04cm, 95% CI -1.26, 1.34; $p=0.96$).

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat diets and waist circumference

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and higher carbohydrate, lower fat and average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate higher protein diets and lower carbohydrate, average or higher fat and higher protein diets

- 5.132 Four randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein or fat and protein in relation to waist circumference were included in a meta-analysis (Due *et al.*, 2004; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Keogh *et al.*, 2007; Delbridge *et al.*, 2009). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter).
- 5.133 The heterogeneity is above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=86%$) and, therefore, the pooled estimate is not reported. The forest plot shows there is no consistent effect overall on change in waist circumference, with only one trial reporting a difference between experimental groups (Due *et al.*, 2004).

Higher carbohydrate, average protein diets and higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and waist circumference

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Total dietary carbohydrate and energy intake

- 5.134 Sixty three randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate in relation to energy intake were identified. Eighteen trials could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (Schlundt *et al.*, 1993; Stubbs *et al.*, 1996; Saltzman *et al.*, 1997; Harvey-Berino, 1998; Johnstone *et al.*, 2000; McManus *et al.*, 2001; Drummond *et*

al., 2003; Brehm *et al.*, 2003; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; Mazlan *et al.*, 2006; Rumpler *et al.*, 2006; Keogh *et al.*, 2007; Meckling & Sherfey, 2007; Park *et al.*, 2007; Kirkwood *et al.*, 2007; de Luis *et al.*, 2007; Clifton *et al.*, 2008; Dale *et al.*, 2009). The majority of these studies found no statistical difference in energy intakes with varying carbohydrate consumption. The remaining studies were analysed according to whether the carbohydrate was replaced with fat and/or protein. For details on trial design, see Table 6.3 of the systematic review (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake and eating motivation chapter). Due to high heterogeneity between trials the meta-analysis pooled estimate is not reported for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to protein in relation to energy intake. This evidence for both these dietary manipulations was considered too inconsistent for a conclusion to be drawn and, therefore, they have been listed in Table 5.4. However, there is no suggestion of an effect between these two dietary modifications and energy intake. Only the analysis for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein is given below.

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat and average protein diets compared with lower carbohydrate, average or higher fat and higher protein diets

- 5.135 Seventeen randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein in relation to energy intake were included in a meta-analysis (Borkman *et al.*, 1991; Volek *et al.*, 2004; Meckling *et al.*, 2004; Sharman & Volek, 2004; Brehm *et al.*, 2005; Dansinger *et al.*, 2005; Layman *et al.*, 2005; Nickols-Richardson *et al.*, 2005; Seshadri *et al.*, 2005; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Dyson *et al.*, 2007; Rankin & Turpyn, 2007; Keogh *et al.*, 2008; Lasker *et al.*, 2008; Stoernell *et al.*, 2008; Layman *et al.*, 2009; Morgan *et al.*, 2009). Only two trials include an energy restriction goal (Borkman *et al.*, 1991; Volek *et al.*, 2004) (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake and eating motivation chapter).
- 5.136 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of carbohydrate to fat and protein on energy intake (20k), 95% CI -282, 323; p=0.90 (5kcal, 95 % CI -67, 77).

Higher carbohydrate, lower fat, average protein diets and energy intake
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Adequate evidence

Colo-rectal health

- 5.137 Six cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as g/day and colo-rectal cancer incidence, all of which were included in the meta-analysis (Terry *et al.*, 2003; Higginbotham *et al.*, 2004; Michaud *et al.*, 2005; Larsson *et al.*, 2007; Strayer *et al.*, 2007; Howarth *et al.*, 2008). One cohort study was identified in the update search (Li *et al.*, 2011) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search).

5.138 No significant association is indicated between carbohydrate intake as g/day and colo-rectal cancer incidence (RR 1.00, 95% CI 0.87, 1.14 for each 70g/day increase; $p=0.99$). The cohort study identified in the update search also indicates no significant association between total carbohydrate intake as g/day and colo-rectal cancer incidence.

Total carbohydrate (g/day) and colo-rectal cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Adequate evidence

5.139 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as g/day and colon and rectal cancer incidence separately, all of which were included in the meta-analysis (Terry *et al.*, 2003; Michaud *et al.*, 2005; Larsson *et al.*, 2007; Howarth *et al.*, 2008). One cohort study was identified in the update search (Li *et al.*, 2011) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search).

5.140 No significant association is indicated between carbohydrate intake as g/day and colon cancer incidence (RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.89, 1.08 for each 70g/day increase; $p=0.75$) or rectal cancer incidence (RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.86, 1.14 for each 70g/day increase; $p=0.86$). The cohort study identified in the update search also indicates no significant association between total carbohydrate intake as g/day and colon or rectal cancer incidence.

Total carbohydrate (g/day) and colon cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Adequate evidence

Total carbohydrate (g/day) and rectal cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Adequate evidence

Children and adolescents

Body mass index and body fatness

5.141 Four cohort studies were identified in children and adolescents aged five years or more that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake in relation to change in BMI or body fatness (Twisk *et al.*, 1998; Boreham *et al.*, 1999; Magarey *et al.*, 2001; Johnson *et al.*, 2008).

5.142 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as % energy in relation to change in BMI (Twisk *et al.*, 1998; Boreham *et al.*, 1999; Magarey *et al.*, 2001). One study could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data (Boreham *et al.*, 1999), which left an insufficient number of trials to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter).

- 5.143 Overall, there was no evidence of an association between total carbohydrate intake and follow-up BMI in any of these studies of children and adolescents.
- 5.144 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total carbohydrate intake as % energy in relation to body fatness and fat distribution (Twisk *et al.*, 1998; Boreham *et al.*, 1999; Magarey *et al.*, 2001; Johnson *et al.*, 2008). The assessments of body fatness were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter).
- 5.145 Three of the studies indicate no association between total carbohydrate intake and body fatness in children and adolescents, but one study indicates a higher total carbohydrate intake is associated with increased triceps skinfold measurement (Magarey *et al.*, 2001).

Total carbohydrate intake (% energy) and body mass index and body fatness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Limited evidence

Outcomes where there is insufficient or inconsistent evidence⁸

- 5.146 The tables below detail the exposures and outcomes where there are two or fewer studies that meet the inclusion criteria for the review (e.g. by study duration, publication date, health of subjects, design of intervention), or where the studies are too inconsistent, to draw a conclusion as per the grading system in Annex 2. A full description of the studies can be found in the relevant systematic reviews.

Table 5.1: Insufficient evidence - cohort studies

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Coronary calcification Aortic calcification Blood pressure Fasting blood lipids Fibrinogen Body weight (children) Body mass index and body fatness (children) Weight gain Fat distribution (adults and children) Energy intake (children) Eating motivation Impaired glucose tolerance Insulinaemia HbA1c	Total carbohydrate (g/day or % energy)
Cardiovascular disease events Coronary events Stroke Type 2 diabetes mellitus	Dietary patterns

8 See Annex 2 paragraph A2.21 for criteria.

Table 5.2: Insufficient evidence - randomised controlled trials

Risk factor/health outcome	Exposure
Cardiovascular disease Pulse wave velocity Augmentation index IL-6 Serum-amyloid A, ICAM-1 VCAM-1 E-selectin P-selectin, tPA, Factor VII Fibrinogen Total body fat (children) Hip circumference Type 2 diabetes mellitus	Higher carbohydrate diets
AUC insulin	Higher carbohydrate, lower protein diets
Insulin response to oral glucose tolerance test	Higher carbohydrate, lower fat and protein diets

Table 5.3: Inconsistent evidence - cohort studies

Measure	Exposure
Body weight Energy intake (adults)	Total carbohydrate

Table 5.4: Inconsistent evidence - randomised controlled trials

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Apolipoproteins A-1, B Lipoprotein a PAI-1 Central and peripheral fat Eating motivation	Higher carbohydrate diets
LDL-cholesterol TAG Energy intake	Higher carbohydrate and lower fat diets
Waist circumference	Higher carbohydrate, lower fat and/or lower protein diets
Energy intake	Higher carbohydrate, lower protein diets

Summary and conclusions

- 5.147 This assessment is based on prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials investigating the relationship between total carbohydrate intake and the various health/disease outcomes included in this review. There is a lack of evidence on total carbohydrate intake in relation to oral health. With observational studies there is substantial potential for biases and the possibility of confounding by an extraneous variable that correlates with both the dependent variable and the independent variable (residual confounding); any associations must be interpreted with caution.
- 5.148 For many outcomes, there is insufficient evidence from cohort studies to permit a conclusion to be drawn in terms of total carbohydrate intake. No association is indicated between total carbohydrate intake and the incidence of cardiovascular disease endpoints, type 2 diabetes mellitus, glycaemia (blood glucose level or area under the curve following a two-hour glucose tolerance test) or colo-rectal cancer; most studies adjust their results for body mass index. In children and adolescents limited evidence indicates that there is no association between total carbohydrate intake and body mass index or body fatness.
- 5.149 Cohort studies estimate total carbohydrate intake in subjects with unrestricted food choice. Total carbohydrate is the sum of the sugars, starches and dietary fibre in the diet and, therefore, a general term that encompasses several different nutritional components. Any or all of these components may be increased to raise total carbohydrate intake and in some cohort studies it is not reported how carbohydrate intakes were achieved. As the components are linked with differing effects on health outcomes, it may be more difficult to detect an association between total carbohydrate intake and any one health outcome. A further limitation is that variation or changes in carbohydrate intakes may affect micronutrient intakes, which is unlikely to be accounted for in cohort studies.
- 5.150 Randomised controlled trials assess the effect of varying total carbohydrate intake, by reciprocally varying fat, type and quantity, and/or protein intake. These trials indicate no significant effect of varying total carbohydrate intake on vascular function, inflammatory markers and risk factors for type 2 diabetes mellitus. Higher total carbohydrate intake is shown to have mixed effects on fasting blood lipid concentrations, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by a concomitant reduction in saturated fatty acid intake and total fat and/or differences in weight loss between experimental groups. Higher carbohydrate intake is also shown to affect systolic blood pressure, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by differences in weight loss between experimental groups (see paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7). A higher carbohydrate, average protein diet results in less of a reduction in systolic blood pressure as compared with a lower carbohydrate, higher protein diet, but this appears to be due to greater weight-loss in the higher carbohydrate experimental group rather than to dietary differences. This caveat applies to all cardio-metabolic risk factors investigated in these trials.

- 5.151 The trials do provide evidence that an energy-restricted higher carbohydrate, lower fat diet, as compared with a lower carbohydrate, higher fat diet, may be beneficial as a dietary strategy for reducing body mass index, but there is high heterogeneity between trials and the evidence is limited due to a relatively small number of trials. The hypothesis that diets higher in total carbohydrate cause weight gain is not supported by the evidence from randomised controlled trials considered in this review.
- 5.152 Overall, prospective cohort studies indicate that total carbohydrate is neither detrimental nor beneficial to cardio-metabolic health and is not associated with risk of colo-rectal cancer. The randomised controlled trials do indicate some effects on cardiovascular risk factors, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by a concomitant reduction in saturated fatty acid intake and total fat and/or differences in weight loss between experimental groups. There is some evidence that an energy restricted, higher carbohydrate, lower fat diet may be an effective strategy for reducing body mass index and body weight.

6 Sugars and sugars-sweetened foods and beverages

- 6.1 This assessment is based on prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials investigating the relationship between sugars, individual sugars, sugars-sweetened foods and beverages and cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health outcomes. Links to the individual systematic reviews and update search are given in Annex 1.
- 6.2 Evidence on health/disease outcomes has been discussed in detail only where there are sufficient data for a conclusion to be drawn from studies meeting the pre-agreed inclusion criteria. Outcomes where there are too few studies to reach a conclusion, are listed at the end of the chapter (see Tables 6.1 and 6.2).
- 6.3 For the prospective cohort study meta-analyses, the relative risks for total sugars intake are presented for each 50g/day increase and for individual sugars for each 20g/day increase as this is equivalent to one standard deviation of intake. The increment used for sugars-sweetened beverages was 330ml/day increase in consumption as this is equivalent to a standard can of beverage.
- 6.4 The term 'sugars' is used in this chapter to refer to all dietary sugars in cohort studies. For randomised controlled trials, 'sugars' is used where the exposure cannot be clearly be defined as a specific type of sugar(s) (e.g. sucrose, lactose, glucose or fructose).
- 6.5 There is a lack of evidence to enable conclusions to be drawn on sugars intake and colo-rectal cancer and no studies were identified for any other colo-rectal health outcome.

Adults

Sugars

Coronary events

- 6.6 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on sugars intake and incidence of coronary events (Fehily *et al.*, 1993; Liu *et al.*, 2000; Beulens *et al.*, 2007). The exposure measures used in the studies were not sufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. Two cohort studies were subsequently identified in the update search (Sieri *et al.*, 2010; Burger *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search).

- 6.7 No significant association is observed between sugars consumption and incidence of coronary events in any of the studies.

Sugars (g/day) and coronary events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Moderate evidence

Blood pressure

- 6.8 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to blood pressure (Surwit *et al.*, 1997; Vasilaras *et al.*, 2001; Poppitt *et al.*, 2002; Raben *et al.*, 2002; Black *et al.*, 2006), three of which were included in a meta-analysis (Surwit *et al.*, 1997; Raben *et al.*, 2002; Black *et al.*, 2006). Two very small trials could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (Vasilaras *et al.*, 2001; Poppitt *et al.*, 2002). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, incident hypertension and blood pressure chapter).

- 6.9 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of sugars on systolic blood pressure (1.4mmHg, 95% CI -5.4, 8.3; $p=0.69$) or diastolic blood pressure (3.1mmHg, 95% CI -0.2, 6.3; $p=0.06$); although the result is of borderline statistical significance. One trial included in the meta-analysis compared the consumption of sucrose-sweetened foods and drinks to non-calorically sweetened foods and beverages (Raben *et al.*, 2002). The other two trials compared higher and lower sucrose diets, one of which was a weight loss trial (Surwit *et al.*, 1997).

Sugars and systolic and diastolic blood pressure
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Fasting blood lipids

Fasting total cholesterol concentration

- 6.10 Six randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to fasting total cholesterol, of which four were included in a meta-analysis (Ryle *et al.*, 1990; Surwit *et al.*, 1997; Saris *et al.*, 2000; Black *et al.*, 2006). Two trials could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (Poppitt *et al.*, 2002; Drummond *et al.*, 2003). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter).

- 6.11 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of sugars on fasting total cholesterol concentration (0.14mmol/L, 95% CI -0.11, 0.39; $p=0.28$). Two of the included trials are weight loss trials (Surwit *et al.*, 1997; Saris *et al.*, 2000).

Sugars and fasting total cholesterol concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration

- 6.12 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to fasting LDL-cholesterol, of which three were included in a meta-analysis (Surwit *et al.*, 1997; Saris *et al.*, 2000; Black *et al.*, 2006). One trial could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data (Poppitt *et al.*, 2002). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter).
- 6.13 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of sugars on fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration (0.10mmol/L, 95% CI -0.18, 0.38; $p=0.49$). Two of the included trials are weight loss trials (Surwit *et al.*, 1997; Saris *et al.*, 2000).

Sugars and fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration

- 6.14 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to fasting HDL-cholesterol, of which three were included in a meta-analysis (Surwit *et al.*, 1997; Saris *et al.*, 2000; Black *et al.*, 2006). One trial could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data (Poppitt *et al.*, 2002). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter).
- 6.15 No significant effect is demonstrated for diets differing in the proportion of sugars on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration (-0.03mmol/L, 95% CI -0.09, 0.02; $p=0.21$). Two of the trials are weight loss trials (Surwit *et al.*, 1997; Saris *et al.*, 2000).

Sugars and fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Fasting triacylglycerol concentration

- 6.16 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to fasting triacylglycerol (Surwit *et al.*, 1997; Saris *et al.*, 2000; Poppitt *et al.*, 2002; Sorensen *et al.*, 2005; Black *et al.*, 2006). Three trials could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (Poppitt *et al.*, 2002; Sorensen *et al.*, 2005; Black *et*

al., 2006), which left an insufficient number of trials to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter).

- 6.17 Two trials investigated substitution of dietary fat with either 'simple' or 'complex' carbohydrates; however these terms are not defined (Saris *et al.*, 2000; Poppitt *et al.*, 2002). One reports fasting triacylglycerol concentration to be raised by the lower fat, higher simple carbohydrate diet compared with the lower fat higher complex carbohydrate diet (Poppitt *et al.*, 2002), while the other reports no significant effect (Saris *et al.*, 2000). The three remaining trials investigate the effect of higher and lower sucrose diets and report no significant effect on fasting triacylglycerol concentration.

Sugars and fasting triacylglycerol concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Energy intake

- 6.18 Nine randomised controlled trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to energy intake were originally identified in the cardio-metabolic health review (Drummond & Kirk, 1998; Saris *et al.*, 2000; Poppitt *et al.*, 2002; Raben *et al.*, 2002; Brynes *et al.*, 2003; Drummond *et al.*, 2003; Mazlan *et al.*, 2006; Reid *et al.*, 2007; Volp *et al.*, 2008). Two of these trials could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (Mazlan *et al.*, 2006; Volp *et al.*, 2008) (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake and eating motivation chapter). Five further trials were identified following the consultation on the draft report (Reid *et al.*, 2010; Aeberli *et al.*, 2011; Njike *et al.*, 2011; Reid *et al.*, 2014; Sorensen *et al.*, 2014). Four of the trials were included in the updated meta-analysis described in paragraphs 6.19 and 6.20 (Reid *et al.*, 2010; Aeberli *et al.*, 2011; Njike *et al.*, 2011; Reid *et al.*, 2014). Sorensen *et al.* (2014) reported on the same trial as Raben *et al.* (2002) with additional analyses from a subset of participants; therefore only results from the earlier publication were used in the updated meta-analysis.
- 6.19 There is variation in study design with respect to how the sugars intervention is delivered. In five of the trials, the intervention involves substitution of the macronutrient content of the diet (e.g. in the fat to carbohydrate ratio and the carbohydrate constituents) (Drummond & Kirk, 1998; Saris *et al.*, 2000; Poppitt *et al.*, 2002; Brynes *et al.*, 2003; Drummond *et al.*, 2003). In six trials, the intervention predominantly involves the replacement of sugars with non-caloric sweeteners, particularly in drinks (Raben *et al.*, 2002; Reid *et al.*, 2007; Reid *et al.*, 2010; Njike *et al.*, 2011; Aeberli *et al.*, 2011; Reid *et al.*, 2014). None of the included trials has an energy restriction goal and the first follow up at the end of the intervention ranges from 4 weeks to 6 months.
- 6.20 The data extracted from the trials are summarised in Table A9.1 (Annex 9). In the systematic reviews, meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials use a mixture

of both end of trial and change from baseline outcome measure values depending on what was reported in the study. Using results from the end of the trials affects estimates of effect size, but in this case particularly misrepresents the findings from Drummond *et al.* (2003). Therefore, in order to better quantify the intervention effects, an updated meta-analysis has been performed using between-treatment change from baseline values. Where studies included more than two intervention arms, the most comparable groups were chosen i.e. those groups that were most similar with respect to the background diet except for the intake of sugars. None of the trials, except for Saris *et al.* (2000), provided change from baseline variance data or the adjusted difference in means using the ANCOVA method. Therefore a correlation coefficient had to be derived to enable computation of the variance data, as recommended in the Cochrane Handbook. The variance was estimated from a correlation coefficient of energy intakes reported in another study (Howard *et al.*, 2006). As the estimated correlation coefficient defines how strong the correlation is in the data to which it is applied, this approach relies on large assumptions and its use must be treated with caution. It was not possible to obtain change from baseline data for three trials; two did not report baseline data (Njike *et al.*, 2003; Brynes *et al.*, 2003) and one did not provide baseline variance data (Poppitt *et al.*, 2002), meaning that end of trial values had to be used for these studies.

- 6.21 The updated meta-analysis demonstrated that relative changes (increases or decreases) in the dietary intake of sugars result in corresponding relative differences in energy intake (1.01 MJ/day, 95% CI 0.70, 1.32; $p < 0.001$) (241 kcal/day 95% CI 163, 315) (see Figure A9.2 in Annex 9). With the exception of one 'pilot study' (Drummond *et al.*, 2003), the same direction of effect was observed in every identified trial (including those that could not be included in the meta-analysis). The findings of these trials suggest that there is inadequate energy compensation (degree of voluntary reduction in intake of other foods or drinks), for energy delivered as sugar. Because energy intake in excess of requirements causes weight gain over time, higher energy consumption is deemed to be detrimental to health. Despite the variation in study design, the outcomes of the included trials are fairly consistent, with no heterogeneity between the studies being identified ($I^2 = 0\%$).
- 6.22 To explore how analysing these data using a between-treatment change from baseline approach affected the outcome, another meta-analysis was conducted using end of trial data, except in the case of Saris *et al.*, 2000 and Drummond *et al.*, 2003 (see Figure A9.1 in Annex 9). This analysis yielded a similar, but larger, effect size (1.11 MJ/day, 95% CI 0.78, 1.45; $p < 0.001$) (265 kcal/day, 95% CI 186, 346). Therefore the approach described in the paragraph above provides a more conservative estimate of effect size.

Sugars and energy intake

- Effect
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates that greater consumption of sugars is detrimental to health
- The effect is biologically relevant at a population level in free living individuals not subject to energy restriction

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 6.23 Five cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, of which three were included in a meta-analysis (Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Barclay *et al.*, 2007; Montonen *et al.*, 2007). Two studies could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (Feskens *et al.*, 1995; Janket *et al.*, 2003). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (Sluijs *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search).
- 6.24 The heterogeneity was above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=82\%$) therefore the pooled estimate has not been reported, but the studies provide no consistent evidence of an association between diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus. The cohort study identified in the update search reports no significant association between sugars intake and the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Sugars (g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- No association
- Limited evidence

Blood glucose

- 6.25 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to fasting blood glucose (Ryle *et al.*, 1990; Surwit *et al.*, 1997; Bantle *et al.*, 2000; Saris *et al.*, 2000; Black *et al.*, 2006). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter).
- 6.26 Due to the diverse range of sugars interventions used in these trials, it is not appropriate to combine them in a meta-analysis. One compares a higher glucose diet to a higher fructose diet (Bantle *et al.*, 2000); one compares a higher glucose, lower soluble fibre diet, which includes a guar preparation, to a lower glucose, higher soluble fibre diet (Ryle *et al.*, 1990); one compares a higher sucrose group and a lower sucrose group (Black *et al.*, 2006) and one randomises subjects to three diets: lower fat, higher 'simple carbohydrates'; lower fat, higher 'complex carbohydrates'; and a control group (Saris *et al.*, 2000). Two of the trials are weight loss trials (Bantle *et al.*, 2000; Saris *et al.*, 2000). All the trials report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to fasting blood glucose concentration. One of the trials measured day-long area under the curve

insulin (Bantle *et al.*, 2000), whereas the other trials measured both fasting insulin and area under the curve oral glucose tolerance test insulin.

Sugars and fasting blood glucose concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Blood insulin

- 6.27 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to blood insulin concentration (Ryle *et al.*, 1990; Bantle *et al.*, 2000; Saris *et al.*, 2000; Black *et al.*, 2006). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter).
- 6.28 Due to variation between the different methodologies used to measure insulin concentration, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. Three trials that compare diets higher and lower in sugars report no significant effect of diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to fasting blood insulin concentration (Ryle *et al.*, 1990; Saris *et al.*, 2000; Black *et al.*, 2006). One trial reports that subjects fed a higher fructose diet have lower day-long area under the curve insulin concentration as compared with a higher glucose diet (Bantle *et al.*, 2000). Two of the trials are weight loss trials (Bantle *et al.*, 2000; Saris *et al.*, 2000).

Sugars and blood insulin concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Individual sugars

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 6.29 Six cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on sucrose intake in relation to incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, of which four were included in a meta-analysis (Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Janket *et al.*, 2003; Montonen *et al.*, 2007; Schulze *et al.*, 2008). Two studies could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (Colditz *et al.*, 1992; Monterrosa *et al.*, 1995). No further cohort studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter).
- 6.30 The meta-analysis found a borderline association between higher sucrose intake and reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 0.94, 95% CI 0.89, 1.00 for each 20g/day increase; $p=0.05$). Of the two studies that could not be included in the meta-analysis, however, one reports mean sucrose intake as % energy to be slightly greater in those with type 2 diabetes mellitus than those without (Monterrosa *et al.*, 1995). The other study, which is much larger than the other studies identified, reports no significant association for those in the highest quintile of sucrose intake as compared with the lowest (Colditz *et al.*, 1992).

Sucrose (g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- No association
- Limited evidence

- 6.31 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on glucose or fructose intake in relation to incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, of which three were included in a meta-analysis (Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Montonen *et al.*, 2007; Schulze *et al.*, 2008). One study could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data (Janket *et al.*, 2003). No further cohort studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter).
- 6.32 The heterogeneity was above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% for studies investigating glucose ($I^2=80%$) or fructose ($I^2=83%$) intakes in relation to incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus and, therefore, the meta-analysis pooled estimate is not presented. Two studies specify that glucose and fructose are analysed individually rather than as part of sucrose (Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Montonen *et al.*, 2007), but this is not stated in the other two studies (Janket *et al.*, 2003; Schulze *et al.*, 2008). Two of the studies report an association between higher glucose or higher fructose intakes and higher incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Montonen *et al.*, 2007), while the other two studies observe no significant association (Janket *et al.*, 2003; Schulze *et al.*, 2008).
- 6.33 Three of the cohort studies also report data on lactose intake in relation to incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Janket *et al.*, 2003; Montonen *et al.*, 2007). As one study did not report the necessary data to be included in a meta-analysis (Janket *et al.*, 2003), an insufficient number of studies was available to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. All of these studies report no significant association between lactose intake and the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Glucose, fructose or lactose (g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- No association
- Limited evidence

- 6.34 There is a lack of evidence from trials exploring the effect of individual sugars on cardio-metabolic health outcomes to enable a conclusion to be drawn (see Table 6.2). A commentary on the evidence base for fructose consumption and health outcomes is provided in Annex 3.

Sugars-sweetened beverages

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 6.35 Six cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on the relationship between sugars-sweetened beverage consumption and the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Schulze *et al.*, 2004b; Paynter *et al.*, 2006; Dhingra *et al.*, 2007; Montonen *et al.*, 2007; Palmer *et al.*, 2008; Nettleton *et al.*, 2009). These were not combined into a meta-analysis in the cardio-metabolic health review due to

variation in both serving size and the definition for sugars-sweetened beverage. One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (de Koning *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search).

- 6.36 A further systematic review and meta-analysis were performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Greenwood *et al.*, 2014); this included results from several large cohort studies published after the original review and update search had been carried out. The results from this meta-analysis are reported in paragraph 6.37. Nine cohort studies in eleven publications were identified that presented evidence on the relationship between sugars-sweetened beverages and the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Schulze *et al.*, 2004b; Paynter *et al.*, 2006; Montonen *et al.*, 2007; Palmer *et al.*, 2008; Nettleton *et al.*, 2009; Odegaard *et al.*, 2010; de Koning *et al.*, 2011; Bhupathiraju *et al.*, 2013; The InterAct Consortium, 2013; Fagherazzi *et al.*, 2013; Eshak *et al.*, 2013). Two publications reported on the EPIC cohort (The InterAct Consortium, 2013; Fagherazzi *et al.*, 2013) so results from the smaller cohort were not included in a meta-analysis (Fagherazzi *et al.*, 2013). Two publications reported on the Health Professionals Follow-up Study (de Koning *et al.*, 2011; Bhupathiraju *et al.*, 2013) so results from the shorter follow-up are not included in a meta-analysis (de Koning *et al.*, 2011). One study could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data to estimate a dose-response trend (Nettleton *et al.*, 2009). Three cohorts only presented results for all soft drinks combined, and fruit juice or fruit, and so were excluded (Montonen *et al.*, 2007; Odegaard *et al.*, 2010; Eshak *et al.*, 2013). One other study included orange and grapefruit juice in its definition of sugars-sweetened soft drinks and was therefore excluded (Paynter *et al.*, 2006). Five cohort studies, in four publications, that presented evidence on the relationship between sugars-sweetened beverages and the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus were included in a meta-analysis (Schulze *et al.*, 2004b; Palmer *et al.*, 2008; Bhupathiraju *et al.*, 2013; The InterAct Consortium, 2013). The studies only included sugars-sweetened carbonated beverages as their exposure measure, except one study that also included diluted syrups (The InterAct Consortium, 2013). One additional cohort study was identified as a consequence of consultation on the draft report (Sakurai *et al.*, 2014).
- 6.37 An association was found between greater sugars-sweetened beverage consumption and higher incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR=1.23, 95% CI 1.17, 1.30 for each 330ml/day increase; $p < 0.001$), with a heterogeneity of $I^2 = 65\%$. This evidence is only for soft drinks as there are insufficient analyses that include fruit juices. The study identified as a consequence of the consultation on the draft report indicates no significant association between greater sugars-sweetened beverage consumption and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR=1.34, 95% CI 0.72, 2.36 for one serving or more a day as compared to rare or no consumption).

Sugars-sweetened beverages (ml/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- Association
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates that greater consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages is detrimental to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Colon cancer

- 6.38 A pooled analysis of ten cohort studies was identified that presented evidence on the relationship between sugars-sweetened carbonated soft drinks and incidence of colon cancer (Zhang *et al.*, 2010). At the time of the review, none of the results from individual studies included in the pooled analysis had been published. No further studies were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 6.39 No significant association was found between sugars-sweetened carbonated soft drink intake and the incidence of colon cancer (RR 0.94, 95% CI 0.66, 1.32, $P_{\text{trend}}=0.91$; comparing consumption greater than 550g/day to no consumption).

Sugars-sweetened beverages (g/day) and colon cancer

- No association
- Adequate evidence

Children and adolescents

- 6.40 Prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials were identified which had been conducted in children and adolescents aged five years or more in relation to cardio-metabolic outcomes. The section below outlines findings from these studies where there is sufficient evidence to draw a conclusion.

Body mass index and body fatness

Sugars-sweetened beverages

Cohort studies

- 6.41 Six cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on sugars-sweetened beverage intake and body mass index (BMI) in children or adolescents aged 5 years or more (Phillips *et al.*, 2004; Kvaavik *et al.*, 2005; Striegel-Moore *et al.*, 2006; Libuda *et al.*, 2008; Fiorito *et al.*, 2009; Nissinen *et al.*, 2009). The outcome measures were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter).
- 6.42 Three European cohort studies indicate no significant association between sugars-sweetened beverage consumption and BMI (Kvaavik *et al.*, 2005; Libuda *et al.*, 2008; Nissinen *et al.*, 2009). Three US cohorts indicate consumption of sugars-

sweetened beverages is associated with increasing BMI (Phillips *et al.*, 2004; Striegel-Moore *et al.*, 2006; Fiorito *et al.*, 2009).

- 6.43 Three studies also assessed BMI in relation to unsweetened fruit juice consumption and found no significant association between baseline consumption and BMI at follow-up (Striegel-Moore *et al.*, 2006; Libuda *et al.*, 2008; Fiorito *et al.*, 2009).
- 6.44 Collectively, these studies provide conflicting evidence concerning the relationship between sugars-sweetened beverages and BMI, with the US studies tending to find small but positive associations and the European studies tending to report no evidence of a significant association.

Sugars-sweetened beverages (g/day, energy/day or servings/day) and BMI
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Limited evidence

6.45 Five cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on sugars-sweetened beverage intake and body fatness and fat distribution (Phillips *et al.*, 2004; Mundt *et al.*, 2006; Johnson *et al.*, 2007; Libuda *et al.*, 2008; Fiorito *et al.*, 2009). Two cohorts did not recruit males (Phillips *et al.*, 2004; Fiorito *et al.*, 2009). The outcome measures were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter). Percentage body fat was measured in three of the studies (Phillips *et al.*, 2004; Libuda *et al.*, 2008; Fiorito *et al.*, 2009); total body fat in one study (Johnson *et al.*, 2007), and development of fat mass in another (Mundt *et al.*, 2006). The methods used for measuring body fat included skinfold thickness (Libuda *et al.*, 2008), dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (Mundt *et al.*, 2006; Johnson *et al.*, 2007; Fiorito *et al.*, 2009) and bioimpedance (Phillips *et al.*, 2004).

6.46 No significant association was found between sugars-sweetened beverage intake and body fatness and fat distribution in four of the five cohort studies. One study indicates sugars-sweetened beverage consumption at age 5 years is a significant predictor of adiposity at ages 5 through 15 years (Fiorito *et al.*, 2009). No significant association between unsweetened fruit juice consumption and body fatness and fat distribution was found by the three studies that determine this exposure (Johnson *et al.*, 2007; Libuda *et al.*, 2008; Fiorito *et al.*, 2009). Overall there is no consistent evidence of a significant change in body fat amount or distribution with sugars-sweetened beverage consumption assessed in childhood or adolescence.

Sugars-sweetened beverages (g/day, energy/day and servings/day) and body fatness
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Limited evidence

Randomised controlled trials

6.47 One randomised controlled trial was identified that presented evidence on the relationship between reducing carbonated beverage consumption, including

sugars-sweetened and non-calorically sweetened, and change in BMI (James *et al.*, 2004). Two randomised controlled trials investigating an effect of reducing sugars-sweetened beverage consumption in children and adolescents in relation to BMI were subsequently identified after the cut-off for both the cardio-metabolic review and the update search (Ebbeling *et al.*, 2012; de Ruyter *et al.*, 2012). The outcome and exposure measures were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed.

- 6.48 A cluster-randomised controlled trial of primary school children in the UK provided data on carbonated beverage consumption and BMI and BMI z-score⁹ at baseline and one year after an intervention study (James *et al.*, 2004). A total of 644 children aged 7-11 years were randomly assigned to intervention or control groups. Drinks diaries completed over 3 days revealed that carbonated drinks consumption decreased by 0.6 glasses in the intervention group (half of these were carbonated drinks with sugar) but increased by 0.2 glasses in the control group (mean difference 0.7, 95% CI 0.1, 1.3). A limitation in the interpretation of this trial is that the intervention considered all types of carbonated beverage, whether non-calorically- or sugars-sweetened, which were, therefore, not exclusively sugars-sweetened. The intervention and control group children increased BMI and z-score to a similar degree, with no significant between-group difference in the changes. The percentage of overweight and obese children, however, increased in the control group by 7.5%, compared with a decrease in the intervention group of 0.2% (mean difference 7.7%, 95% CI 2.2, 13.1). A follow-up, two years after the educational programme's discontinuation, with data from 434 of the original 644 children, reported no differences between the groups in terms of the prevalence of overweight (James *et al.*, 2007).
- 6.49 A trial in the USA randomly assigned 224 overweight and obese adolescents to either a group who were instructed to consume non-caloric beverages in place of sugars-sweetened drinks for a year or a control group who received no intervention (Ebbeling *et al.*, 2012). The intervention group received home delivery of water or non-calorically sweetened beverages to replace sugars-sweetened beverages for one year. After one year, the intervention group consumed fewer sugars-sweetened beverages (mean \pm SEM 0.2 \pm 0.4 servings/day compared with 0.9 \pm 1.1 servings/day; a serving is 355ml). At two years, the consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages remained lower (mean \pm SEM 0.4 \pm 0.5 servings/day compared with 0.8 \pm 0.8 servings/day) and the consumption of unsweetened beverages remained higher in the intervention group. At one year (i.e. at the end of the active intervention period), the intervention group had gained significantly less weight (mean difference \pm SEM -1.9 \pm 0.9 kg; $p=0.04$) and had a smaller increase in BMI (mean difference \pm SEM -0.57 \pm 0.28 kg/m²; $p=0.045$) compared with the control group. Percentage fat mass change, as determined by electrical impedance measures, also tended to be less (mean difference \pm SD -0.7 \pm 0.4%; $p=0.12$) in comparison with the control group. After one year, the intervention group no

9 A BMI z-score or standard deviation score indicates how many units (of the standard deviation) a child's BMI is above or below the average BMI value for their age group and sex. For instance, a z-score of 1.5 indicates that a child is 1.5 standard deviations above the average value, and a z-score of -1.5 indicates a child is 1.5 standard deviations below the average value. (National Obesity Observatory, 2011).

longer received non-caloric drinks and both groups were followed up for a further year without receiving any intervention. At the end of the two year period there was no significant difference in weight (mean difference \pm SEM -0.8 ± 1.4 kg, $P=0.55$) or BMI (mean difference \pm SEM -0.30 ± 0.40 kg/m², $P=0.46$) between the groups.

- 6.50 A double-blinded placebo-controlled trial randomised 641 normal-weight Dutch children to receive 250 ml/day of a sugars-free, non-caloric sucralose-sweetened beverage or a similar sucrose-containing beverage that provided 435kJ (104 kcal) per serving (de Ruyter *et al.*, 2012). Compliance was measured by assessing urinary sucralose in a random sample of children. At the end of the 18 month intervention, children receiving the non-calorically sweetened beverage had a lower BMI z-score, skinfold thickness, waist to hip ratio and less fat mass, as determined by electrical impedance measures, in comparison with children receiving the sucrose sweetened beverage. Measurements were also obtained from those children that did not complete the trial, showing the results were similar for drop-outs. This trial had good retention rates, was sufficiently powered and provided a direct test of whether non-caloric beverage intake can have an impact on weight gain.
- 6.51 One of the trials investigates all carbonated beverages, not just sugars-sweetened ones, in relation to BMI, so this does not represent a direct test of the effect of sugars-sweetened beverages (James *et al.*, 2004). The other two trials do provide direct tests of the effect of sugars-sweetened beverages and both report effects of the consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages on increasing weight gain and BMI (Ebbeling *et al.*, 2012; de Ruyter *et al.*, 2012). For Ebbeling *et al.* (2012), the one year data were considered as this is the period when the subjects were provided with non-calorically sweetened beverages, after this point subjects received no intervention. One trial, in particular, is of a high standard (de Ruyter *et al.*, 2012), and warrants upgrading the judgement to effect based on limited evidence (see Annex 2). The findings of these trials suggest that there is inadequate energy compensation (degree of voluntary reduction in intake of other foods or drinks), for energy delivered as sugar.

Sugars-sweetened beverages and BMI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect • Limited evidence • The direction of the effect demonstrates that greater consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages is detrimental to health • The effect is biologically relevant

Oral Health

Sugars

- 6.52 In the studies exploring the relationship between sugars and oral health it was unclear what was precisely meant by the exposure term ‘sugars’ as further details were not reported. Whether the term ‘sugars’ referred to a mixture of mono- and di-saccharides or individual mono- and di-saccharides, e.g. sucrose, was not defined.

- 6.53 No meta-analyses have been conducted for studies on dental caries because the data on measures of dietary exposure, caries incidence/prevalence and risk assessment methods were insufficiently comparable. Therefore, only a narrative synthesis of the evidence has been provided.
- 6.54 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on the relationship between sugars intake and the incidence of dental caries in the mixed and permanent dentition in children. Three of these adjusted their results for tooth brushing (Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1984; Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1987; Szpunar *et al.*, 1995; Ruottinen *et al.*, 2004) one of them did not (Campain *et al.*, 2003). Two papers report on the same cohort study (Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1984; Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1987). No further studies were identified in the update search (Oral health review).
- 6.55 All three cohort studies that adjusted their results for tooth brushing report an association between higher sugars consumption and greater risk of developing dental caries of some type. One study observes an association with fissure caries only, but not for overall two year caries increment or approximal surface caries (Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1984; Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1987). The study that did not adjust its results for tooth brushing reports no significant association between higher sugars consumption and the incidence of dental caries (Campain *et al.*, 2003).

Amount of sugars consumed (g/day or % energy) and dental caries in mixed and permanent dentition

- Association
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates that greater consumption of sugars is detrimental to oral health
- The association is biologically relevant

- 6.56 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on the relationship between frequency of sugars intake and the incidence of dental caries in the mixed and permanent dentition in children, all of which adjusted their results for tooth brushing (Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1984; Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1987; Szpunar *et al.*, 1995; Levine *et al.*, 2007). Two papers report on the same cohort study (Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1984; Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1987). No further studies were identified in the update search (Oral health review).
- 6.57 All three cohort studies that adjusted their results for tooth brushing, report no significant association between the frequency of sugars consumption and risk of developing dental caries. One study that reports the frequency of bedtime sugars consumption from drinks suggests that greater frequency is associated with greater prevalence of dental caries (Levine *et al.*, 2007).

Frequency of sugars (servings/day) and dental caries in mixed and permanent dentition

- No association
- Limited evidence

Sugars-containing beverages

- 6.58 Seven cohort studies in eleven publications were identified that presented evidence on the relationship between sugars-containing beverage consumption and the incidence of dental caries in deciduous dentition in children; in all studies the results were adjusted for tooth brushing (Grytten *et al.*, 1988; Grindefjord *et al.*, 1995; Grindefjord *et al.*, 1996; Tada *et al.*, 1999; Levy *et al.*, 2003; Mariri *et al.*, 2003; Sakuma *et al.*, 2007; Ismail *et al.*, 2008; Warren *et al.*, 2008; Lim *et al.*, 2008; Ismail *et al.*, 2009). Three cohorts were reported in more than one publication: (Grindefjord *et al.*, 1995; Grindefjord *et al.*, 1996) reported on one cohort; (Ismail *et al.*, 2008; Lim *et al.*, 2008; Ismail *et al.*, 2009) reported on a second cohort; and (Mariri *et al.*, 2003; Levy *et al.*, 2003) reported on a third cohort. No further studies were identified in the update search (Oral health review).
- 6.59 In these cohort studies, sugars-sweetened beverages included sugars-sweetened carbonated beverages, non-carbonated fruit drinks and fruit juice; however, some studies did not specify what they defined as sugars-sweetened/containing beverages.
- 6.60 An association was found between greater consumption of sugars-containing beverages and increased dental caries incidence in deciduous dentition in five cohort studies (Grindefjord *et al.*, 1995; Grindefjord *et al.*, 1996; Levy *et al.*, 2003; Mariri *et al.*, 2003; Sakuma *et al.*, 2007; Ismail *et al.*, 2008; Warren *et al.*, 2008; Lim *et al.*, 2008; Ismail *et al.*, 2009). The two other cohort studies report no significant association between sugars-containing beverage consumption and the development of dental caries at 36 months (Grytten *et al.*, 1988) or with sweet drink intake between meals and 18 months dental caries increment in deciduous dentition (Tada *et al.*, 1999).

Amount and frequency of sugars-containing beverages consumption (servings/day or ml/day) and dental caries in deciduous dentition

- Association
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates that greater consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages is detrimental to oral health
- The association is biologically relevant

Sugars-containing foods

- 6.61 Eleven cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on the relationship between the amount of sugars-containing foods and/or sugars confectionery consumed and the incidence of dental caries in deciduous dentition in children. Sugars-containing foods include sweets/candy, between meal sweet food intake, sugars-containing foods, sugars-containing snacks, sucrose rich foods, sugar-starch

foods. Five of these adjusted their results for tooth brushing (Grytten *et al.*, 1988; Grindefjord *et al.*, 1995; Grindefjord *et al.*, 1996; Tada *et al.*, 1999; Levy *et al.*, 2003; Mariri *et al.*, 2003; Sakuma *et al.*, 2007) and six of them did not (Persson *et al.*, 1985; Wilson & Ashley, 1989; Holbrook, 1993; Holbrook *et al.*, 1995; Pienihakkinen *et al.*, 2004; Law & Seow, 2006). Two cohorts were reported in more than one publication: (Grindefjord *et al.*, 1995; Grindefjord *et al.*, 1996) reported on one cohort and (Mariri *et al.*, 2003; Levy *et al.*, 2003) reported on a second cohort. One study was subsequently identified in the update search (Fontana *et al.*, 2011), which did not adjust for tooth brushing (Oral health review; Update search).

- 6.62 Two studies that adjust for tooth brushing indicate an association between greater consumption of sugars confectionery and greater risk of dental caries at 18 months and 3.5 years (Grindefjord *et al.*, 1995; Grindefjord *et al.*, 1996; Sakuma *et al.*, 2007). The three other studies that adjust for tooth brushing indicate no significant association between consumption of sugars-sweetened food or sweet confectionery and dental caries (Grytten *et al.*, 1988; Tada *et al.*, 1999; Mariri *et al.*, 2003). All six of the cohort studies that did not adjust their results for tooth brushing indicate an association between higher consumption of sugars-containing foods or confectionery and greater risk of dental caries. The study identified in the update search reports that snacking on candy, cake, cookies, ice cream or dried fruit is not associated with dental caries incidence, but two dietary snacking behaviours (reported as 'child does not snack on fresh fruit' and 'child does snack on popcorn') are associated with caries.

Amount and frequency of sugars-containing foods and/or sugars confectionery consumption (servings/day or servings/week) and dental caries in deciduous dentition

- Association
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the association indicates that greater consumption of sugars-containing foods and/or sugars confectionery is detrimental to oral health
- The association is biologically relevant

- 6.63 Eight cohort studies in nine publications were identified that presented evidence on the relationship between the frequency of consumption of sugars-containing foods and/or sugars confectionery and the incidence of caries in the mixed/permanent dentition. Five of these adjusted their results for tooth brushing (Mattila *et al.*, 2001; Leroy *et al.*, 2005; Mattila *et al.*, 2005; Kallestal & Fjelddahl, 2007; Ollila & Larmas, 2007; Tamaki *et al.*, 2009) and three of them did not (Wilson & Ashley, 1989; Petti & Hausen, 2000; Bruno-Ambrosius *et al.*, 2005). Two articles reported on the same cohort (Mattila *et al.*, 2001; Mattila *et al.*, 2005), which followed up a birth cohort until the children were 10 years of age. Two additional studies were identified in the update search, both of which adjusted their results for tooth brushing (Ferreira *et al.*, 2011; Alm *et al.*, 2012) (Oral health review; Update search).

- 6.64 Three studies report an association between higher frequency of consumption of sugars in confectionery and greater dental caries incidence (Mattila *et al.*, 2001; Mattila *et al.*, 2005; Kallestal & Fjelddahl, 2007; Ollila & Larmas, 2007). Two studies

report no significant association between either intake of sugars confectionery or sweet snacks and dental caries incidence (Leroy *et al.*, 2005; Tamaki *et al.*, 2009). Of the studies identified in the update search one reports an association between frequency of consumption of sugars confectionery at age one year and dental caries development at age 15 years (Alm *et al.*, 2012). The other, in children and adolescents with cerebral palsy, found a significant association between higher frequency of sugars consumption and dental caries (Ferreira *et al.*, 2011). Of the studies that did not adjust for tooth brushing, one indicates that the number of between-meal snacks containing more than 10% sugars is associated with two-, but not three-year dental caries increment (Wilson & Ashley, 1989). The other two studies indicate no association between sugars confectionery and snack consumption and dental caries risk.

Frequency of sugars-containing foods and/or sugars confectionery consumption (servings/day or servings/week) and dental caries in mixed and permanent dentition

- Association
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates that higher frequency of consumption of sugars-containing foods and/or sugars in confectionery is detrimental to oral health
- The association is biologically relevant

Outcomes where there is insufficient evidence¹⁰

6.65 The tables below detail the exposures and outcomes where there are two or fewer studies that meet the inclusion criteria for the review (e.g. by study duration, publication date, health of subjects, design of intervention) to draw a conclusion as per the grading system in Annex 2. A full description of the studies can be found in the relevant systematic reviews.

Table 6.1: Insufficient evidence - cohort studies

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Cardiovascular disease events	monosaccharides disaccharides
Coronary events	monosaccharides disaccharides sugars rich foods sugars-sweetened beverages
Stroke	total sugars monosaccharides disaccharides sugars-sweetened beverages
Incident hypertension	fructose sugars-sweetened beverages
Blood pressure	sugars rich foods
Total cholesterol	sugars rich foods

¹⁰ See Annex 2 paragraph A2.21 for criteria.

Table 6.1: *continued*

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
HDL-cholesterol	sucrose sugars-sweetened beverages
Body weight	sucrose sugars rich foods sugars-sweetened beverages
Weight gain	sucrose sugars rich foods sugars-sweetened beverages
Waist circumference	total sugars
Body fatness and fat distribution	sugars rich foods sugars-sweetened beverages
Energy intake (children)	sugars-sweetened beverages
Type 2 diabetes mellitus	sugars rich foods
Impaired glucose tolerance	total sugars
Glycaemia	sugars-sweetened beverages
Insulinaemia	total sugars sugars-sweetened beverages
Insulin resistance/sensitivity	sugars sugars-sweetened beverages
HbA1c	glucose fructose
Colo-rectal, colon and rectal cancer	sugars, fructose, sucrose lactose (colon cancer only)
Caries in the deciduous dentition	frequency of sugars intake sweetened comforter (dummy) fruit juice
Caries in the mixed and permanent dentition	frequency of sugars-sweetened beverages
Oral cancer	sugars-sweetened beverages

Table 6.2: Insufficient evidence - randomised controlled trials

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Vascular compliance	sugars
Fasting blood lipids	glucose, fructose, sucrose
CRP, haptoglobin and transferrin	sugars
Body weight	sugars-sweetened beverages
Weight gain	sugars-sweetened beverages
Energy intake	sugars rich foods sugars-sweetened beverages
Eating motivation	sucrose
Impaired glucose tolerance	sugars
Glycosylated blood proteins	sugars

Table 6.2 *continued*

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Glycaemia	glucose fructose sucrose sugars-sweetened beverages
Insulinaemia	sugars-sweetened beverages
Insulin resistance	sugars-sweetened beverages
Faecal weight	sugars
Intestinal transit time	sugars
Caries in the deciduous dentition	monosaccharides
Caries in the mixed and permanent dentition	sugars rich foods sugars-containing beverages
Periodontal disease	sugars

Summary and conclusions

- 6.66 The majority of the evidence on sugars, sugars-sweetened foods and beverages is derived from cohort studies. There are very few data on individual sugars such as glucose, fructose or sucrose. Due to the paucity of studies, there is a lack of evidence to draw conclusions on the impact of sugars intake on the majority of cardio-metabolic outcomes in adults, including body weight. There is also a lack of evidence to assess the impact of sugars intake on oral health in adults, as all included studies and trials were conducted in children and adolescents. With observational studies there is substantial potential for biases and the possibility of confounding by an extraneous variable that correlates with both the dependent variable and the independent variable (residual confounding); any associations must therefore be interpreted with caution.
- 6.67 The WHO guideline for sugars intake for adults and children (WHO, 2015) was published in the final stages of the drafting of this report. The reviews on sugars intake in relation to body weight and oral health (Te Morenga *et al.*, 2013; Moynihan & Kelly, 2014), conducted as part of the WHO guideline for sugars intake for adults and children, employed different inclusion criteria to the reviews conducted to inform this report. Consequently, a wider evidence base was considered to inform the WHO guideline as compared with this report. In addition, the review on dental caries by Moynihan & Kelly (2014) included different types of study designs such as non-randomised trials, population and cross-sectional studies which were not included in this report due to concerns of bias. See the cardio-metabolic health review protocol and the oral health review in Annex 1 for the inclusion criteria for this report.
- 6.68 Very few trials on fructose met the inclusion criteria for this report because many were either not randomised or they were of insufficient duration. No studies specifically investigating the effects of high fructose corn syrup were identified

that met the inclusion criteria. As there is concern around fructose consumption and its implications for cardio-metabolic health, evidence from trials that did not meet the inclusion criteria for this report and its implications to public health were considered. Details of this consideration are to be found in Annex 3.

- 6.69 Randomised controlled trials conducted in adults indicate that increasing or decreasing the percentage of total dietary energy as sugars when consuming an *ad libitum* diet, either through the substitution of other macronutrient components or by replacing sugars with non-caloric sweeteners, leads to corresponding relative increases or decreases in energy intake. Evidence from trials conducted in children and adolescents indicates that consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages, as compared with non-calorically sweetened beverages, results in greater weight gain and increases in body mass index, however the evidence is limited to a small number of studies. The findings of these trials suggest that there is inadequate energy compensation (degree of voluntary reduction in intake of other foods or drinks), for energy delivered as sugar.
- 6.70 In cohort studies, intake of sugars or individual sugars is not associated with the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus. Findings from randomised controlled trials show no effect of diets differing in sugars content on glycaemia, insulinaemia or insulin resistance, but the evidence is limited. A greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes mellitus is associated with the consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages in cohort studies, but there are too few trials on glycaemia, insulinaemia and insulin resistance to draw firm conclusions with regard to sugars-sweetened beverage intake. There is no association between sugars intake and the risk of coronary events. No evidence was available on sugars consumption in relation to cardiovascular diseases, but one cohort study highlighted after the review cut-off date indicates a detrimental association with higher added sugars intakes (Yang *et al.*, 2014). In trials, varying sugars intake has no effect on blood pressure or fasting cholesterol and triacylglycerol concentrations, but the evidence for this is limited. A recent meta-analysis (Te Morenga *et al.*, 2014), which employed different inclusion criteria to the reviews conducted to inform this report, did report higher sugar intakes, as compared to lower intakes, to raise fasting triacylglycerol and cholesterol concentrations and raise diastolic blood pressure. There was no significant effect on systolic blood pressure overall but when trials that were 8 weeks or more in duration were analysed, higher consumption of sugars led to higher blood pressure.
- 6.71 The evidence for a relationship between sugars intake and dental caries comes from cohort studies and trials conducted in children and adolescents. There is a paucity of studies and trials in adults, however the mechanism for the development of dental caries is the same for adults as it is for children. Cohort studies that adjusted results for tooth brushing frequency were given more weight during consideration than those that did not. Greater consumption (i.e. the amount) of total sugars and sugars-containing foods and beverages is associated with a greater risk of dental caries in the deciduous and permanent dentitions. Greater frequency of consumption of sugars-containing foods and beverages, but not total sugars, is also associated with greater risk of dental caries in the deciduous

and permanent dentitions. Following the consultation, a cohort study in adults was identified which found that higher frequency of sugars-sweetened beverage consumption is associated with increased risk of dental caries, after adjusting for tooth brushing frequency and use of fluoride toothpaste (Bernabe *et al.*, 2014). The lack of association observed between frequency of sugars intake and dental caries risk may in part be due to methodological problems in the definition and characterisation of eating events in observational studies. Identifying the relationship between dental caries and sugars intake is confounded by oral hygiene and global preventative measures that have reduced the incidence of caries worldwide. Nevertheless, caries are present in 31% of the adult population of England and Wales, with variations in social class being very apparent (White *et al.*, 2011), and in many people oral hygiene does not meet the best possible standards (Steele & O' Sullivan, 2011).

- 6.72 Randomised controlled trials on dental erosion and sweetened beverage consumption were considered, but no direct comparison between non-calorically sweetened beverages and sugars-sweetened beverages was identified. Details of the evidence on acidic foods and drinks and dental erosion can be found in Annex 4.
- 6.73 Overall, randomised controlled trials show that increasing sugars intake increases energy intake in individuals consuming an *ad libitum* diet. In addition, there is some evidence from trials in children and adolescents to show that sugars-sweetened beverages are linked to weight gain. There is consistent evidence from prospective cohort studies that the consumption of sugars is associated with increased risk of dental caries and intake of sugars-sweetened beverages are associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus.

7 Starch and starch-rich foods

- 7.1 This assessment is based on prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials investigating the relationship between intake of starch and starch-rich foods in relation to cardio-metabolic health outcomes. Links to the individual systematic reviews and update search are given in Annex 1.
- 7.2 Evidence on health/disease outcomes has been discussed in detail only where there are sufficient data for a conclusion to be drawn from studies meeting the pre-agreed inclusion criteria. Outcomes where there are too few studies to reach a conclusion are listed at the end of the chapter (see Tables 7.1 and 7.2). Outcomes where the evidence was considered too inconsistent to make a valid judgement are also listed at the end of the chapter (see Table 7.3).
- 7.3 For the prospective cohort study meta-analyses, the relative risks for starch intake are presented for each 50g/day increase. For refined grain intake, relative risks are presented for each half serving/day increase as this is equivalent to approximately one standard deviation in adult refined grain intake, as based on UK data from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey (Lang *et al.*, 2003). It is unclear how starch is defined and/or determined in cohort studies, which is a limitation for interpretation.

Adults

Starch

Coronary events

- 7.4 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total starch intake and incidence of fatal or non-fatal coronary events (Fehily *et al.*, 1993; Pietinen *et al.*, 1996; Liu *et al.*, 2000c; Beulens *et al.*, 2007). Due to variation in the exposures reported and the lack of age-adjustment in one cohort study (Fehily *et al.*, 1993), there were too few studies to undertake a meta-analysis. Three cohort studies were subsequently identified in the update search (Sieri *et al.*, 2010; Burger *et al.*, 2011; Wallstrom *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search).
- 7.5 No association between starch intake and incidence of coronary events was observed in any of the cohort studies, except one (Burger *et al.*, 2011), which observed that higher starch intake expressed as g/day is associated with greater incidence of coronary events in men, but not in women.

Starch (g/day) and coronary events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Moderate evidence

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 7.6 Eight cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total starch intake and the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, four of which were included in a meta-analysis (Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Barclay *et al.*, 2007; Schulze *et al.*, 2008). Four studies could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (Feskens *et al.*, 1995; Monterrosa *et al.*, 1995; Leonetti *et al.*, 1996; Janket *et al.*, 2003). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (Sluijs *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review; Update search).
- 7.7 No association was found between total starch intake and type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 1.00, 95% CI 0.84, 1.19 for each 50g/day increase; $p=0.96$). The studies that are not included in the meta-analysis do not observe an association between starch intakes and risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus. The study identified in the update search observed that a higher starch intake is associated with a greater incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Sluijs *et al.*, 2010).

Starch (g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Moderate evidence

Starch-rich foods

Refined grains

Cardiovascular disease events

- 7.8 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on the intake of refined grains and combined incidence of stroke and coronary events, all of which were included in the meta-analysis (Liu *et al.*, 2000b; Steffen *et al.*, 2003; Jacobs, Jr. *et al.*, 2007). No further cohort studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter).
- 7.9 No association was found between refined grains intake and the combined incidence of stroke and coronary events, referred to as cardiovascular events, (RR 1.00, 95% CI 0.98, 1.01 for each half serving/day increase; $p=0.5$).

Refined grains (serving/day) and cardiovascular disease events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Moderate evidence

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 7.10 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on refined grains intake and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Liu *et al.*, 2000a; Fung *et al.*, 2002; Montonen *et al.*, 2003). One cohort study was identified in the update search (Yu *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search).

- 7.11 No association was found between refined grains intake and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 1.00, 95% CI 0.98, 1.01, for each half serving/day increase; $p=0.7$). The cohort study identified in the update search observed no association between refined grain intake and the incidence of type 2 diabetes.

Refined grains (serving/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Moderate evidence

Rice

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 7.12 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on rice intake and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Liu *et al.*, 2000a; Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Villegas *et al.*, 2007). Due to variation in the exposures reported, a meta-analysis could not be conducted. Six cohort studies were identified in the update search (Sun *et al.*, 2010; Nanri *et al.*, 2010; Yu *et al.*, 2011). One publication reported on data from three cohorts in the United States (Sun *et al.*, 2010), including a cohort reported on previously (Liu *et al.*, 2000a), and another publication reported on two cohorts in Japan (Nanri *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search). A meta-analysis has subsequently reported white rice intake in relation to the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Hu *et al.*, 2012), which includes seven cohorts identified above (Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Villegas *et al.*, 2007; Nanri *et al.*, 2010; Sun *et al.*, 2010). The results from this meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.
- 7.13 The pooled estimate found that higher intake of white rice is associated with a greater incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 1.11, 95% CI 1.08, 1.14 for each 158g serving/day increase; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$). When analysed separately, and comparing highest and lowest categories of rice intakes, no association was found for the four cohorts conducted in Western populations (RR 1.12, 95% CI 0.94, 1.33). However, the three studies performed in Asian populations (Chinese and Japanese) found that white rice intakes were associated with a higher risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 1.55, 95% CI 1.20, 2.01). One smaller cohort study in a Chinese population identified in the update search, but not included in the meta-analysis (Yu *et al.*, 2011), reports no association between rice intake and the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus.
- 7.14 In the UK, the median portion of cooked rice is 180g with a 75th centile of 235g (Henderson *et al.*, 2003). Overall, UK population intakes are low, the mean intake for cooked white rice amongst consumers is 28g/day (Bates *et al.*, 2012). The levels of intake at which a detrimental association is indicated may only be relevant for a small proportion of the UK population which consumes white rice on a daily basis. It is, therefore, unlikely that there would be a large proportion of people in the UK consuming the very high intakes of rice seen in studies conducted in Asian countries.

White rice (serving/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- Association
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates that high consumption of white rice is detrimental to health
- The association is biologically relevant; however, the association is largely derived from reported intakes that are substantially greater than in typical UK diets

- 7.15 Three of the cohort studies in the United States, all of which were reported in the same publication, also report on brown rice intake in relation to incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Sun *et al.*, 2010) and observe that higher intakes of brown rice are associated with a lower incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 0.89, 95% CI 0.81, 0.97 for two or more servings a week as compared with one a month).

Brown rice (serving/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- Association
- Limited evidence
- The direction of association indicates higher intake of brown rice is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Potatoes

- 7.16 Cohort studies investigating potato consumption did not always report on the cooking methods used (e.g. frying or boiling). Differences in cooking methods could potentially confound any associations observed between potato intake and cardio-metabolic health outcomes.

Cardiovascular disease events

- 7.17 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on intake of potatoes and incidence of cardiovascular disease events (Joshipura *et al.*, 2009; Panagiotakos *et al.*, 2009). One publication reported on data from two cohorts (Joshipura *et al.*, 2009). Due to variation in the exposures reported no meta-analysis was conducted. No further cohort studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter).
- 7.18 Two cohort studies reported an association between greater consumption of potatoes and risk of fatal and non-fatal cardiovascular disease events (Joshipura *et al.*, 2009); the strength and statistical significance of these associations varied with total carbohydrate consumption (tending to increase in higher carbohydrate consumers). The other cohort study reports higher potato consumption by people with cardiovascular disease than those without the disease, but this study only provides age-adjusted estimates (Panagiotakos *et al.*, 2009).
- 7.19 Two cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on intake of potatoes and incidence of fatal coronary events (Knekt *et al.*, 1994; Pietinen *et al.*, 1996). Two cohort studies were identified in one publication that presented evidence on intake of potatoes and incidence of fatal and non-fatal ischaemic stroke (Joshipura *et al.*, 1999). No further cohort studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter). The studies

were combined into a meta-analysis together with studies investigating coronary events to provide an estimate of cardiovascular events. Two studies could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data to estimate a dose-response trend (Knekt *et al.*, 1994; Joshipura *et al.*, 2009), one of which reported no association between potato consumption and fatal coronary events for men or women (Knekt *et al.*, 1994).

- 7.20 The heterogeneity was above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=90%$) therefore the pooled estimate was not presented; however, the studies provide no consistent evidence of an association between potato consumption and incidence of cardiovascular events.

Potatoes (serving/day) and cardiovascular disease events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Limited evidence

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 7.21 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on intake of potatoes and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, three of which were included in a meta-analysis (Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Montonen *et al.*, 2005; Halton *et al.*, 2006). One study could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data to estimate a dose-response trend (Villegas *et al.*, 2007). No further cohort studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter).
- 7.22 The pooled estimate demonstrates an association between higher potato consumption and higher incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 1.07, 95% CI 1.00, 1.15 for each half serving/day increase; $p=0.04$). The cohort study that was not included in the meta-analysis reports that higher potato consumption is associated with a lower incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, but this is in a Chinese cohort where potatoes are not a major source of starch and in this study, sweet potatoes (*Ipomoea batatas*) are also classified with potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*).

Potatoes (serving/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association • Limited evidence • The direction of the association suggests that greater consumption of potatoes is associated with a higher incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables, e.g. cooking methods such as frying • The association is biologically relevant

Outcomes where there is insufficient or inconsistent evidence¹¹

- 7.23 The tables below detail the exposures and outcomes where there are two or fewer studies that meet the inclusion criteria for the review (e.g. by study duration, publication date, health of subjects, design of intervention), or where the studies are too inconsistent to draw a conclusion as per the grading system in Annex 2. A full description of the studies can be found in the relevant systematic reviews.

¹¹ See Annex 2 paragraph A2.21 for criteria.

Table 7.1: Insufficient evidence - cohort studies

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Cardiovascular disease	starch rice
Coronary events	refined grains rice potatoes
Stroke	starch refined grains rice potatoes
Incident hypertension	refined grains
Type 2 diabetes mellitus	starch-rich foods
Impaired glucose tolerance	potatoes
Glycaemia	starch potatoes
Insulinaemia	starch
Glycosylated blood proteins	starch
Colo-rectal cancer	starch
Coronary events	refined grains rice potatoes
Weight gain	starch
Fat distribution	starch
Percentage body fat	starch
Waist circumference	refined grains

Table 7.2: Insufficient evidence - randomised controlled trials

Health outcome	Exposure
Dental caries	starch

Table 7.3: Inconsistent evidence

Health outcome	Exposure
Cardiovascular disease	potatoes

Summary and conclusions

- 7.24 There is a lack of available evidence on the relationship between starch or starch-rich foods and colo-rectal and oral health outcomes or cardiovascular risk factors. There were no prospective cohort studies or randomised controlled trials conducted in children and adolescents. With observational studies there is substantial potential for biases and the possibility of confounding by an extraneous variable that correlates with both the dependent variable and the independent variable (residual confounding). Any associations must therefore be interpreted with caution.

- 7.25 Findings from prospective cohort studies suggest there is no association between total starch intake and incidence of coronary events or type 2 diabetes mellitus. Cohort studies also indicate there is no association between the intake of refined grains and risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus. There is insufficient evidence to draw a conclusion on the association between starch intake and weight gain.
- 7.26 An association between greater consumption of white rice and greater risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus was observed in cohort studies, but this finding is largely based on data from Asian populations (Japanese and Chinese) consuming levels of rice which are not generally observed in the UK. Higher consumption of brown rice is associated with a reduction in the risk for incident type 2 diabetes mellitus, but the evidence is limited due to the small number of studies. A higher consumption of potatoes is associated with a greater risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other dietary variables and the evidence is limited due to the small number of studies.

8 Dietary fibre

- 8.1 This assessment is based on prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials investigating the relationship between dietary fibre and whole grains intake and cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health outcomes. A full review of all the physiological effects of dietary fibre was not conducted as part of the report. Randomised controlled trials investigating the effects of dietary fibre isolates are considered separately in Annex 5. Links to the individual systematic reviews and update search are given in Annex 1.
- 8.2 Evidence on health/disease outcomes has been discussed in detail only where there are sufficient data for a conclusion to be drawn from studies meeting the pre-agreed inclusion criteria. Outcomes where there are too few studies to reach a conclusion, are listed at the end of the chapter (see Tables 8.1 and 8.2). Outcomes where the evidence was considered too inconsistent to make a valid judgement are also listed at the end of the chapter (see Table 8.3).
- 8.3 The evidence relating to dietary fibre is based on studies with diets containing differing amounts of total (mixed) dietary fibre and its specific constituent fibres, and foods containing dietary fibre. Prospective cohort studies do not always report the method used to determine dietary fibre, but among those that do, the AOAC methods 985.29 and 991.43 (Prosky *et al.*, 1988; Lee *et al.*, 1992) are the most frequently used, and only a few studies report using the non-starch polysaccharide method (Englyst *et al.*, 1994).
- 8.4 For the prospective cohort study meta-analyses the relative risks for dietary fibre, cereal fibre and insoluble fibre intakes are presented for each 7g/day increase in intake. For soluble, insoluble, vegetable and fruit fibre the relative risks are presented for each 4g/day increase and for legume fibre the relative risk is presented for each 1g/day increase. The relative risks for total cereal intake and whole grains intake are presented for each 0.5 serving/day increase and for non-soy legumes for each 0.25 serving/day increase in intake. Each of these values is equivalent to approximately one standard deviation in adult intakes, as based on UK data from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey (Bates *et al.*, 2009).

Adults

Dietary fibre

Cardiovascular disease

- 8.5 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on dietary fibre intake and cardiovascular disease incidence. (Liu *et al.*, 2002; Bazzano *et al.*, 2003; Laaksonen *et al.*, 2005; Drogan *et al.*, 2007). Two studies could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data, leaving an insufficient number of studies to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. Five cohort studies were subsequently identified in the update search (Eshak *et al.*, 2010; Kokubo *et al.*,

2011; Park *et al.*, 2011; Wallstrom *et al.*, 2012; Chuang *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). An updated meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013d); this included the studies found in the update search and also included three later studies (Buyken *et al.*, 2010; Akbaraly *et al.*, 2011; Threapleton *et al.*, 2013a). The results from this meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.

- 8.6 An association is indicated between higher consumption of dietary fibre and a reduced incidence of cardiovascular disease (RR 0.91, 95% CI 0.88, 0.94 for each 7g/day increase; $p < 0.001$).

Dietary fibre (g/day) and cardiovascular disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association • Moderate evidence • The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of dietary fibre is beneficial to health • The association is biologically relevant

Coronary events

- 8.7 Eleven cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on dietary fibre intake and coronary events (Fehily *et al.*, 1993; Knekt *et al.*, 1994; Pietinen *et al.*, 1996; Rimm *et al.*, 1996; Todd *et al.*, 1999; Appleby *et al.*, 1999; Wolk *et al.*, 1999; Liu *et al.*, 2002; Bazzano *et al.*, 2003; Mozaffarian *et al.*, 2003; Streppel *et al.*, 2008), eight of which were included in a meta-analysis. Three cohort studies could not be included in the meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (Fehily *et al.*, 1993; Knekt *et al.*, 1994; Todd *et al.*, 1999). Three cohort studies were subsequently identified in the update search (Eshak *et al.*, 2010; Kokubo *et al.*, 2011; Wallstrom *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). An updated meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013d), which included the studies found in the update search and also included two later studies (Crowe *et al.*, 2012; Threapleton *et al.*, 2013a). The results from this later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.

- 8.8 An association is indicated between higher consumption of dietary fibre and a reduced incidence of coronary events (RR 0.91, 95% CI 0.87, 0.94 for each 7g/day increase; $p < 0.001$).

Dietary fibre (g/day) and coronary events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association • Adequate evidence • The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of dietary fibre is beneficial to health • The association is biologically relevant

Stroke

- 8.9 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on dietary fibre intake and stroke, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Ascherio *et al.*, 1998; Bazzano *et al.*, 2003; Oh *et al.*, 2005; Larsson *et al.*, 2009). Three cohort studies were subsequently identified in the update search (Eshak *et al.*, 2010; Kokubo *et al.*, 2011; Wallstrom *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, Cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). An updated meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013c), which included the studies found in the update search. The results from this later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.
- 8.10 An association is indicated between higher consumption of dietary fibre and a reduced incidence of haemorrhagic plus ischemic stroke (RR 0.93, 95% CI 0.88, 0.98 for each 7g/day increase; $p=0.002$).

Dietary fibre (g/day) and stroke

- Association
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of dietary fibre is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Fasting blood lipids

- 8.11 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on consumption of (mixed) dietary fibre in relation to total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol and triacylglycerol concentration, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Kesaniemi *et al.*, 1990; Aller *et al.*, 2004; Thompson *et al.*, 2005; Andersson *et al.*, 2007; Olendzki *et al.*, 2009). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemia and blood lipid review chapter).
- 8.12 No significant effect is demonstrated for the consumption of diets higher in dietary fibre relative to low dietary fibre diets on fasting total cholesterol concentration (-0.08mmol/L, 95% CI -0.27, 0.11; $p=0.4$), fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration (-0.02mmol/L, 95% CI -0.20, 0.15; $p=0.8$), fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration (-0.07mmol/L, 95% CI -0.17, 0.04; $p=0.2$) or fasting triacylglycerol concentration (-0.06mmol/L, 95% CI -0.27, 0.15; $p=0.57$).

Dietary fibre and fasting total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol and triacylglycerol concentration

- No association
- Adequate evidence

Body weight change

- 8.13 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on dietary fibre intake and body weight change (Colditz *et al.*, 1990; Ludwig *et al.*, 1999; Iqbal *et al.*, 2006;

Hays *et al.*, 2006). The data were insufficiently comparable for a meta-analysis to be performed. One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (Du *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter; Update search).

- 8.14 No significant association between dietary fibre intake, as grams/day, and body weight change is indicated in two studies (Colditz *et al.*, 1990; Iqbal *et al.*, 2006). Two studies assess the fibre density of the diet in relation to body weight change: one indicates higher fibre-density is associated with less body weight gain (Ludwig *et al.*, 1999) and the other indicates higher fibre-density is associated with greater body weight gain (Hays *et al.*, 2006). The study identified in the update search indicates higher intake of dietary fibre is associated with less body weight gain (Du *et al.*, 2010).
- 8.15 Overall, these cohort studies provide no evidence of a consistent association between dietary fibre intake and body weight change.

Dietary fibre (g/day or fibre density) and body weight change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Moderate evidence

Energy intake

- 8.16 Six randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on the effects of dietary fibre-rich diets in relation to energy intakes, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Kesaniemi *et al.*, 1990; Sciarone *et al.*, 1993; Turpeinen *et al.*, 2000; Thompson *et al.*, 2005; Andersson *et al.*, 2007; Olenzki *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake chapter).
- 8.17 No significant effect of the consumption of a dietary fibre-rich diet on energy intake was found (-445.9kJ/day, 95% CI -957.6, 65.82; p=0.09). The majority of the studies did not make allowance for the metabolisable energy that may become available from fibre due to fermentation and therefore some studies may have over-estimated the decrease in energy intake.

Dietary fibre and energy intake
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Moderate evidence

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 8.18 Eleven cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on dietary fibre intake and type 2 diabetes mellitus (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997a; Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b; Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Stevens *et al.*, 2002; Montonen *et al.*, 2003; Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Schulze *et al.*, 2004a; Lindstrom *et al.*, 2006; Barclay *et al.*, 2007; Schulze *et al.*, 2007b; Wannamethee *et al.*, 2009), ten of which were included in a meta-analysis. One cohort study, that could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data, indicated no statistically significant association between dietary fibre intake and type 2 diabetes mellitus (Lindstrom *et al.*, 2006). Three

cohort studies were identified in the update search (Sluijs *et al.*, 2010; Hopping *et al.*, 2010; Sakurai *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search).

- 8.19 An association is indicated between higher consumption of dietary fibre and a reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 0.94, 95% CI 0.90, 0.97 for each 7g/day increase; $p=0.001$). Two of the studies identified in the update search indicate higher dietary fibre intake is associated with a reduction in the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Sluijs *et al.*, 2010; Hopping *et al.*, 2010) and the other study indicates no statistically significant association between dietary fibre intake and the incidence of type 2 diabetes (Sakurai *et al.*, 2012).

Dietary fibre (g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- Association
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates a higher consumption of dietary fibre is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Fasting blood glucose

- 8.20 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on dietary fibre in relation to blood glucose, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Aller *et al.*, 2004; Thompson *et al.*, 2005; Andersson *et al.*, 2007; Olendzki *et al.*, 2009). One trial was subsequently identified in the update search (Venn *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search).
- 8.21 The heterogeneity is above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=82%$) and, therefore, the pooled estimate has not been reported. No consistent effect is demonstrated for dietary fibre intake on fasting blood glucose concentration in the forest plot. The trial identified in the update search demonstrates no significant effect of dietary fibre intake on fasting blood glucose concentration.

Dietary fibre and fasting blood glucose concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Fasting insulin

- 8.22 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on dietary fibre in relation to fasting insulin concentration (Aller *et al.*, 2004; Thompson *et al.*, 2005; Andersson *et al.*, 2007). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter).
- 8.23 Due to variation between the different methodologies used to measure fasting insulin concentration, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. All trials report no significant effect of dietary fibre on fasting insulin concentration.

Dietary fibre and fasting insulin concentration

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Faecal weight and intestinal transit time

- 8.24 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on dietary fibre in relation to intestinal transit times and faecal weight (Beyer & Flynn, 1978; Kelsay *et al.*, 1978; Stasse-Wolthuis *et al.*, 1979; Stasse-Wolthuis *et al.*, 1980; Kesaniemi *et al.*, 1990). The data on dietary intakes were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 8.25 An effect of higher fibre diets, containing cereals, fruits and vegetables, is demonstrated on increasing faecal wet weights and decreasing intestinal transit times. The increase in faecal weight is approximately a 4g increase in wet weight per 1g dietary fibre.

Dietary fibre and faecal weight and intestinal transit time

- Effect
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of dietary fibre is potentially beneficial to health
- The effect is potentially biologically relevant

Colo-rectal cancer

- 8.26 Ten cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on dietary fibre intake and colo-rectal cancer (Pietinen *et al.*, 1999; Mai *et al.*, 2003; Lin *et al.*, 2005; Michels *et al.*, 2005; Otani *et al.*, 2006; Shin *et al.*, 2006; Nomura *et al.*, 2007; Schatzkin *et al.*, 2007; Wakai *et al.*, 2007; Butler *et al.*, 2008). One cohort study could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data (Butler *et al.*, 2008). One cohort study was identified in the update search (Murphy *et al.*, 2012) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search). Murphy *et al.* (2012) provided data from the same cohort as Bingham *et al.* (2005), but with a longer follow-up period. An updated meta-analysis was performed which included Murphy *et al.* (2012) in place of Bingham *et al.* (2005). The pooled estimate provided in paragraph 8.28 is taken from the updated meta-analysis (Annex 1 additional meta-analyses).
- 8.27 A pooling project (combining individual participant data) reported a meta-analysis of dietary fibre intake, and its constituent fibres, in relation to colo-rectal, colon or rectal cancer incidence (Park *et al.*, 2005). It included the data from 13 cohorts (van den Brandt *et al.*, 1990; Kato *et al.*, 1997; Bandera *et al.*, 1997; Pietinen *et al.*, 1999; Terry *et al.*, 2001; Sieri *et al.*, 2002; Terry *et al.*, 2002; Mai *et al.*, 2003; McCullough *et al.*, 2003; Larsson *et al.*, 2005; Lin *et al.*, 2005; Michels *et al.*, 2005; McCarl *et al.*, 2006) (Colo-rectal health review). The pooling project indicated no significant association between dietary fibre intake, or intake of individual constituent fibres, and colo-rectal, colon or rectal cancer incidence. In the colo-rectal health review,

dietary fibre meta-analyses for colo-rectal, colon or rectal cancer incidence were performed, which included the findings from the pooling project and excluded the cohorts contained within it, but there was little difference in the results when the pooling project was excluded and the individual cohorts were included (Colo-rectal health review).

- 8.28 The meta-analysis of the eleven cohort studies indicates an association between higher consumption of dietary fibre and a reduced incidence of colo-rectal cancer (RR 0.92, 95% CI 0.87, 0.97 for each 7g/day increase; p=0.002).

Dietary fibre (g/day) and colo-rectal cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Association• Adequate evidence• The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of dietary fibre is beneficial to health• The association is biologically relevant

Colon cancer

- 8.29 Eight cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on dietary fibre intake and colon cancer, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (McCullough *et al.*, 2003; Michels *et al.*, 2005; Bingham *et al.*, 2005; Otani *et al.*, 2006; Shin *et al.*, 2006; Nomura *et al.*, 2007; Schatzkin *et al.*, 2007; Wakai *et al.*, 2007). Two cohort studies were identified in the update search (Hansen *et al.*, 2012; Murphy *et al.*, 2012). Murphy *et al.* (2012) provided data from the same cohort as Bingham *et al.* (2005), but with a longer follow-up period. An updated analysis was performed which included Murphy *et al.* (2012) in place of Bingham *et al.* (2005) (Annex 1 additional meta-analyses). The results from this meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report. A cohort study identified in the update search Hansen *et al.* (2012) was not included in the meta-analysis as it reported data from Scandinavian cohorts within the EPIC study, which were already included (Colo-rectal health review; Update search).

- 8.30 An association is indicated between higher consumption of dietary fibre and a reduced incidence of colon cancer (RR 0.93, 95% CI 0.89, 0.98 for each 7g/day increase; p=0.007).

Dietary fibre (g/day) and colon cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Association• Adequate evidence• The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of dietary fibre is beneficial to health• The association is biologically relevant

Rectal cancer

- 8.31 Seven cohort studies were identified, in six publications, that presented evidence on dietary fibre intake and rectal cancer, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Michels *et al.*, 2005; Otani *et al.*, 2006; Shin *et al.*, 2006; Nomura *et al.*,

2007; Schatzkin *et al.*, 2007; Wakai *et al.*, 2007). One cohort study was identified in the update search (Murphy *et al.*, 2012) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search). In the colo-rectal health review, Bingham *et al.* (2005) was included in the meta-analysis. Murphy *et al.* (2012) provided data from the same cohort as Bingham *et al.* (2005), but with a longer follow-up period. Therefore an updated analysis was performed which included Murphy *et al.* (2012) in place of Bingham *et al.* (2005). The pooled estimate provided in paragraph 8.32 is taken from the updated meta-analysis (Annex 1 additional meta-analyses).

- 8.32 A significant association is indicated between higher consumption of dietary fibre and a reduced incidence of rectal cancer (RR 0.91, 95% CI 0.86, 0.97 for each 7g/day increase; p=0.007).

Dietary fibre (g/day) and rectal cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association • Limited evidence • The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of dietary fibre is beneficial to health • The association is biologically relevant

Insoluble fibre

Cardiovascular disease

- 8.33 One cohort study was initially identified that presented evidence on insoluble fibre intake and coronary events (Liu *et al.*, 2002). A further study was subsequently identified in the update search (Eshak *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). Using these and an additional later study (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013a) a meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013d). The results from this meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.
- 8.34 An association between higher consumption of insoluble fibre and a reduced incidence of cardiovascular disease is indicated (RR 0.82, 95% CI 0.70, 0.96 for each 7g/day increase; p=0.02).

Insoluble fibre (g/day) and cardiovascular disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association • Limited evidence • The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of insoluble fibre is beneficial to health • The association is biologically relevant

Coronary events

- 8.35 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on insoluble fibre intake and coronary events, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Pietinen *et al.*, 1996; Rimm *et al.*, 1996; Liu *et al.*, 2002) . Two cohort studies were

subsequently identified in the update search (Eshak *et al.*, 2010; Kokubo *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). An updated meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013d), which included one of the studies found in the update search (Eshak *et al.*, 2010) and also included one later study (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013a). One study could not be included in the meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data (Kokubo *et al.*, 2011). The results from the Threapleton *et al.* (2013d) meta-analysis, based on five studies, was used to inform this report.

- 8.36 An association between higher consumption of insoluble fibre and a reduced incidence of coronary events is indicated (RR 0.82, 95% CI 0.68, 0.99 for each 7g/day increase; p=0.03). The study not included in the analysis indicates a non-significant protective association between intake of insoluble fibre and fatal or non-fatal events.

Insoluble fibre (g/day) and coronary events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association • Moderate evidence • The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of insoluble fibre is beneficial to health • The association is biologically relevant

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 8.37 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on insoluble fibre intake and type 2 diabetes mellitus, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Montonen *et al.*, 2003; Schulze *et al.*, 2007b). No further studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter).
- 8.38 An association between higher consumption of insoluble fibre and a reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus is indicated (RR 0.84, 95% CI 0.78, 0.91 for each 7g/day increase; p<0.001).

Insoluble fibre (g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association • Limited evidence • The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of insoluble fibre is beneficial to health • The association is biologically relevant

Soluble fibre

Cardiovascular disease

- 8.39 Two cohort studies were initially identified that presented evidence on soluble fibre intake and coronary events (Liu *et al.*, 2002; Bazzano *et al.*, 2003). A further study was subsequently identified in the update search (Eshak *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-

metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). Using these and an additional later study (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013a), Threapleton *et al.* (2013d) performed a meta-analysis on the four studies. The results from this later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.

- 8.40 No significant association is indicated between consumption of soluble fibre and the incidence of cardiovascular disease (RR 0.88, 95% CI 0.75, 1.03 for each 4g/day increase; $p=0.10$).

Soluble fibre (g/day) and cardiovascular disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Limited evidence

Coronary events

- 8.41 Four cohort studies were initially identified that presented evidence on soluble fibre intake and coronary events, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Pietinen *et al.*, 1996; Rimm *et al.*, 1996; Liu *et al.*, 2002; Bazzano *et al.*, 2003). Two further studies were subsequently identified in the update search (Eshak *et al.*, 2010; Kokubo *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). Threapleton *et al.* (2013d) performed a meta-analysis which included all but one of these studies (Kokubo *et al.*, 2011), as this did not report the necessary data, and included a later study (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013a). The Threapleton *et al.* (2013d) meta-analysis based on these six studies was used to inform this report.
- 8.42 No significant association is indicated between consumption of soluble fibre and the incidence of coronary events (RR 0.89, 95% CI 0.78, 1.02 for each 4g/day increase; $p=0.09$). The study not included in the meta-analysis indicates no significant association between intake of soluble fibre and fatal or non-fatal events.

Soluble fibre (g/day) and coronary events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Limited evidence

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 8.43 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on soluble fibre and type 2 diabetes mellitus, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Montonen *et al.*, 2003; Schulze *et al.*, 2007b). No further studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter).
- 8.44 An association between higher consumption of soluble fibre and a reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus is indicated (RR 0.86, 95% CI 0.76, 0.97 for each 4g/day increase; $p=0.01$).

Soluble fibre (g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- Association
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of soluble fibre is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Fruit fibre

Cardiovascular disease

- 8.45 One cohort study was identified that presented evidence on fruit fibre intake and cardiovascular disease (Liu *et al.*, 2002). Two cohort studies were subsequently identified in the update search (Park *et al.*, 2011; Chuang *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). A meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013d), which included one of the studies found in the update search (Chuang *et al.*, 2012) and also included one later study (Buyken *et al.*, 2010). One study could not be included in the meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data (Park *et al.*, 2011). The results from this later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.
- 8.46 A non-significant borderline association is indicated between consumption of fruit fibre and the incidence of coronary events (RR 0.96, 95% CI 0.93, 1.00 for each 4g/day increase; $p=0.06$).

Fruit fibre (g/day) and cardiovascular disease

- No association
- Limited evidence

Coronary events

- 8.47 Six cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on fruit fibre intake and coronary events, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Pietinen *et al.*, 1996; Rimm *et al.*, 1996; Wolk *et al.*, 1999; Liu *et al.*, 2002; Mozaffarian *et al.*, 2003; Streppel *et al.*, 2008). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (Eshak *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). An updated meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013d), which included the study found in the update search and also included two later studies (Crowe *et al.*, 2012; Threapleton *et al.*, 2013a). The results from this later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.
- 8.48 No significant association is indicated between consumption of fruit fibre and the incidence of coronary events (RR 0.92, 95% CI 0.83, 1.01 for each 4g/day increase; $p=0.09$).

Fruit fibre (g/day) and coronary events

- No association
- Limited evidence

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 8.49 Nine cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on fruit fibre intake and type 2 diabetes mellitus incidence, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997a; Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b; Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Stevens *et al.*, 2002; Montonen *et al.*, 2003; Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Schulze *et al.*, 2004a; Barclay *et al.*, 2007; Schulze *et al.*, 2007b). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (Hopping *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia review chapter; Update search).
- 8.50 No significant association is indicated between consumption of fruit fibre and the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.95, 1.04 for each 4g/day increase; $p=0.7$). The study identified in the update search indicates no significant association between consumption of fruit fibre and the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Fruit fibre (g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- No association
- Adequate evidence

Colo-rectal cancer

- 8.51 Six cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on fruit fibre and colo-rectal cancer, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Michels *et al.*, 2005; Lin *et al.*, 2005; Bingham *et al.*, 2005; Wakai *et al.*, 2007; Nomura *et al.*, 2007; Schatzkin *et al.*, 2007). One cohort study that was a later follow-up of the EPIC cohort (Bingham *et al.*, 2005) was subsequently identified in the update search, but it reported fruit and vegetable fibre combined and could not be included in the meta-analysis (Murphy *et al.*, 2012). (Colo-rectal health review; Update search).
- 8.52 No significant association is indicated between fruit fibre consumption and incidence of colo-rectal cancer (RR 0.96, 95% CI 0.91, 1.02 for each 4g/day increase; $p=0.206$).

Fruit fibre (g/day) and colo-rectal cancer

- No association
- Adequate evidence

Vegetable fibre

Cardiovascular disease

- 8.53 One cohort study was identified that presented evidence on vegetable fibre intake and cardiovascular disease (Liu *et al.*, 2002). Two cohort studies were

subsequently identified in the update search (Park *et al.*, 2011; Chuang *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). A meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013d), which included one of the studies found in the update search (Chuang *et al.*, 2012) and also included two later studies (Buyken *et al.*, 2010; Threapleton *et al.*, 2013a). One study could not be included in the meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data (Park *et al.*, 2011). The results from this later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.

- 8.54 An association is indicated between higher consumption of vegetable fibre and a reduced incidence of coronary events (RR 0.92, 95% CI 0.87, 0.96 for each 4g/day increase; $p < 0.001$).

Vegetable fibre (g/day) and cardiovascular disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association • Limited evidence • The direction of the association indicates greater consumption of vegetable fibre is beneficial to health • The association is biologically relevant

Coronary events

- 8.55 Six cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on vegetable fibre intake and coronary events, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Pietinen *et al.*, 1996; Rimm *et al.*, 1996; Wolk *et al.*, 1999; Liu *et al.*, 2002; Mozaffarian *et al.*, 2003; Streppel *et al.*, 2008). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (Eshak *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). An updated meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013d), which included the study found in the update search and also included two later studies (Crowe *et al.*, 2012; Threapleton *et al.*, 2013a). The results from this later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.
- 8.56 An association is indicated between consumption of vegetable fibre and the incidence of coronary events (RR 0.94, 95% CI 0.89, 1.00 for each 4g/day increase; $p = 0.04$).

Vegetable fibre (g/day) and coronary events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association • Limited evidence • The direction of the association indicates greater consumption of vegetable fibre is beneficial to health • The association is biologically relevant

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 8.57 Nine cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on vegetable fibre and type 2 diabetes mellitus, all of which were included in a meta-analysis

(Salmeron *et al.*, 1997a; Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b; Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Montonen *et al.*, 2003; Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Schulze *et al.*, 2004a; Barclay *et al.*, 2007; Schulze *et al.*, 2007b; Wannamethee *et al.*, 2009). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (Hopping *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search).

- 8.58 No significant association is indicated between consumption of vegetable fibre and the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.94, 1.04 for each 4g/day increase; p=0.7). The study identified in the update search indicates higher consumption of vegetable fibre is associated with reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus in men, but not women.

Vegetable fibre (g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Adequate evidence

Colo-rectal cancer

- 8.59 Seven cohort studies were identified, in six publications, that presented evidence on vegetable fibre and colo-rectal cancer, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Michels *et al.*, 2005; Lin *et al.*, 2005; Bingham *et al.*, 2005; Wakai *et al.*, 2007; Nomura *et al.*, 2007; Schatzkin *et al.*, 2007). One cohort study that was a later follow-up of the EPIC cohort (Bingham *et al.*, 2005) was subsequently identified in the update search, but it reported fruit and vegetable fibre combined and could not be included in the meta-analysis (Murphy *et al.*, 2012) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search).

- 8.60 No significant association is indicated between vegetable fibre consumption and incidence of colo-rectal cancer (RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.96, 1.02 for each 4g/day increase; p=0.59). The study identified in the update search (Murphy *et al.*, 2012) reports follow-up data from the EPIC study included in the meta-analysis (Bingham *et al.*, 2005) and indicates consumption of combined fruit and vegetable fibre is not associated with incidence of colo-rectal cancer.

Vegetable fibre (g/day) and colo-rectal cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Adequate evidence

Fruit and vegetable fibre

Faecal weight and intestinal transit time

- 8.61 Six randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on fruit and vegetable fibre in relation to intestinal transit time and faecal weight (Stasse-Wolthuis *et al.*, 1980; Tinker *et al.*, 1991; Lampe *et al.*, 1992; Wisker *et al.*, 1994a; Wisker *et al.*, 1994b; Cherbut *et al.*, 1997). The data on dietary intakes were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).

- 8.62 One trial reports carrot consumption increases faecal weight and moisture content (Wisker *et al.*, 1994b). Another that citrus fibre concentrate increases faecal weight and moisture content (Wisker *et al.*, 1994a). Potato¹² fibre consumption is reported to increase faecal weight in another trial (Cherbut *et al.*, 1997) and consumption of prunes is reported to increase faecal weight in a third trial (Tinker *et al.*, 1991). Two trials report that a higher mixed fruit and vegetable intake increases faecal weight, but that there is a less consistent increase in faecal moisture content (Stasse-Wolthuis *et al.*, 1980; Lampe *et al.*, 1992). Two trials report on intestinal transit times and generally observe a decrease in response to higher fruit and vegetable fibres intake (Stasse-Wolthuis *et al.*, 1980; Cherbut *et al.*, 1997).
- 8.63 Conclusions are limited to those foods studied and cannot be broadened to other fruit and vegetable fibres without further studies being conducted.

Fruit and vegetable fibre and faecal weight

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of fibre from carrots, potato, prunes or citrus fruits is potentially beneficial to health
- The effect is potentially biologically relevant

Fruit and vegetable fibre and intestinal transit times

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates greater consumption of fibre from carrots, potato, prunes or citrus fruits is potentially beneficial to health
- The effect is potentially biologically relevant

Legume fibre

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 8.64 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on legume fibre intake and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Stevens *et al.*, 2002; Hodge *et al.*, 2004). No further studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter).
- 8.65 No significant association is indicated between consumption of legume fibre and the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 1.01, 95% CI 0.98, 1.04 for each 1g/day increase; $p=0.6$).

Legume fibre (g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- No association
- Limited evidence

¹² Potatoes are botanically classified as a vegetable, but they are classified nutritionally as a starchy food.

Faecal weight and intestinal transit time

- 8.66 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on legume fibre in relation to intestinal transit time and faecal weight (Tsai *et al.*, 1983; Effertz *et al.*, 1991; Lampe *et al.*, 1992; Stephen *et al.*, 1995; Johnson *et al.*, 2006). The data on dietary intakes were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 8.67 An effect of higher legume fibre (pea fibre, lentils or soy polysaccharide) intake on increased faecal weight is demonstrated in all trials. Little or no significant effect of higher legume fibre on intestinal transit time is demonstrated.

Legume fibre and faecal weight
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effect• Moderate evidence• The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of legume fibres is potentially beneficial to health• The biological relevance is unclear due to the size of supplements, and it is unclear whether this finding is applicable to all legume fibres

Legume fibre and intestinal transit time
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Colo-rectal cancer

- 8.68 Five cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on legume fibre and colo-rectal cancer, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Lin *et al.*, 2005; Bingham *et al.*, 2005; Wakai *et al.*, 2007; Nomura *et al.*, 2007; Schatzkin *et al.*, 2007) (Colo-rectal health review).
- 8.69 No significant association is indicated between legume fibre consumption and incidence of colo-rectal cancer (RR 0.98, 95% CI 0.94, 1.02 for each 1g/day increase; $p=0.275$)

Legume fibre (g/day) and colo-rectal cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Moderate evidence

Legume intake

Cardiovascular disease events

- 8.70 Five cohort studies were identified in four publications that presented evidence on legume (non-soy) intake and incidence of cardiovascular disease events (Bazzano *et al.*, 2001; Joshipura *et al.*, 2009; Nagura *et al.*, 2009; Panagiotakos *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio metabolic health review, cardiovascular disease chapter). The data were insufficiently comparable for a meta-analysis to be performed.

- 8.71 Two cohort studies indicate higher legume (non-soy) consumption is associated with a reduced incidence of cardiovascular disease events (Bazzano *et al.*, 2001; Nagura *et al.*, 2009). The other three cohort studies indicate no significant association between legume (non-soy) consumption and the incidence of cardiovascular disease.
- 8.72 Six cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on legume intake (non-soy) and combined incidence of coronary events and stroke, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Fraser *et al.*, 1992; Joshipura *et al.*, 1999; Bazzano *et al.*, 2001; Joshipura *et al.*, 2009; Nagura *et al.*, 2009; Panagiotakos *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter).
- 8.73 No significant association is indicated between legume (non-soy) consumption and the incidence of cardiovascular disease (RR 0.96, 95% CI 0.90, 1.03 for each 0.25 serving/day; $p=0.2$). There is considerable heterogeneity in the data ($I^2=73\%$). One study, which only adjusts results for age, has a strong influence on heterogeneity. When this study is excluded from the analysis heterogeneity is reduced ($I^2=53\%$) and there is still no significant association between legume (non-soy) consumption and the incidence of cardiovascular disease (RR 0.98, 95% CI 0.93, 1.04 for each 0.25 serving/day).

Legume intake (serving/day) and cardiovascular disease events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Moderate evidence

Cereal fibre

Cardiovascular disease

- 8.74 One cohort study was identified that presented evidence on cereal fibre intake and cardiovascular disease incidence (Liu *et al.*, 2002). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (Chuang *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). A meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013d), which included the studies already identified and three other studies (Buyken *et al.*, 2010; Baer *et al.*, 2011; Threapleton *et al.*, 2013a). The results from this later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.
- 8.75 A non-significant borderline association is indicated between consumption of cereal fibre and the incidence of cardiovascular disease (RR 0.92, 95% CI 0.84, 1.00 for each 7g/day increase; $p=0.06$).

Cereal fibre (g/day) and cardiovascular disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Limited evidence

Coronary events

- 8.76 Eight cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on cereal fibre intake and coronary events (Fehily *et al.*, 1993; Pietinen *et al.*, 1996; Rimm *et al.*, 1996; Wolk *et al.*, 1999; Liu *et al.*, 2002; Mozaffarian *et al.*, 2003; Streppel *et al.*, 2008; Kaushik *et al.*, 2009), six of which were included in a meta-analysis. Two cohort studies could not be included in the meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data. One indicated no significant association between cereal fibre and coronary events (Kaushik *et al.*, 2009) while the other study did not report a statistical comparison (Fehily *et al.*, 1993). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (Eshak *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search). An updated meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Threapleton *et al.*, 2013d), which included the study found in the update search and also included three other studies (Baer *et al.*, 2011; Crowe *et al.*, 2012; Threapleton *et al.*, 2013a). The results from this later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.
- 8.77 An association between higher consumption of cereal fibre and a reduced incidence of coronary events is indicated (RR 0.84, 95% CI 0.76, 0.94 for each 7g/day increase; p=0.003).

Cereal fibre (g/day) and coronary events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Association• Adequate evidence• The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of fibre in cereals is beneficial to health• The association is biologically relevant

Blood pressure

- 8.78 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on oat bran or β -glucans in relation to blood pressure (Swain *et al.*, 1990; Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Davy *et al.*, 2002b; He *et al.*, 2004; Maki *et al.*, 2007a), four of which were included in a meta-analysis. One trial could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data (Swain *et al.*, 1990). One trial was subsequently identified in the update search (Charlton *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, blood pressure and incident hypertension chapter; Update search). All trials compared oat bran and/or oat meal containing diets to a refined wheat control. Two trials also supplemented subject's diets with refined oat β -glucan (Maki *et al.*, 2007a; Charlton *et al.*, 2012). One of the trials was a weight-loss trial (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001).
- 8.79 An effect is demonstrated for higher oat bran and β -glucan consumption on reducing systolic blood pressure (-2.86 mmHg, 95% CI -4.87, -0.85; p<0.01).
- 8.80 An effect is demonstrated for higher oat bran and β -glucan consumption on reducing diastolic blood pressure (-1.45 mmHg, 95% CI -2.68, -0.22; p=0.02).

- 8.81 The trial not included in the meta-analysis reports no significant effect of oat bran on blood pressure (Swain *et al.*, 1990). The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of β -glucan-rich oat products on blood pressure.

Oat bran and β -glucans and systolic and diastolic blood pressure

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of oat bran and oat β -glucans is beneficial to health
- The effect is biologically relevant

Fasting blood lipids

- 8.82 Seven randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on oat bran or β -glucan supplementation in relation to fasting total cholesterol, LDL- and HDL- cholesterol concentration all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Swain *et al.*, 1990; Johnston, 1998; Romero *et al.*, 1998; Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Davy *et al.*, 2002b; Chen *et al.*, 2006; Keenan *et al.*, 2007). All of the trials, except one (Swain *et al.*, 1990), also presented evidence on oat bran or β -glucan supplementation in relation to fasting triacylglycerol concentration and were included in a meta-analysis. One trial was subsequently identified in the update search (Charlton *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemia and blood lipids chapter; Update search). All trials, except one that supplemented subjects' diets with refined barley β -glucans (Keenan *et al.*, 2007), compared oat bran and/or oat meal containing diets to a refined wheat control or in one case wheat bran (Romero *et al.*, 1998). One trial also supplemented subjects' diets with refined oat β -glucan (Charlton *et al.*, 2012). One of the trials was a weight-loss trial (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001).
- 8.83 An effect is demonstrated for the consumption of oat bran or β -glucan supplements on lowering fasting total cholesterol concentration (-0.27mmol/L, 95% CI -0.43, -0.10; p=0.002). The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of β -glucan-rich oat products on fasting total cholesterol concentration.
- 8.84 An effect is demonstrated for the consumption of oat bran or β -glucan supplements on lowering fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration (-0.22mmol/L, 95% CI -0.34, -0.10; p<0.001). The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of β -glucan-rich oat products on fasting total cholesterol concentration.
- 8.85 No significant effect is demonstrated for the consumption of oat bran or β -glucan supplements on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration (0.02mmol/L, 95% CI -0.04, 0.08; p=0.55). The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of β -glucan-rich oat products on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration.
- 8.86 An effect is demonstrated for the consumption of oat bran or β -glucan supplements on lowering fasting triacylglycerol concentration (-0.17mmol/L, 95% CI -0.31, -0.02; p=0.03). The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of β -glucan-rich oat products on fasting triacylglycerol concentration.

Oat bran and β -glucans and fasting total cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of oat bran or β -glucan supplementation is beneficial to health
- The effect is biologically relevant

Oat bran and β -glucans and fasting LDL- cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of oat bran or β -glucan supplementation is beneficial to health
- The effect is biologically relevant

Oat bran and β -glucans and fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Oat bran and β -glucans and fasting triacylglycerol concentration

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of oat bran or β -glucan supplementation is beneficial to health
- The effect is biologically relevant

Fasting blood glucose

- 8.87 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on oat bran or β -glucan supplements in relation to fasting blood glucose concentration, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Chen *et al.*, 2006; Maki *et al.*, 2007a; Smith *et al.*, 2008). Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Bays *et al.*, 2011; Charlton *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search). Two trials compared oat bran containing diets to a refined wheat control (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Chen *et al.*, 2006). Four trials supplemented subjects' diets with refined β -glucans, either from barley or oats (Maki *et al.*, 2007a; Smith *et al.*, 2008; Bays *et al.*, 2011; Charlton *et al.*, 2012). One of the trials was a weight-loss trial (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001).
- 8.88 No significant effect is demonstrated for the consumption of oat bran, barley or oat β -glucan supplements on fasting blood glucose concentration (-0.08 mmol/L, 95% CI -0.21, 0.06; p=0.25). The two trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of barley or oat β -glucan supplements on fasting blood glucose concentration.

Oat bran and β -glucans and fasting blood glucose concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 8.89 Eleven cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on cereal fibre and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997a; Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b; Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Stevens *et al.*, 2002; Montonen *et al.*, 2003; Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Schulze *et al.*, 2004a; Barclay *et al.*, 2007; Krishnan *et al.*, 2007; Schulze *et al.*, 2007b; Wannamethee *et al.*, 2009). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (Hopping *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search).
- 8.90 An association between higher consumption of cereal fibre and a reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus is indicated (RR 0.79, 95% CI 0.72, 0.87 for each 7g/day increase; $p < 0.001$). The study identified in the update search indicates higher cereal fibre consumption is associated with a reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Cereal fibre (g/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- Association
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of fibre in cereals is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Fasting insulin

- 8.91 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on β -glucan in relation to fasting insulin concentration (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Chen *et al.*, 2006; Maki *et al.*, 2007a; Smith *et al.*, 2008). Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Bays *et al.*, 2011; Charlton *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search). Two trials compared oat bran containing diets to a refined wheat control (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Chen *et al.*, 2006). Four trials supplemented subjects' diets with refined β -glucans, either from barley or oats (Maki *et al.*, 2007a; Smith *et al.*, 2008; Bays *et al.*, 2011; Charlton *et al.*, 2012). One of the trials was a weight-loss trial (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001).
- 8.92 Due to variation between the different methodologies used to measure fasting insulin concentration, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. All of the trials identified in the systematic review report no significant effect of oat bran or β -glucan supplements on fasting insulin concentration. Of the trials identified in the update search, one reports no significant effect of β -glucan supplements on fasting insulin concentration (Charlton *et al.*, 2012) and the other reports a significant effect of 6g/day refined β -glucans, but not 3g/day (Bays *et al.*, 2011).

Oat bran and β -glucans and fasting insulin concentration

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Energy intake

Oat fibre, barley fibre and β -glucans

- 8.93 Fifteen randomised controlled trials in 17 publications were identified that presented evidence on oat fibre, barley fibre or β -glucan supplements in relation to energy intake (Whyte *et al.*, 1992; Abrahamsson *et al.*, 1994; Johnston, 1998; Reynolds *et al.*, 2000; Davy *et al.*, 2002a; Davy *et al.*, 2002b; Kerckhoffs *et al.*, 2003; He *et al.*, 2004; Robitaille *et al.*, 2005; Chen *et al.*, 2006; Keenan *et al.*, 2007; Theuwissen & Mensink, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007a; Maki *et al.*, 2007b; Smith *et al.*, 2008; Sundberg, 2008; Kohl *et al.*, 2009), twelve of which were included in a meta-analysis (Whyte *et al.*, 1992; Abrahamsson *et al.*, 1994; Reynolds *et al.*, 2000; Davy *et al.*, 2002a; Kerckhoffs *et al.*, 2003; Robitaille *et al.*, 2005; Chen *et al.*, 2006; Theuwissen & Mensink, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007a; Maki *et al.*, 2007b; Smith *et al.*, 2008; Sundberg, 2008). Two trials reported energy intake data in two publications (Davy *et al.*, 2002a; Davy *et al.*, 2002b) and (He *et al.*, 2004; Chen *et al.*, 2006). Three trials could not be included in the meta-analyses as they did not report the necessary data (Johnston, 1998; Keenan *et al.*, 2007; Kohl *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake and eating motivation chapter). The control intervention in most studies was wheat products or wheat fibre.
- 8.94 No significant effect is demonstrated for the consumption of oat fibre, barley fibre or β -glucan supplements on energy intake (48kj, 95% CI -265, 362; $p=0.66$). The trials not included in the meta-analysis report no significant effect of oat bran or purified β -glucan supplements on energy intake (Johnston, 1998; Keenan *et al.*, 2007; Kohl *et al.*, 2009).

Oat fibre, barley fibre and β -glucans and energy intake

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Cereal fibre excluding oat fibre

- 8.95 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on cereal fibre, as bran (excluding oat fibre), in relation to energy intake, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Tredger *et al.*, 1991; Sanders & Reddy, 1992; Jenkins *et al.*, 1999; Vuksan *et al.*, 1999) (Annex 1 additional meta-analyses). Three trials investigated wheat bran in comparison to a lower fibre control product and one trial reported data on rice bran. Two trials compared wheat bran to either sugar beet bran (Tredger *et al.*, 1991) or rice bran (Sanders & Reddy, 1992). None of the trials were energy restriction trials.
- 8.96 No significant effect is demonstrated for cereal fibre (excluding oat fibre) consumption on energy intake (-269kj, 95% CI -826, 288; $p=0.34$).

Cereal fibre excluding oat fibre and energy intake

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Faecal weight and intestinal transit time

Wheat fibre

- 8.97 Fourteen randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on wheat fibre in relation to faecal weight, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Southgate *et al.*, 1976; Stasse-Wolthuis *et al.*, 1980; Andersson *et al.*, 1983; Spiller *et al.*, 1986; Stevens *et al.*, 1988; Tomlin & Read, 1988; Cummings *et al.*, 1996; Jenkins *et al.*, 1998; Vuksan *et al.*, 1999; Jenkins *et al.*, 1999a; McRorie *et al.*, 2000; McIntosh *et al.*, 2003; Bird *et al.*, 2008; Vuksan *et al.*, 2008). One trial provided two estimates on faecal output (Jenkins *et al.*, 1999a) (Colo-rectal health review). No further trials were identified in the update search.
- 8.98 Twelve randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on wheat fibre in relation to intestinal transit time (Connell & Smith, 1974; Jenkins *et al.*, 1975; Wyman *et al.*, 1976; Stasse-Wolthuis *et al.*, 1980; Andersson *et al.*, 1983; Spiller *et al.*, 1986; Stevens *et al.*, 1988; Tomlin & Read, 1988; Cummings *et al.*, 1996; Vuksan *et al.*, 1999; Muir *et al.*, 2004; Vuksan *et al.*, 2008) (Colo-rectal health review). No further trials were identified in the update search.
- 8.99 An effect is demonstrated for wheat fibre (10-25g/day) on increasing faecal weight (mean difference 68g/day, 95% CI 59, 77; $p < 0.001$). A meta-regression demonstrated that a one gram increase in wheat fibre intake (as defined by AOAC methods) results in a 4.8g (95% CI 3.0, 6.6; $p < 0.001$) increase in faecal wet weight (Annex 1 additional meta-analyses). An effect is also demonstrated for wheat fibre on decreasing intestinal transit time on the forest plot, but heterogeneity is high ($I^2=67$). An investigation into the heterogeneity demonstrated that the amount of reduction in transit times in response to wheat fibre is greater when initial intestinal transit times are longer and *vice versa*. Meta-regression demonstrated a significant relationship ($p < 0.001$) between initial intestinal transit times, as determined from control values, and reduction in intestinal transit time in response to wheat fibre (Annex 1 additional meta-analyses).

Wheat fibre and faecal weight and intestinal transit time

- Effect
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of fibre from wheat is potentially beneficial to health
- The effect is potentially biologically relevant

Non-wheat cereal fibre

- 8.100 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on non-wheat cereal fibres in relation to intestinal transit time or faecal weight (Tomlin & Read, 1988; Cherbut *et al.*, 1997; Grasten *et al.*, 2000; McIntosh *et al.*, 2003; Bird *et*

al., 2008). The data on dietary intakes were insufficient to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).

- 8.101 An effect on increasing faecal weight is reported for a novel barley (containing more resistant starch and non-starch polysaccharide than normal barley) (Bird *et al.*, 2008), a higher rye-fibre diet (McIntosh *et al.*, 2003), whole grain rye bread (Grasten *et al.*, 2000) maize fibre (Cherbut *et al.*, 1997) and rice bran (Tomlin & Read, 1988). Total intestinal transit time reductions are demonstrated in the three trials that measured transit time (Tomlin & Read, 1988; Cherbut *et al.*, 1997; Grasten *et al.*, 2000).

Non-wheat cereal fibre and faecal weight
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effect• Adequate evidence• The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of mixed non-wheat cereal fibre is potentially beneficial to health• The effect is potentially biologically relevant

Non-wheat cereal fibre and intestinal transit time
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effect• Limited evidence• The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of mixed non-wheat cereal fibre is potentially beneficial to health• The effect is potentially biologically relevant

Faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content

Wheat fibre

- 8.102 Eight randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on wheat bran in relation to faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content (Jenkins *et al.*, 1975; Lampe *et al.*, 1992; Cummings *et al.*, 1996; Jenkins *et al.*, 1998; Jenkins *et al.*, 1999; McIntosh *et al.*, 2003; Muir *et al.*, 2004; Bird *et al.*, 2008). The data on measures of faecal short chain fatty acid content and pH were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 8.103 Wheat bran increases faecal weight, with a concomitant increase in total daily faecal short chain fatty acid excretion, but most trials observe no significant effect on the concentration or relative proportions of faecal short chain fatty acids. One trial observes wheat bran to increase faecal butyrate concentrations compared with a lower fibre bread control (Lampe *et al.*, 1992), and another trial observes finely ground, but not coarse ground, wheat bran to increase faecal butyrate concentration (Jenkins *et al.*, 1999a).

Wheat fibre and faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Non-wheat cereal fibre

- 8.104 Six randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on non-wheat cereal fibre intake in relation to faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content (Noakes *et al.*, 1996; Grasten *et al.*, 2000; McIntosh *et al.*, 2003; Grasten *et al.*, 2007; Bird *et al.*, 2008; Carvalho-Wells *et al.*, 2010). The data on measures of faecal short chain fatty acid content and pH were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 8.105 Three trials investigate the effect of rye bran on faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content. One reports a higher rye-fibre diet reduces faecal pH and increases faecal butyrate concentration (McIntosh *et al.*, 2003), one reports the same, but in male subjects only (Grasten *et al.*, 2000) and the other reports no significant effect (Grasten *et al.*, 2007). An effect on reducing faecal pH and increasing faecal butyrate concentration is reported for a novel barley (containing more resistant starch and non-starch polysaccharide than normal barley) (Bird *et al.*, 2008). No significant effect on faecal pH or short chain fatty acid content is reported for maize bran (Carvalho-Wells *et al.*, 2010) or oat bran (Noakes *et al.*, 1996).

Non-wheat cereal fibre and faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Constipation

- 8.106 Ten randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on cereal fibre and constipation (Sculati & Giampiccoli, 1984; Anderson & Whichelow, 1985; Finlay, 1988; Brown & Everett, 1990; Mantle, 1992; Badiali *et al.*, 1995; Howard *et al.*, 2000; Rees *et al.*, 2005; Hongisto *et al.*, 2006; Holma *et al.*, 2010) (Colo-rectal health review). The data were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search. The trials were conducted in three subject groups; hospitalised or institutionalised patients (Finlay, 1988; Brown & Everett, 1990; Mantle, 1992; Howard *et al.*, 2000), patients with self-reported constipation (Sculati & Giampiccoli, 1984; Badiali *et al.*, 1995; Rees *et al.*, 2005; Hongisto *et al.*, 2006; Holma *et al.*, 2010) and pregnant women (Anderson & Whichelow, 1985). Improvement in constipation was measured as either a decrease in laxative use or a self-reported improvement in symptoms of constipation.
- 8.107 In the four trials in hospitalised or institutionalised patients, cereal fibre (wheat bran) is reported as effective in reducing laxative use in two trials (Brown & Everett, 1990; Howard *et al.*, 2000) and the other two trials report a tendency for cereal fibre to reduce laxative use (Finlay, 1988; Mantle, 1992). Only one of the four trials,

observes an increase in bowel movement frequency in response to cereal fibre (Brown & Everett, 1990). One of the other trials reports a higher proportion of patients with 2-7 bowel motions a week of soft or firm stools in response to wheat bran supplementation (Mantle, 1992).

- 8.108 In the trials of adults with self-reported constipation, two trials report higher rye bread consumption increases bowel movement frequency, improves stool consistency and results in less strain at defecation relative to lower-fibre bread consumption (Hongisto *et al.*, 2006; Holma *et al.*, 2010). One trial reports a wheat fibre preparation increases bowel movement frequency, improves stool consistency and lessens abdominal pain (Sculati & Giampiccoli, 1984). Two trials in subjects from gastroenterology outpatient clinics report no significant effect of higher wheat bran consumption on bowel movement frequency, strain at defecation or other symptoms (Badiali *et al.*, 1995; Rees *et al.*, 2005).
- 8.109 One trial, investigating the effect of wheat-bran on constipation in pregnancy, reports wheat bran supplementation increases bowel movement frequency and corn fibre has a non-significant tendency to increase bowel movement frequency (Anderson & Whichelow, 1985). No significant effect of either wheat or corn fibre supplementation on stool consistency or abdominal pain is demonstrated.

Cereal fibre and constipation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effect• Moderate evidence• The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of fibre from cereals is beneficial to health• The effect is biologically relevant

Intestinal transit time

- 8.110 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on cereal fibre in relation to total intestinal transit time in outpatients with constipation or patients with self-reported constipation (Corinaldesi *et al.*, 1982; Badiali *et al.*, 1995; Rees *et al.*, 2005; Hongisto *et al.*, 2006; Holma *et al.*, 2010). No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review). The intestinal transit time methodologies were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. Three trials supplemented subjects' diets with wheat bran fibre relative to placebo (Corinaldesi *et al.*, 1982; Badiali *et al.*, 1995; Rees *et al.*, 2005). Two trials assessed the effect of rye bread relative to a lower fibre bread (Hongisto *et al.*, 2006; Holma *et al.*, 2010).
- 8.111 Two trials report an effect of wheat bran (20g/day) on reducing intestinal transit time (Corinaldesi *et al.*, 1982; Badiali *et al.*, 1995). The other trial supplementing with wheat bran (10-20g/day) reports a non-significant tendency for intestinal transit time to be reduced (Rees *et al.*, 2005). One trial reports that consumption of rye bread decreases intestinal transit time (Holma *et al.*, 2010) and one trial reports a non-significant tendency for a decrease (Hongisto *et al.*, 2006), relative to a lower fibre bread control.

Wheat fibre and intestinal transit time in patients with constipation

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of wheat bran fibre is potentially beneficial to health
- The effect is potentially biologically relevant

Colo-rectal adenoma recurrence

- 8.112 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on wheat fibre in relation to colo-rectal adenoma recurrence (MacLennan *et al.*, 1995; Alberts *et al.*, 2000; Ishikawa *et al.*, 2005). A pooled analysis of the Wheat Bran Fiber Trial (Alberts *et al.*, 2000) and the Polyp Prevention Trial (a lower fat, high fibre dietary intervention) (Schatzkin *et al.*, 2000) was also identified (Jacobs *et al.*, 2006). No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 8.113 All three trials report no significant effect of wheat fibre supplements on recurrence of colo-rectal adenomas. The pooled analysis reports an adjusted odds ratio for colo-rectal adenoma recurrence in all subjects on both trials and found no significant effect (OR 0.91, 95% CI 0.78, 1.06). A separate analysis for men and women found that the intervention is associated with a reduced odds of colo-rectal recurrence in men (OR 0.81, 95% CI 0.67, 0.98), but not in women.

Wheat fibre and colo-rectal adenomas

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Colo-rectal cancer

- 8.114 Five cohort studies were identified, in four publications, that presented evidence on cereal fibre intake and colo-rectal cancer, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Michels *et al.*, 2005; Lin *et al.*, 2005; Nomura *et al.*, 2007; Schatzkin *et al.*, 2007). One cohort study was identified in the update search (Murphy *et al.*, 2012) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search). In the colo-rectal health review, Bingham *et al.* (2005) was included in the meta-analysis. Murphy *et al.* (2012) provided data from the same cohort as Bingham *et al.* (2005), but with a longer follow-up period. Therefore an updated meta-analysis was performed which included Murphy *et al.* (2012) in place of Bingham *et al.* (2005). The pooled estimate provided in paragraph 8.115 is taken from the updated meta-analysis (Annex 1 additional meta-analyses).
- 8.115 An association is indicated between higher consumption of cereal fibre and a reduced incidence of colo-rectal cancer (RR 0.92, 95% CI 0.89, 0.96, for each 7g/day increase; $p=0.005$).

Cereal fibre (g/day) and colo-rectal cancer

- Association
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates higher cereal fibre consumption is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Higher dietary fibre breakfast cereals

Coronary events

- 8.116 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on breakfast cereal and coronary events (Key *et al.*, 1996; Jacobs, Jr. *et al.*, 1998; Liu *et al.*, 1999; Liu *et al.*, 2003), three of which were included in a meta-analysis. One cohort study, that could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data, indicated no significant association between bran cereals and coronary events (Key *et al.*, 1996). No further studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter).
- 8.117 An association is indicated between higher dietary fibre breakfast cereal consumption and reduced incidence of coronary events (RR 0.87, CI 0.80, 0.94 for each 0.5 serving/day increase; $p=0.001$). The studies define high dietary fibre breakfast cereals as either having 25% or more whole grains or bran content by weight.

Higher dietary fibre breakfast cereals (serving/day) and coronary events

- Association
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of higher fibre breakfast cereals is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Energy intake

- 8.118 Six randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on breakfast cereal in relation to energy intake, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Kirk *et al.*, 1997; Kleemola *et al.*, 1999; Mattes, 2002; Waller *et al.*, 2004; Rodriguez-Rodriguez *et al.*, 2008; Zaveri & Drummond, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake and eating motivation chapter). The trials assessed the effect of incorporating ready-to-eat breakfast cereals (or cereal bars) into the diet as compared with a 'no dietary change' protocol.
- 8.119 The heterogeneity is above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=80\%$) and, therefore, the pooled estimate is not reported. No consistent effect is demonstrated, between breakfast cereal consumption and energy intake, as observed from the forest plot. Only one trial reports a significant effect with the replacement of two meals/day with higher carbohydrate ready to eat breakfast cereal reducing energy intake (Mattes, 2002), but the results from the other trials show no consistent effect.

Higher dietary fibre breakfast cereals and energy intake

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 8.120 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on higher dietary fibre breakfast cereals and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Liu *et al.*, 2000a; Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Kochar *et al.*, 2007) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter). No further studies were identified in the update search.
- 8.121 An association is indicated between higher dietary fibre breakfast cereal consumption and reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 0.89, CI 0.86, 0.92 for each 0.5 serving/day increase; $p < 0.001$). The studies define high dietary fibre breakfast cereals as either having 25% or more whole grains or bran content by weight.

Higher dietary fibre breakfast cereals (serving/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- Association
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of higher fibre breakfast cereals is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Whole grain Bread

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 8.122 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on whole grain bread and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Liu *et al.*, 2000a; Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Simmons *et al.*, 2007; Schulze *et al.*, 2007a), three of which were included in a meta-analysis (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter). One study could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data (Simmons *et al.*, 2007). No further studies were identified in the update search.
- 8.123 An association is indicated between higher whole grain bread consumption and reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 0.93, CI 0.90, 0.96 for each 0.5 serving/day increase; $p < 0.001$). The study not included in the meta-analysis indicates higher whole grain bread consumption is associated with reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Whole grain bread (serving/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- Association
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates higher consumption of whole grain bread is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Total cereals

Cardiovascular disease

- 8.124 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on total cereals and cardiovascular disease events (Jacobs, Jr. *et al.*, 2001; Liu *et al.*, 2003; Drogan *et al.*, 2007; Panagiotakos *et al.*, 2009). Two studies could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data, leaving an insufficient number of studies to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter). No further studies were identified in the update search.
- 8.125 One study indicates no significant association between total cereal consumption and cardiovascular disease (Panagiotakos *et al.*, 2009). The other three studies indicate higher consumption of higher fibre and total cereal (Liu *et al.*, 2003), and whole grain bread (Jacobs, Jr. *et al.*, 2001; Drogan *et al.*, 2007) is associated with a reduced incidence of cardiovascular disease. The results are consistent with those relating to whole grains consumption.

Total cereals (serving/day) and cardiovascular disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Association• Moderate evidence• The direction of the association indicates higher total cereal consumption is beneficial to health• The association is biologically relevant

Whole grains

- 8.126 The definitions of whole grains vary between studies. The term ‘whole grains’ can have several meanings from ‘whole of the grain’ through to physically intact structures. Whole grains include whole wheat, whole-wheat flour, wheat flakes, bulgar wheat, whole and rolled oats, oatmeal, oat flakes, brown rice, whole rye and rye flour and whole barley. The definition of whole grains is discussed further in Chapter 2, paragraphs 2.39 to 2.41. Any associations indicated for whole grain may be related to its cereal fibre component. In one study cereal fibre intake was shown to be strongly correlated with consumption of whole-grain bread ($r = 0.71$) (Schulze *et al.*, 2007a).

Cardiovascular disease

- 8.127 Six cohort studies from nine publications were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake and incident cardiovascular disease events (Jacobs, Jr. *et al.*, 1998; Liu *et al.*, 1999; Liu *et al.*, 2000b; Steffen *et al.*, 2003; Jensen *et al.*, 2004; Sahyoun *et al.*, 2006; Drogan *et al.*, 2007; Jacobs, Jr. *et al.*, 2007; Nettleton *et al.*, 2008), five of which were included in a meta-analysis (Liu *et al.*, 2000; Steffen *et al.*, 2003; Jensen *et al.*, 2004; Sahyoun *et al.*, 2006; Jacobs, Jr. *et al.*, 2007). Results from four publications were not included in the meta-analysis. Two publications were an early analysis (Jacobs, Jr. *et al.*, 1998; Liu *et al.*, 1999) of data that are more fully presented in later publications (Liu *et al.*, 2000b; Jacobs, Jr. *et al.*, 2007). Two

publications presented data on the same study (Steffen *et al.*, 2003; Nettleton *et al.*, 2008) and the data from the former were used in a meta-analysis. One study only presented results for individual sources of whole grains, which were in broad agreement with the results from the meta-analysis (Drogan *et al.*, 2007). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search (Nilsson *et al.*, 2012) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search).

- 8.128 An association is indicated between higher consumption of whole grains and a reduced incidence of cardiovascular disease (RR 0.95, 95% CI 0.92, 0.97 for each 0.5 serving/day; $p < 0.001$). The study identified in the update search indicates no significant association between whole grains intake and incidence of cardiovascular disease.

Whole grains (serving/day) and cardiovascular disease

- Association
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates higher whole grains consumption is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Stroke

- 8.129 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake and stroke, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Liu *et al.*, 2000b; Steffen *et al.*, 2003; Jacobs, Jr. *et al.*, 2007). No further studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter).
- 8.130 An association is indicated between higher consumption of whole grains and a reduced incidence of stroke (RR 0.96, 95% CI 0.93, 0.99 for each 0.5 serving/day; $p = 0.02$).

Whole grains (serving/day) and stroke

- Association
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the association indicates higher whole grains consumption is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Hypertension

- 8.131 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake and incident hypertension, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Steffen *et al.*, 2005; Wang *et al.*, 2007; Flint *et al.*, 2009). No further studies were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter).
- 8.132 An association is indicated between higher consumption of whole grains and a reduced incidence of hypertension (RR 0.95, 95% CI 0.93, 0.96 for each 0.5 serving/day; $p < 0.001$).

Whole grains (serving/day) and hypertension

- Association
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the association indicates higher whole grains consumption is beneficial to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Blood pressure

- 8.133 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake in relation to blood pressure, all of which were included in the meta-analyses for systolic and diastolic blood pressure (Davy *et al.*, 2002b; Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Andersson *et al.*, 2007; Tinker *et al.*, 2008). Two publications presented data from the same trial (Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Tinker *et al.*, 2008), and the data from Howard *et al.* (2006b) were used in the meta-analysis. Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Brownlee *et al.*, 2010; Tighe *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, incident hypertension and blood pressure chapter; Update search). All trials compared whole grain diets to refined grain control diets.
- 8.134 No significant effect is demonstrated for whole grains consumption on systolic blood pressure (0.2 mmHg, 95% CI -1.6, 2.0; $p=0.85$). Of the trials identified in the update search one reports no significant effect (Brownlee *et al.*, 2010), and the other reports higher whole grains consumption to reduce systolic blood pressure (Tighe *et al.*, 2010).
- 8.135 No significant effect is demonstrated for whole grains consumption on diastolic blood pressure (-0.3 mmHg, 95% CI -0.9, 0.4; $p=0.43$). The two trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of whole grains consumption on diastolic blood pressure.
- 8.136 One trial, contributes 92% to the pooled estimate for systolic blood pressure and 97% for diastolic blood pressure (Howard *et al.*, 2006b). This trial elicited a very small increase in whole grains consumption (less than one serving per day) and also resulted in weight loss differences between experimental groups.

Whole grains and systolic and diastolic blood pressure

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Fasting blood lipids

- 8.137 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake in relation to total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol and triacylglycerol concentration, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Davy *et al.*, 2002a; Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Andersson *et al.*, 2007; Kim *et al.*, 2008). One study did not report data on LDL-cholesterol (Kim *et al.*, 2008). Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Tighe *et al.*, 2010; Brownlee *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and

blood lipids chapter; Update search). All trials compared whole grain diets to refined grain control diets. Two of the trials are weight-loss trials (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Kim *et al.*, 2008).

- 8.138 No significant effect is demonstrated for whole grains consumption on fasting total cholesterol concentration (0.04mmol/L, 95% CI -0.12, 0.20; p=0.49). The trials identified in the update search demonstrate inconsistent effects of whole grains consumption on fasting total cholesterol concentration. One trial reports no significant effect (Brownlee *et al.*, 2010), and the other reports a decrease with refined grain consumption (Tighe *et al.*, 2010).
- 8.139 No significant effect is demonstrated for whole grains consumption on fasting triacylglycerol concentration (-0.02mmol/L, 95% CI -0.06, 0.03; p=0.46). The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of whole grains consumption on fasting triacylglycerol concentration.
- 8.140 No consistent effect is demonstrated for whole grains consumption on either fasting HDL- or LDL-cholesterol concentration on the forest plot, and the heterogeneity is above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=77%$ and $79%$, respectively) and, therefore, the pooled estimate is not reported. The heterogeneity may be due to differences in subjects' weight change between the trials. One trial reports a higher BMI with higher whole grains consumption, as compared with refined grain consumption (Andersson *et al.*, 2007). The weight loss trials report greater weight loss after higher whole grains consumption, as compared with refined grain consumption (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Howard *et al.*, 2006; Kim *et al.*, 2008). The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect on HDL-cholesterol concentration and inconsistent effects on LDL-cholesterol concentration. One trial reports no significant effect (Brownlee *et al.*, 2010), and the other reports a decrease with refined grain consumption (Tighe *et al.*, 2010).

Whole grains and fasting total cholesterol and triacylglycerol concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Adequate evidence

Energy intake

- 8.141 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake in relation to energy intake, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Turpeinen *et al.*, 2000; Howard *et al.*, 2006a; Andersson *et al.*, 2007; Tinker *et al.*, 2008). Two publications reported on the same trial (Howard *et al.*, 2006a; Tinker *et al.*, 2008) and the data from Tinker *et al.* (2008) were used in the meta-analysis (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake and eating motivation chapter). All trials compared whole grain diets to refined grain control diets.
- 8.142 An effect is demonstrated for higher whole grains consumption on reducing energy intake (-360 kJ, 95% CI -642, -79; p=0.01). One trial contributes 75% to the pooled estimate (Tinker *et al.*, 2008) and is responsible for the significant effect. The dietary intervention in this study is to promote a decrease in fat intake and

increases in vegetable, fruit, and grain consumption, with the increase in whole grains intake being small (daily whole grains servings increased from 1.1 to 1.4).

Whole grains and energy intake
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect • Limited evidence • The direction of the effect demonstrates higher whole grains consumption may be beneficial to health, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other dietary variables • The effect is biologically relevant

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 8.143 Eight cohort studies in seven publications were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake and incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Liu *et al.*, 2000c; Fung *et al.*, 2002; Montonen *et al.*, 2003; van Dam *et al.*, 2006; de Munter *et al.*, 2007; Fisher *et al.*, 2009). De Munter *et al.* 2007 reported on the Nurse’s Health Study and on the Nurse’s Health Study 2. Two publications reported on the same study (Liu *et al.*, 2000c; de Munter *et al.*, 2007) and the data from the most recent were used in a meta-analysis (de Munter *et al.*, 2007). One publication reporting a longer follow-up period for three cohorts already included, was identified in the update search (Sun *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search). A further meta-analysis was performed (Aune *et al.*, 2013) which included the studies found in the update search and also included three later studies (Ericson *et al.*, 2013; Parker *et al.*, 2013; Wirstrom *et al.*, 2013). The results from the later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.
- 8.144 An association is indicated, between higher whole grains consumption and reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes, as indicated from the forest plot, but the heterogeneity is above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=82\%$) and, therefore, the pooled estimate is not reported.

Whole grains (serving/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association • Moderate evidence • The direction of the association indicates higher whole grains consumption is beneficial to health • It is not possible to quantify the magnitude of the association due to differences in definition and serving size used. It is therefore not possible to determine the biological relevance of this finding

Fasting blood glucose

- 8.145 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake in relation to fasting blood glucose, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Andersson *et al.*, 2007; Kim *et al.*, 2008; Tinker *et al.*, 2008). Two publications reported on the same trial (Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Tinker *et al.*, 2008); the results from Howard *et al.*

(2006b) were used in a meta-analysis. Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Tighe *et al.*, 2010; Brownlee *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search). All trials compared whole grain diets to refined grain control diets. Two of the trials were weight-loss trials (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Kim *et al.*, 2008).

8.146 No significant effect is demonstrated for whole grains consumption on fasting blood glucose concentration (-0.05mmol/L, 95% CI -0.12, 0.02; p=0.14). The trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of whole grains consumption on fasting blood glucose concentration.

Whole grains and fasting blood glucose concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Adequate evidence

Fasting blood insulin

8.147 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake in relation to fasting insulin (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Andersson *et al.*, 2007; Kim *et al.*, 2008; Tinker *et al.*, 2008). Two publications reported on the same trial (Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Tinker *et al.*, 2008); the results from Howard *et al.* (2006b) were used. Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Tighe *et al.*, 2010; Brownlee *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search). All trials compared whole grain diets to refined grain control diets. Two of the trials were weight-loss trials (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Kim *et al.*, 2008).

8.148 Due to the different methodologies used to measure fasting insulin concentration, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. All of the trials identified in the systematic review and the update search report no significant effect of whole grains consumption on fasting insulin concentration.

Whole grains and fasting blood insulin concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Adequate evidence

Insulin sensitivity

8.149 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake in relation to insulin sensitivity (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001; Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Andersson *et al.*, 2007; Tinker *et al.*, 2008). Two publications reported on the same trial (Howard *et al.*, 2006b; Tinker *et al.*, 2008); the results from Howard *et al.*, 2006b were used. Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Tighe *et al.*, 2010; Brownlee *et al.*, 2010) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search). All trials compared whole grain diets to refined grain control diets. One of the trials was a weight-loss study (Saltzman *et al.*, 2001).

- 8.150 Due to variation between the different methodologies used to measure fasting insulin concentration, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. All of the trials identified in the systematic review and the update search report no significant effect of whole grains consumption on insulin sensitivity.

Whole grains and insulin sensitivity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Adequate evidence

Colo-rectal cancer

- 8.151 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake and colo-rectal cancer incidence, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Pietinen *et al.*, 1999; Larsson *et al.*, 2005; Schatzkin *et al.*, 2007). No further studies were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 8.152 A non-significant borderline association is indicated between higher whole grains consumption and reduced incidence of colo-rectal cancer (RR 0.97, CI 0.94, 1.00 for each 0.5 serving/day increase; $p=0.077$).

Whole grains (serving/day) and colo-rectal cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Limited evidence

Colon cancer

- 8.153 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on whole grains intake and colon cancer incidence, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (McCullough *et al.*, 2003; Larsson *et al.*, 2005; Schatzkin *et al.*, 2007). No further studies were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 8.154 An association is indicated between higher whole grains consumption and reduced incidence of colon cancer (RR 0.97, CI 0.95, 0.99 for each 0.5 serving/day increase; $p=0.015$).

Whole grains (serving/day) and colon cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Association• Limited evidence• The direction of the association indicates higher whole grains consumption is beneficial to health• The association is biologically relevant

Children and adolescents

- 8.155 Three cohort studies were conducted in children and adolescents aged five years or more.

Body fatness and fat distribution

- 8.156 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on diets differing in dietary fibre content and body fatness and fat distribution (Johnson *et al.*, 2008; Cheng *et al.*, 2009; Albertson *et al.*, 2009). One study reported grams of fibre consumed per day and anthropometric data at puberty onset and over the subsequent 4 years (Cheng *et al.*, 2009). Another study determined dietary fibre density in the diets of UK children aged 5 and 7 years, and fatness at 9 years (Johnson *et al.*, 2008). The third study reported the cumulative percentage of days that girls consumed cereal during childhood (between ages 11.5 and 18.6 years), and percentage body fat at 18.6 years of age (Albertson *et al.*, 2009). It is unclear whether in this study, 'cereal' refers to breakfast cereals only or to total cereals. The outcomes of the studies were assessed differently: by skinfold measurements (Cheng *et al.*, 2009), by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (Johnson *et al.*, 2008) and by bioimpedance (Albertson *et al.*, 2009).
- 8.157 No significant association is indicated between dietary fibre intake and body fatness in two of the studies, but one does indicate that girls who ate cereal on a greater percentage of days during childhood had a lower percentage body fat and were more likely to exhibit higher levels of physical activity (Albertson *et al.*, 2009). Overall, none of the results support a strong relationship between dietary fibre intake and adiposity in children.

Dietary fibre (g/day) and body fatness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Limited evidence

Outcomes where there is insufficient or inconsistent evidence¹³

- 8.158 The tables below detail the exposures and outcomes where there are two or fewer studies that meet the inclusion criteria for the review (e.g. by study duration, publication date, health of subjects, design of intervention), or where the studies are too inconsistent, to draw a conclusion as per the grading system in Annex 2. A full description of the studies can be found in the relevant systematic reviews.

Table 8.1: Insufficient evidence - cohort studies

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Cardiovascular disease events	legume fibre
Coronary events	whole grain foods bread legumes

Table 8.1: *continued*

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Stroke	soluble and insoluble fibre fibre in fruit fibre in vegetables (including potatoes) fibre in cereals total cereal intake legume intake
Fibrinogen	dietary fibre
Coronary and aortic calcification	dietary fibre
Vascular function	whole grains consumption
Incident hypertension	dietary fibre intake total cereal intake legume intake
Blood pressure	dietary fibre
Fasting blood lipids	dietary fibre intake breakfast cereals
Fibrinogen	dietary fibre intake
Change in body weight	dietary fibre intake, total cereal intake whole grains intake
Body fatness and fat distribution	dietary fibre, cereal intake whole grains intake
Type 2 diabetes mellitus	whole legume intake
Impaired glucose tolerance and altered fasting glycaemia	dietary fibre bread legumes
Insulinemia and insulin resistance/sensitivity	dietary fibre
Insulin resistance	dietary fibre
Colo-rectal cancer	soluble and insoluble fibre whole grains intake
Colon cancer	soluble and insoluble fibre vegetable fibre fruit fibre legume fibre
Rectal Cancer	soluble and insoluble fibre cereal fibre whole grains intake vegetable fibre fruit fibre legume fibre
Colo-rectal adenoma recurrence	dietary fibre

Table 8.2: Insufficient evidence - randomised controlled trials

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Blood pressure	dietary fibre breakfast cereals legumes
Fasting blood lipids	breakfast cereals legumes dietary fibre oat fibre and β -glucans whole grains intake
IL-6, PAI-1, CRP, fibrinogen	dietary fibre intake whole grains intake
Change in body weight and BMI	whole grains intake
Body fatness and fat distribution	dietary fibre whole grains intake
Energy intake	legumes
Eating motivation	oat fibre and β -glucans breakfast cereal consumption
Type 2 diabetes mellitus	whole grains intake
Impaired glucose tolerance	oat fibre and β -glucans
Fasting glycaemia	breakfast cereals legumes
Insulin resistance/sensitivity	dietary fibre oat fibre and β -glucans legumes
Insulinemia	breakfast cereals legumes
Glycosylated blood proteins	dietary fibre
Dental caries	dietary fibre
Intestinal transit time	whole grains intake
Stool frequency	whole grains intake oat fibre and β -glucans
Faecal weight	oat fibre and β -glucans
Faecal bacteria populations	whole grains intake wheat bran legume fibre oat fibre and β -glucans
Faecal weight in people with constipation	cereal fibre

Table 8.3: Inconsistent evidence

Risk factor/health outcome	Exposure
Coronary events	total cereal intake
HDL and LDL-cholesterol	whole grains intake

Summary and conclusions

- 8.159 There is a lack of evidence on dietary fibre intake in relation to oral health outcomes. Three prospective cohort studies were conducted in children and adolescents. A full review of all the physiological effects of dietary fibre was not conducted as part of the report. With observational studies there is substantial potential for biases and the possibility of confounding by an extraneous variable that correlates with both the dependent variable and the independent variable (residual confounding) and any associations must be interpreted with caution.
- 8.160 Overall the evidence from prospective cohort studies indicates that diets rich in dietary fibre are associated with a lower incidence of cardiovascular diseases, coronary events, stroke and type 2 diabetes mellitus, colo-rectal cancer, colon and rectal cancer. No association with change in body weight in adults or body fatness in children and adolescents is indicated. Although the definitions used to define whole grains vary between studies, higher whole grains consumption is associated with a lower incidence of cardiovascular disease, stroke, hypertension, type 2 diabetes mellitus and colon cancer; however, the evidence is based on a smaller number of studies than for dietary fibre. Higher cereal fibre consumption is associated with a lower incidence of coronary events, type 2 diabetes mellitus and colo-rectal cancer. The evidence is more limited for individual constituents of dietary fibres due to the smaller number of studies available.
- 8.161 Randomised controlled trials indicate there is no effect of total or mixed dietary fibre intake on the cardiovascular or type 2 diabetes mellitus risk factors considered here. Trials indicate that dietary fibre, wheat fibre and other cereal fibres decrease intestinal transit times and increase faecal mass, and have similar effect sizes. Trials found that legume fibre increased faecal weight. Higher cereal fibre consumption is shown to reduce constipation. Trials indicate no effect of cereal fibre supplements on recurrence of colo-rectal adenomas. Trials in subjects receiving oat fibre or β -glucan indicate that these cereal fibre components have beneficial effects on fasting blood lipid concentrations and blood pressure. The quantities of oat bran and isolated β -glucan used in these trials generally exceed levels currently consumed in a typical UK diet, but recent and future developments of novel food ingredients may substantially increase the intake of isolated β -glucan.
- 8.162 Randomised trials indicate that dietary fibre intake has no effect on body weight change or energy intake. There is limited evidence from trials, however, that a higher whole grains intake may decrease total dietary energy intake, but more evidence is required to draw firm conclusions.

8.163 Overall, prospective cohort studies provide mainly adequate evidence that a diet higher in dietary fibre is associated with a lower incidence of cardiovascular diseases, coronary events, type 2 diabetes mellitus, colo-rectal cancer, colon and rectal cancer. Randomised controlled trials indicate no effect of dietary fibre on cardio-metabolic risk factors, except for relatively high doses of β -glucan fibre, but do indicate a beneficial effect of dietary fibre on constipation, on decreasing intestinal transit times and on increasing faecal mass.

9 Non-digestible oligosaccharides, resistant starch, polyols and polydextrose

- 9.1 This assessment is based on randomised controlled trials investigating the relationship between supplements of non-digestible oligosaccharides (incl. inulin), resistant starch, polyols or polydextrose and cardio-metabolic and colorectal health. Adverse effects on gastrointestinal symptoms such as bloating, borborygmi or flatulence, have not been considered. There were no prospective cohort studies investigating the relationship between oligosaccharides and the relevant health/disease outcomes. Links to the individual systematic reviews and update search are given in Annex 1.
- 9.2 Evidence on health/disease outcomes has been discussed in detail only where there are sufficient data for a conclusion to be drawn from studies meeting the pre-agreed inclusion criteria. Outcomes where there are too few studies to reach a conclusion, are listed at the end of the chapter (see Table 9.1). Outcomes where the evidence was considered too inconsistent to make a valid judgement are also listed at the end of the chapter (see Table 9.2).
- 9.3 Information on resistant starch, non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin intake in the UK is not available from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey. Based on the analytically determined inulin and fructo-oligosaccharide (fructans) content of specific foods (cereals, fruits and vegetables) and consumption data from the USA and Europe, it has been estimated that the intake of inulin-type fructans ranges between 1 and 4 g/day (van Loo *et al.*, 1995). A study in 66 subjects in the UK (Dunn *et al.*, 2011) estimates mean intakes of inulin and oligofructose to be approximately 4.0g/day and 3.8g/day respectively. Fructans are the storage carbohydrates in artichokes and chicory with small amounts of low molecular weight forms found in wheat, rye, asparagus and members of the onion, leek and garlic family (Cummings & Stephen, 2007). The main source of inulin-type fructans in a typical Western diet are wheat and onions.
- 9.4 National statistics for consumption of starchy foods have been used to estimate the intake of resistant starch in Europe as 4.1 g/day with variation in mean intakes from 3.2 to 5.7 between different European countries (Asp *et al.*, 1996). The calculations are based on literature data using the Englyst method (Englyst *et al.*, 1992) or separate analyses of foods with the Englyst method or the modified Berry method (Champ *et al.*, 2003). Resistant starch intake in Sweden is estimated to be 3.2g/day (no variance data given) (Liljeberg Elmstahl, 2002), based on consumption data from the 1997-1998 national survey and calculated from the individual foods analysed using a modified Berry method (Akerberg *et al.*, 1998). In the UK, mean resistant starch intake has been estimated at about 2.8g/day. This figure is derived from published food and food ingredient values for resistant

starch in conjunction with the average weekly consumption of these foods (and foods prepared from the food ingredients) by the general UK population (Annual Report of the Food Survey Committee, 1985) (Tomlin & Read, 1990).

- 9.5 Using national food consumption data from surveys conducted during the 1980s and determination of food resistant starch content by a modified Berry method (Berry, 1986; Champ *et al.*, 2003), Italian intakes of resistant starch are estimated at 8.5 g/day (no variance data given), with regional differences (from 7.2 g/day in the north-west to 9.2 g/day in the south) (Brighenti *et al.*, 1998). In Australia, intakes of resistant starch are estimated to be between 3.4 and 9.4g/day using the 1995 National Nutrition Survey and published values of food resistant starch content. The calculations are based on literature data obtained using the Englyst method (Roberts *et al.*, 2004). In the USA, resistant starch mean intake is estimated to be approximately 4.9 g/day (range 2.8 to 7.9 g/day) based on the 1999-2002 National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys and literature data of food resistant starch concentrations using the modified Berry method (Murphy *et al.*, 2008).
- 9.6 The mono- and di-saccharide polyols, glycerol (E 422), sorbitol (E 420), mannitol (E 421), isomalt (E 953), maltitol (E 965), lactitol (E 966), xylitol (E 967), erythritol (E 968), and polydextrose (E 1200) are additives and it is likely that these substances are present in small amounts in diets in the UK. The National Diet and Nutrition Survey does not provide information on intakes.

Adults

Non-digestible oligosaccharides

Fasting blood lipid concentrations

- 9.7 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on fructo-oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation and fasting blood lipids, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Davidson *et al.*, 1998; Jackson *et al.*, 1999; Letexier *et al.*, 2003; Forcheron & Beylot, 2007; Genta *et al.*, 2009). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter).
- 9.8 An effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide supplementation on reducing fasting LDL-cholesterol is demonstrated (-0.39mmol/L, 95% CI -0.76, -0.03; p=0.04). The trial that reports the greatest effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide supplementation on fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration, as compared with the unsupplemented controls, also reports greater weight loss in the supplemented group (Genta *et al.*, 2009).
- 9.9 No significant effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation on fasting total cholesterol (-0.13mmol/L, 95% CI -0.55, 0.30; p=0.57) or HDL-cholesterol (0.04mmol/L, 95% CI -0.12, 0.20; p=0.60) is demonstrated. A borderline significant association was reported for triacylglycerol concentration (-0.13mmol/L, 95% CI -0.27, 0.00; p=0.06). Three trials administer 10g/day inulin compared with a maltodextrin control (Jackson *et al.*, 1999; Letexier *et al.*, 2003;

Forcheron & Beylot, 2007). One trial administers approximately 12g/day fructo-oligosaccharides (as yacon syrup) compared with a similar dose of placebo syrup (Genta *et al.*, 2009). The other trial administers 18g/day inulin incorporated into chocolate, spreads and sweeteners and compared with un-supplemented products (Davidson *et al.*, 1998).

Non-digestible oligosaccharides (fructo-oligosaccharide or inulin) and fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect • Limited evidence • The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of non-digestible oligosaccharides is potentially beneficial to health. The magnitude of the effect is biologically relevant, but is inconsistent with the effects on other fasting lipid concentrations. The supplement doses used are above levels currently consumed in typical diets in the UK, but recent and future developments of novel food ingredients may substantially increase the intake of these oligosaccharides • The effect is biologically relevant

Non-digestible oligosaccharides (fructo-oligosaccharide or inulin) and fasting total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol and triacylglycerol concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Limited evidence

Energy intake

- 9.10 Eleven randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation and energy intake, eight of which were included in a meta-analysis (Luo *et al.*, 1996; Pedersen *et al.*, 1997; Davidson *et al.*, 1998; Cani *et al.*, 2006; Pasman *et al.*, 2006; Forcheron & Beylot, 2007; Cani *et al.*, 2009; Parnell & Reimer, 2009). Three trials could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (Letexier *et al.*, 2003; van den Heuvel *et al.*, 2004; Genta *et al.*, 2009) (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake and eating motivation chapter).
- 9.11 Most trials administer either fructo-oligosaccharides or inulin, compared with a maltodextrin control; seven trials administer doses between 10 and 18g/day (Pedersen *et al.*, 1997; Davidson *et al.*, 1998; Letexier *et al.*, 2003; Cani *et al.*, 2006; Forcheron & Beylot, 2007; Genta *et al.*, 2009; Cani *et al.*, 2009), two trials administer doses of 20-21g/day (Luo *et al.*, 1996; Parnell & Reimer, 2009). Two trials administer a modified dextrin in a dose-response manner at doses of 30, 40, 60 or 80 g/day (van den Heuvel *et al.*, 2004; Pasman *et al.*, 2006).
- 9.12 No significant effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation on energy intake is demonstrated (-378kj, 95% CI -791, 36; p=0.07). The result is of borderline statistical significance. When the dose-response effect is explored by plotting the trials by order of difference in oligosaccharide intake between study groups, it appears that only at doses greater than 20g/day is there any suggestion of an effect. The three trials not included in the meta-analysis report no significant effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide supplementation on energy intake.

Non-digestible oligosaccharides and energy intake

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Fasting blood glucose

- 9.13 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation and fasting blood glucose concentration, four of which were included in a meta-analysis (Jackson *et al.*, 1999; Letexier *et al.*, 2003; Forcheron & Beylot, 2007; Genta *et al.*, 2009). One trial could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data (Parnell & Reimer, 2009). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter). The meta-analysis did not adjust for baseline variable levels and possible differences in impact.
- 9.14 Three trials administered 10g/day inulin compared with a maltodextrin control (Jackson *et al.*, 1999; Letexier *et al.*, 2003; Forcheron & Beylot, 2007). One trial administered approximately 12g/day fructo-oligosaccharides (as yacon syrup) compared with a similar dose of placebo syrup (Genta *et al.*, 2009). The other trial administered 21g/day inulin compared with a maltodextrin control (Parnell & Reimer, 2009).
- 9.15 No significant effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation on fasting blood glucose concentration is demonstrated (-0.13mmol/L, 95% CI -0.46, 0.20; p=0.79). The trial not included in the meta-analysis reports fasting glucose concentration to be reduced by non-digestible oligosaccharide supplementation and increased in the control group, which reflects the difference in body weight change between the experimental groups (Parnell & Reimer, 2009). Whether there is an overall effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide supplementation compared with control is unclear.

Non-digestible oligosaccharides and fasting blood glucose concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Fasting blood insulin

- 9.16 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation and fasting blood insulin concentration (Jackson *et al.*, 1999; Letexier *et al.*, 2003; Forcheron & Beylot, 2007; Genta *et al.*, 2009; Parnell & Reimer, 2009). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter).
- 9.17 Three trials administer 10g/day inulin compared with a maltodextrin control (Jackson *et al.*, 1999; Letexier *et al.*, 2003; Forcheron & Beylot, 2007). One trial administers approximately 12g/day fructo-oligosaccharides (as yacon syrup) compared with a similar dose of placebo syrup (Genta *et al.*, 2009). The other

trial administers 21g/day inulin compared with a maltodextrin control (Parnell & Reimer, 2009).

- 9.18 Due to variation between the different methodologies used to measure fasting insulin concentration, it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis. No significant effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide supplementation on fasting blood insulin concentration is demonstrated in three of the trials (Jackson *et al.*, 1999; Letexier *et al.*, 2003; Forcheron & Beylot, 2007). One trial reports fasting insulin concentration to be reduced by oligosaccharide supplementation and increased in the control group, which reflects the difference in body weight change between the experimental groups (Parnell & Reimer, 2009). Whether there is an overall effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide supplementation compared with control is unclear. The other trial reports an effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide supplementation on reducing fasting blood insulin concentration, which reflects the difference in body weight change between the experimental groups (Genta *et al.*, 2009).

Non-digestible oligosaccharides and fasting blood insulin concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Moderate evidence

Faecal weight

- 9.19 Nine randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation in relation to faecal weight, of which eight were included in a meta-analysis (Ito *et al.*, 1990; Bouhnik *et al.*, 1996; Alles *et al.*, 1999; van Dokkum *et al.*, 1999; Causey *et al.*, 2000; Den Hond *et al.*, 2000; Tahiri *et al.*, 2001; Scholtens *et al.*, 2006b). In those trials that employed doses of less than 10g/day there was no indication of any effect on faecal wet weight, so only data from doses of 10g/day or more were used. One trial was not included in the meta-analysis as it supplemented subjects' diets with a 3g/day dose of non-digestible oligosaccharide (Swanson *et al.*, 2002). No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 9.20 Three trials supplemented subjects' diets with galacto-oligosaccharide (doses 10 to 15g/day) (Ito *et al.*, 1990; Alles *et al.*, 1999; van Dokkum *et al.*, 1999); three trials supplemented subjects' diets with inulin (doses 15 to 20g/day) (van Dokkum *et al.*, 1999; Causey *et al.*, 2000; Den Hond *et al.*, 2000); and four trials supplemented subjects' diets with fructo-oligosaccharide (doses 10 to 30g/day) (Bouhnik *et al.*, 1996; van Dokkum *et al.*, 1999; Tahiri *et al.*, 2001; Scholtens *et al.*, 2006b). All trials compare supplemented groups to either a sugar or maltodextrin control group.
- 9.21 An effect of all non-digestible oligosaccharide and inulin supplementation (10 to 30g/day; mean 15.4g/day) on increasing faecal wet weight is demonstrated (20g/day, 95% CI 6, 35; p=0.006; data from eight trials).

- 9.22 An effect of fructo-oligosaccharide and inulin supplementation (10 to 30g/day; mean 16.4g/day) on increasing faecal wet weight is demonstrated (23g/day, 95% CI 7, 40; $p=0.006$; data from six trials).
- 9.23 No significant effect of galacto-oligosaccharide supplementation (10 to 15g/day; mean 13g/day) on faecal wet weight is demonstrated (13g/day, 95% CI -11, 37; $p=0.292$; data from three trials). This is limited by the small number of trials supplementing with galacto-oligosaccharide.
- 9.24 Overall, there appears to be no difference in the faecal bulking capacity of fructo-oligosaccharide and inulin, which broadly equated to a 1 to 1.5g increase in faecal wet weight per 1g non-digestible oligosaccharide intake. The data are limited in relation to the faecal bulking capacity of galacto-oligosaccharide due to there being only three trials. Meta-regression of all data shows no significant linear dose-response relationship in the data, but interpretation is limited due to the relatively small number of trials; a one gram increase in non-digestible oligosaccharide intake results in a 1.8g (95% CI -0.8, 4.4; $p<0.15$) increase in faecal wet weight (Annex 1 additional meta-analyses).

Non-digestible oligosaccharides and faecal weight

- Effect
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of non-digestible oligosaccharides is potentially beneficial to health. The supplement doses used are above levels currently consumed in typical diets in the UK, but recent and future developments of novel food ingredients may substantially increase the intake of these oligosaccharides
- The effect is potentially biologically relevant

Faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content

- 9.25 Fifteen randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation in relation to faecal pH or short chain fatty acid (SCFA) content (Bouhnik *et al.*, 1996; Bouhnik *et al.*, 1999; Alles *et al.*, 1999; van Dokkum *et al.*, 1999; Causey *et al.*, 2000; Tuohy *et al.*, 2001; Tahiri *et al.*, 2001; Swanson *et al.*, 2002; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2004; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2006; Scholtens *et al.*, 2006; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2007; Kleessen *et al.*, 2007; Ramnani *et al.*, 2010; Walton *et al.*, 2010). No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review). The data on measures of faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. Nine trials supplemented subjects' diets with fructo-oligosaccharides (doses 2.5-30g/day) (Bouhnik *et al.*, 1996; van Dokkum *et al.*, 1999; Bouhnik *et al.*, 1999; Tahiri *et al.*, 2001; Tuohy *et al.*, 2001; Swanson *et al.*, 2002; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2004; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2006; Scholtens *et al.*, 2006b). Three trials supplemented subjects' diets with galacto-oligosaccharides (doses 8.5 to 15g/day) (Alles *et al.*, 1999; van Dokkum *et al.*, 1999; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2004), six trials supplemented subjects' diets with inulin (van Dokkum *et al.*, 1999; Causey *et al.*, 2000; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2004; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2007; Kleessen *et al.*, 2007; Ramnani *et al.*, 2010) and one trial supplemented subjects' diets with manno-oligosaccharides derived from

coffee (Walton *et al.*, 2010). All trials compared supplemented groups to either a sugar or maltodextrin control group.

- 9.26 Eight trials determined faecal SCFA content in response to non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation and none report an effect on overall SCFA content. Five of these trials report no significant effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation (3 to 15g/day) on individual faecal SCFA content (Alles *et al.*, 1999; Swanson *et al.*, 2002; Kleessen *et al.*, 2007; Ramnani *et al.*, 2010; Walton *et al.*, 2010); three report an increase in the concentration or proportion of faecal acetate at higher doses of non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin (15 to 30g/day) (van Dokkum *et al.*, 1999; Causey *et al.*, 2000; Scholtens *et al.*, 2006b). None of the trials report an effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation on faecal pH.

Non-digestible oligosaccharides and faecal short chain fatty acid content and pH
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Faecal bacteria

Inulin

- 9.27 Seven randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on inulin supplementation (doses 5 to 15g/day) in relation to faecal bacteria content (Bouhnik *et al.*, 2004; Fuller *et al.*, 2007; Kleessen *et al.*, 2007; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2007; Calame *et al.*, 2008; Costabile *et al.*, 2010; Ramnani *et al.*, 2010). The data on measures of faecal bacteria content were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. One trial was identified in the update search (Slavin & Feirtag, 2011) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search). All trials compared supplemented groups to either a sugar or maltodextrin control.
- 9.28 Four trials report inulin supplementation (5 to 10g/day) to increase faecal *Bifidobacterium* spp. content (Fuller *et al.*, 2007; Kleessen *et al.*, 2007; Ramnani *et al.*, 2010; Costabile *et al.*, 2010). No significant effect of inulin supplementation (5 to 10g/day) on faecal bacteria content is reported in three trials (Bouhnik *et al.*, 2004; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2007; Calame *et al.*, 2008). The trial identified in the update search reports no significant effect of inulin supplementation (20g/day) on faecal *Bifidobacterium* spp. content. Overall, the evidence is more inconsistent than for fructo- and galacto-oligosaccharides. It is possible that this inconsistency reflects inconsistencies in the average molecular weight of the inulin supplements used in these studies.

Inulin and faecal bacteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Fructo-oligosaccharides

- 9.29 Six randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on fructo-oligosaccharide supplementation (doses 2.5 to 20g/day) in relation to faecal bacteria content (Bouhnik *et al.*, 1996; Bouhnik *et al.*, 1999; Tuohy *et al.*, 2001; Tannock *et al.*, 2004; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2004; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2006). The data on measures of faecal bacteria content were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review). All trials compared supplemented groups to either a sugar or a maltodextrin control group.
- 9.30 An effect of fructo-oligosaccharide supplementation on increasing faecal *Bifidobacterium* spp. content is generally reported at doses of 10g/day or more, but not at lower doses.

Fructo-oligosaccharides and faecal bacteria

- Effect at doses of 10g/day or more
- Adequate evidence
- Whether the effect is beneficial and of biological relevance is currently unclear. The supplement doses used are above levels currently consumed in typical diets in the UK, but recent and future developments of novel food ingredients may substantially increase the intake of these oligosaccharides

Galacto-oligosaccharides

- 9.31 Seven randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on galacto-oligosaccharide supplementation (doses 2.4 to 14.4g/day) in relation to faecal bacteria content (Ito *et al.*, 1990; Alles *et al.*, 1999; Gopal *et al.*, 2003; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2004; Tannock *et al.*, 2004; Depeint *et al.*, 2008; Vulevic *et al.*, 2008). The data on measures of faecal bacteria content were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. One trial was identified in the update search (Walton *et al.*, 2012) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search). All trials compared supplemented groups to either a sugar or maltodextrin control.
- 9.32 An effect of galacto-oligosaccharide supplementation (doses 2.4 to 14.4g/day) on increasing faecal *Bifidobacterium* spp. content is demonstrated in most trials. The trial identified in the update search reports galacto-oligosaccharide supplementation (8g/day) to increase faecal *Bifidobacterium* spp. content relative to the control group.

Galacto-oligosaccharides and faecal bacteria

- Effect at doses of 2.4 to 14.4g/day, dependent on the specific, defined galacto-oligosaccharides source
- Adequate evidence
- Whether the effect is beneficial and of biological relevance is currently unclear. The supplement doses used are above levels currently consumed in typical diets in the UK, but recent and future developments of novel food ingredients may substantially increase the intake of these oligosaccharides

Arabinoxylan-oligosaccharides

- 9.33 One randomised controlled trial was identified that presented evidence on arabinoxylan-oligosaccharide supplementation in relation to faecal bacteria content (Cloetens *et al.*, 2010) (Colo-rectal health review). Two trials were identified in the update search (Walton *et al.*, 2012; Francois *et al.*, 2012). One trial was identified as a consequence of consultation on the draft report (Maki *et al.*, 2012). The data on measures of faecal bacteria content were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed.
- 9.34 Two trials demonstrate an effect of arabinoxylan-oligosaccharide supplementation (4.8 and 10g/day) on increasing faecal *Bifidobacterium* spp. content (Francois *et al.*, 2012; Maki *et al.*, 2012). Two trials demonstrate no effect of arabinoxylan-oligosaccharide supplementation (2.2 and 10g/day) on the faecal *Bifidobacterium* spp. content (Cloetens *et al.*, 2010; Walton *et al.*, 2012).

Arabinoxylan-oligosaccharides and faecal bacteria

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Calcium absorption

- 9.35 Most calcium absorption occurs in the small intestine, but about 5% has been shown to occur in the colon (Barger-Lux *et al.*, 1989). Experimental work shows that short-chain fatty acids may stimulate calcium (Trinidad *et al.*, 1996; Trinidad *et al.*, 1997; Trinidad *et al.*, 1999) and magnesium (Coudray *et al.*, 2003) absorption in the colon, suggesting that increased colonic fermentation of carbohydrates may stimulate mineral absorption. Trials conducted in children and adolescents are considered in the children and adolescents section at the end of the chapter (see paragraph 9.68).
- 9.36 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation in relation to calcium fractional absorption, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Annex 1, additional meta-analyses). The trials supplemented subjects' diets with doses of 10 to 20g/day (van den Heuvel *et al.*, 1998; van den Heuvel *et al.*, 2000; Tahiri *et al.*, 2003; Holloway *et al.*, 2007). No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review). All trials compared supplemented groups to either a sugar or a maltodextrin control group.
- 9.37 No significant effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation on fractional calcium absorption is demonstrated (0.47%, 95% CI -3.36, 4.29; $p=0.81$).

Non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin and fractional calcium absorption

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Resistant starch

Energy intake

- 9.38 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on resistant starch supplementation in relation to measures of energy intake, three of which were included in a meta-analysis (De Roos *et al.*, 1995; Heijnen *et al.*, 1996; Jenkins *et al.*, 1998). One trial was not included in the meta-analysis as it was unclear which type of resistant starch subjects' diets were supplemented with (Ells *et al.*, 2005) (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake and eating motivation chapter). The trials compared supplemented groups to either a sugar or non-supplemented test foods control group. The data were analysed separately for raw resistant starch (RS₂) and retrograde resistant starch (RS₃).
- 9.39 No significant effect of raw resistant starch (RS₂) supplementation on measures of energy intake is demonstrated (18.5 kJ/day, 95% CI -710.0, 747.1; p=0.96).
- 9.40 No significant effect of retrograde resistant starch (RS₃) supplementation on measures of energy intake is demonstrated (-102.8 kJ/day, 95% CI -824.1, 618.6; p=0.78).

Resistant starch (RS ₂ and RS ₃) and energy intake
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Faecal weight

- 9.41 Ten randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on resistant starch supplementation in relation to faecal weight, of which seven were included in a meta-analysis (Phillips *et al.*, 1995; Cummings *et al.*, 1996; Silvester *et al.*, 1997; Heijnen *et al.*, 1998; Jenkins *et al.*, 1998; Behall *et al.*, 2002; Muir *et al.*, 2004). In those trials where doses of 12g/day or less were employed there was no indication that these doses had any effect on faecal wet weight, so only data from doses greater than 12g/day were used. Two trials supplemented subjects' diets with resistant starch at doses of 12g/day or less and were not included in the meta-analyses (Tomlin & Read, 1990; Stewart *et al.*, 2010). Two trials reported on chemically modified resistant starch (RS₄) in relation to faecal wet weight, which was an insufficient number to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. Resistant starch supplementation appeared to have little effect on intestinal transit time (Tomlin & Read, 1990; Cummings *et al.*, 1996; Silvester *et al.*, 1997; Behall *et al.*, 2002; Muir *et al.*, 2004) or faecal moisture content (Cummings *et al.*, 1996; Silvester *et al.*, 1997; Heijnen *et al.*, 1998; Vermorel *et al.*, 2004). No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review). The data were analysed separately for raw resistant starch (RS₂) and retrograde resistant starch (RS₃). Six trials reported on the effects of RS₂ (Cummings *et al.*, 1996; Silvester *et al.*, 1997; Jenkins *et al.*, 1998; Heijnen *et al.*, 1998; Behall *et al.*, 2002; Muir *et al.*, 2004); three trials reported on the effects of RS₃ (Cummings *et al.*, 1996; Heijnen *et al.*, 1998; Jenkins *et al.*, 1998) and one trial reported on the effects of RS₂, RS₃ and RS₄ combined (Phillips *et al.*, 1995).

- 9.42 An effect of raw resistant starch (RS₂) supplementation on increasing faecal weight is demonstrated (38g/d, 95% CI 23, 53; p<0.001; data from six trials). The doses range from 21.5 to 37g/day (mean 28.3g/day).
- 9.43 An effect of retrograde resistant starch (RS₃) supplementation on increasing faecal weight is demonstrated (46g/d, 95% CI 23, 68; p<0.001; data from three trials). The doses range from 17.4 to 32g/day (mean 24.1g/day).
- 9.44 An effect of resistant starch types 1, 2 and 3 supplementation on increasing faecal weight is demonstrated when analysed together (40g/d, 95% CI 26, 54; p<0.001; data from seven trials). The doses range from 17 to 37g/day (mean 27g/d). Of the trials that investigate chemically modified resistant starch (RS₄) in relation to faecal wet weight, one reports that supplementation at 100g/day increases faecal weight (Vermorel *et al.*, 2004), while the other observes no significant effect on faecal weight with supplementation of 12g/day of three different corn and tapioca modified starches (Stewart *et al.*, 2010).
- 9.45 There appears to be no difference in the faecal bulking capacity of the different types of resistant starch (1, 2 and 3), which broadly equated to a 1-2g increase in faecal wet weight per 1g resistant starch. A meta-regression shows no significant linear dose-response relationship in the data, but interpretation is limited due to the relatively small number of trials (Annex 1 additional meta-analyses). The data are limited with regard to chemically modified resistant starch (RS₄) due to there being only two trials.

Resistant starch (RS₁, RS₂ and RS₃) and faecal weight

- Effect
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of resistant starch is potentially beneficial to health. The supplement doses used are above levels currently consumed in typical diets in the UK, but recent and future developments of novel food ingredients may substantially increase the intake of resistant starches
- The effect is potentially biologically relevant

Faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content

- 9.46 Ten randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on resistant starch supplementation in relation to faecal pH or short chain fatty acid content (Phillips *et al.*, 1995; Noakes *et al.*, 1996; Cummings *et al.*, 1996; Silvester *et al.*, 1997; Heijnen *et al.*, 1998; Jenkins *et al.*, 1998; Muir *et al.*, 2004; Pasman *et al.*, 2006; Fastinger *et al.*, 2008; Stewart *et al.*, 2010). No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review). The data on measures of faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed.
- 9.47 An effect of supplementation with retrograded, granular and high amylose resistant starches (RS₁, RS₂ and RS₃) on lowering faecal pH is demonstrated in four trials (Phillips *et al.*, 1995; Noakes *et al.*, 1996; Silvester *et al.*, 1997; Muir *et al.*, 2004), but two trials report no significant effect of 30g/day (Heijnen *et al.*,

1998) and 12g/day (Stewart *et al.*, 2010). Three trials investigate the effect of chemically modified starches (RS₄). One trial reports that tapioca dextrin RS₄ supplementation lowers faecal pH, but other sources of RS₄ do not (Stewart *et al.*, 2010); the two other trials report no significant effect of RS₄ on faecal pH (Pasman *et al.*, 2006; Fastinger *et al.*, 2008).

- 9.48 An effect of supplementation with retrograded, granular and high amylose resistant starches (RS₁, RS₂ and RS₃) on increasing the faecal concentration or SCFA proportion of butyrate is demonstrated in five trials (Phillips *et al.*, 1995; Noakes *et al.*, 1996; Cummings *et al.*, 1996; Jenkins *et al.*, 1998; Muir *et al.*, 2004), but two trials report no significant effect of 30g/day (Heijnen *et al.*, 1998) and 12g/day (Stewart *et al.*, 2010). Of the three trials investigating chemically modified starches (RS₄), one reports all faecal SCFA concentrations, except butyrate, to be lowered by the RS₄ intervention (Fastinger *et al.*, 2008), but the other two report no significant effect (Pasman *et al.*, 2006; Stewart *et al.*, 2010).
- 9.49 Overall, resistant starch (RS₁, RS₂ and RS₃) at doses of 20-40g/day generally lower faecal pH and increase either the concentration or proportion of faecal butyrate. There is little evidence for an effect of chemically modified resistant starch (RS₄) on these faecal parameters.

Resistant starch (RS₁, RS₂ and RS₃) and faecal short chain fatty acid content

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- Whether the effect is beneficial or of biological relevance is currently unclear. The supplement doses used are above levels currently consumed in typical diets in the UK, but recent and future developments of novel food ingredients may substantially increase the intake of resistant starches

Resistant starch (RS₁, RS₂ and RS₃) and faecal pH

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- Whether the effect is beneficial or of biological relevance is currently unclear. The supplement doses used are above levels currently consumed in typical diets in the UK, but recent and future developments of novel food ingredients may substantially increase the intake of resistant starches

Faecal bacteria

- 9.50 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on resistant starch supplementation in relation to faecal *Bifidobacterium* spp. content (Jenkins *et al.*, 1999c; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2004; Pasman *et al.*, 2006; Fastinger *et al.*, 2008; Beards *et al.*, 2010). No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review). The data on measures of faecal bacteria content were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. Three trials supplemented subjects' diets with chemically modified resistant starch (RS₄) (Pasman *et al.*, 2006; Fastinger *et al.*, 2008; Beards *et al.*, 2010), the other trial supplemented subjects' diets with either raw resistant starch (RS₂) (Jenkins *et al.*,

1999c) or retrograde resistant starch (RS₃) (Jenkins *et al.*, 1999c; Bouhnik *et al.*, 2004).

- 9.51 No significant effect of supplementation with any of the resistant starches on faecal *Bifidobacterium* spp. content is demonstrated.

Resistant starch (RS ₂ , RS ₃ and RS ₄) and faecal bacteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Adequate evidence

Polyols

Colo-rectal health

- 9.52 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on polyol supplementation in relation to faecal weight (van Es *et al.*, 1986; Sinaud *et al.*, 2002; Gostner *et al.*, 2005). The data were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 9.53 Two trials report an effect of lactitol at 50g/d or maltitol at 100g/d supplementation on increasing faecal wet weight (van Es *et al.*, 1986; Sinaud *et al.*, 2002). One trial reports no significant effect of the polyol isomalt at 30g/d on faecal weight (Gostner *et al.*, 2005). From these trials, polyol intake is found to have a small faecal bulking effect with the resulting increase in faecal wet weight being 0.5 to 1g per 1g of polyol consumed.

Polyols and faecal weight
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effect• Limited evidence• The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of polyols is potentially beneficial to health, although any effect is likely to be limited by the low levels of polyols in the diet• The effect is potentially biologically relevant

- 9.54 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on polyol supplementation in relation to faecal bacteria content (Ballongue *et al.*, 1997; Gostner *et al.*, 2005; Finney *et al.*, 2007). The data were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 9.55 Two trials report lactitol at 20g/d and the polyol isomalt at 30g/day to increase faecal *Bifidobacterium* content (Ballongue *et al.*, 1997; Gostner *et al.*, 2005). In the other trial supplementation of lactitol at 5 or 10g/day has no significant effect on faecal bacterial content (Finney *et al.*, 2007).

Polyols and faecal bacteria content

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- Whether the effect is beneficial or of biological relevance is currently unclear

- 9.56 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on polyol supplementation in relation to faecal pH (Ballongue *et al.*, 1997; Gostner *et al.*, 2006; Finney *et al.*, 2007). The data were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 9.57 Two trials report an effect of lactitol supplementation on decreasing faecal pH at doses of 10g/day or more. The other trial reports no significant effect of the polyol isomalt on faecal pH (Gostner *et al.*, 2006).

Polyols and faecal pH

- No effect
- Limited evidence

- 9.58 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on polyol supplementation in relation to faecal short chain fatty acid content (Ballongue *et al.*, 1997; Gostner *et al.*, 2006; Finney *et al.*, 2007). The data were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 9.59 One trial reports an effect of lactitol supplementation on increasing faecal acetate and lowering faecal propionate content (Ballongue *et al.*, 1997). One trial reports no significant effect of supplementation with the polyol isomalt on faecal short chain fatty acid content (Gostner *et al.*, 2006). It is not possible to determine the effect of the other trial as it did not report the necessary data (Finney *et al.*, 2007).

Polyols and faecal short chain fatty acid content

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Polydextrose

Colo-rectal health

- 9.60 One randomised controlled trial was identified that presented evidence on polydextrose supplementation in relation to faecal weight (Zhong *et al.*, 2000). One trial was identified in the update search (Vester Boler *et al.*, 2011) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search). One trial was identified as a consequence of consultation on the draft report (Timm *et al.*, 2013). It was not possible to perform a meta-analysis as one trial did not provide the necessary variance data (Vester Boler *et al.*, 2011).

- 9.61 All three trials demonstrate an effect of polydextrose supplementation (8 to 21g/day) on increasing faecal wet weight. The faecal bulking effect in these trials ranges between 1 and 3g faecal wet weight per 1g of polydextrose consumed.

Polydextrose and faecal weight
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect • Limited evidence • The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of polydextrose is potentially beneficial to health, although any effect would be limited by the low levels of polydextrose in the diet • The effect is potentially biologically relevant

- 9.62 Two randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on polydextrose supplementation in relation to faecal *Bifidobacterium* spp. content (Zhong *et al.*, 2000; Hengst *et al.*, 2008). Two trials were identified in the update search (Vester Boler *et al.*, 2011; Costabile *et al.*, 2012). The data were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed (Colo-rectal health review; Update search).

- 9.63 One trial demonstrates a dose-response effect of polydextrose supplementation (4-12g/day) on increasing faecal *Bifidobacterium* content and reducing the number of *Bacteriodes* (Zhong *et al.*, 2000). Another trial also demonstrates an effect of polydextrose supplementation (21g/day) on increasing faecal *Bifidobacterium* content (Vester Boler *et al.*, 2011). Two trials demonstrate no significant effect of 8g/day polydextrose supplementation (Hengst *et al.*, 2008; Costabile *et al.*, 2012) on faecal *Bifidobacterium* content.

Polydextrose and faecal bacteria content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Limited evidence

- 9.64 Two randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on polydextrose supplementation in relation to faecal short chain fatty acid content (Zhong *et al.*, 2000; Hengst *et al.*, 2008). Two trials were identified in the update search (Vester Boler *et al.*, 2011; Costabile *et al.*, 2012) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search). One trial was identified as a consequence of consultation on the draft report (Timm *et al.*, 2013). The data were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed.

- 9.65 One trial demonstrates a dose-response effect of polydextrose supplementation (4-12g/day) on increasing faecal butyrate, isobutyrate, and acetate content (Zhong *et al.*, 2000). Two trials demonstrate an effect of polydextrose supplementation (20-21g/day) on decreasing total faecal acetate, propionate and butyrate and total short chain fatty acid content (Vester Boler *et al.*, 2011; Timm *et al.*, 2013). Two trials demonstrate no effect of 8g/day polydextrose (Hengst *et al.*, 2008; Costabile *et al.*, 2012) on faecal short chain fatty acid content.

Polydextrose and faecal short chain fatty acid content

- No effect
- Limited evidence

- 9.66 Two randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on polydextrose supplementation in relation to faecal pH (Zhong *et al.*, 2000; Hengst *et al.*, 2008). One trial was subsequently identified in the update search (Vester Boler *et al.*, 2011) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search). One trial was identified as a consequence of consultation on the draft report (Timm *et al.*, 2013). A meta-analysis was performed, but the heterogeneity was above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=96\%$) and, therefore, the pooled estimate has not been reported. One trial could not be included as it did not provide the necessary variance data (Vester Boler *et al.*, 2011).
- 9.67 One trial demonstrates a dose-response effect of polydextrose supplementation (4-12g/day) on decreasing faecal pH (Zhong *et al.*, 2000). One trial demonstrates an effect of polydextrose supplementation (20g/day) on decreasing faecal pH (Timm *et al.*, 2013). The two other trials demonstrate no significant effect of polydextrose supplementation (8 or 21g/day) on faecal pH (Hengst *et al.*, 2008; Vester Boler *et al.*, 2011).

Polydextrose and faecal pH

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Infants, children and adolescents

Non-digestible oligosaccharides

Calcium absorption

- 9.68 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation in relation to calcium fractional absorption in children and adolescents, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (van den Heuvel *et al.*, 1999; Griffin *et al.*, 2002; Griffin *et al.*, 2003; Abrams *et al.*, 2005; van den Heuvel *et al.*, 2009) (Annex 1, additional meta-analyses). The trials supplemented subjects' diets with doses of 5 to 15g/day (Colo-rectal health review). All trials compared supplemented groups to either a sugar or a maltodextrin control group.
- 9.69 A significant effect is demonstrated for non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin supplementation on increasing fractional calcium absorption (4.95%, 95% CI 1.62, 8.27; $p=0.003$).

Non-digestible oligosaccharide (fructo-oligosaccharides) either alone or in combination with inulin and fractional calcium absorption

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- Whether the effect is beneficial and of biological relevance is currently unclear. The supplement doses used are above levels currently consumed in typical diets in the UK, but recent and future developments of novel food ingredients may substantially increase the intake of these oligosaccharides.

Faecal bacteria

Infants up to three months of age

- 9.70 Fourteen randomised controlled trials in fifteen publications were identified that presented evidence on supplementation of infant formula (2 to 8g/L) with non-digestible oligosaccharide (mainly galacto-oligosaccharide, but also some fructo-oligosaccharide) or inulin on faecal bacterial concentration or proportion in infants up to three months of age (Moro *et al.*, 2002; Ben *et al.*, 2004; Bakker-Zierikzee *et al.*, 2005; Knol *et al.*, 2005; Fanaro *et al.*, 2005; Brunser *et al.*, 2006; Scholtens *et al.*, 2006a; Waligora-Dupriet *et al.*, 2007; Kim *et al.*, 2007; Scholtens *et al.*, 2008; Ben *et al.*, 2008; Costalos *et al.*, 2008; Magne *et al.*, 2008; Fanaro *et al.*, 2009; Nakamura *et al.*, 2009). Ben *et al.* (2004) and Ben *et al.* (2008) report the same study. One trial supplemented infant formula with inulin (average intake 1.5g/day) (Kim *et al.*, 2007). The data on measures of faecal bacterial concentration or proportion were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. Two trials were identified in the update search (Veereman-Wauters *et al.*, 2011; Salvini *et al.*, 2011) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search).
- 9.71 Six trials report no significant effect on the faecal concentration or proportion of *Bifidobacterium* spp. (Bakker-Zierikzee *et al.*, 2005; Brunser *et al.*, 2006; Scholtens *et al.*, 2006a; Waligora-Dupriet *et al.*, 2007; Costalos *et al.*, 2008; Nakamura *et al.*, 2009), while eight report that non-digestible oligosaccharide supplementation of infant formula increases the faecal concentration or proportion of *Bifidobacterium* spp. (Moro *et al.*, 2002; Ben *et al.*, 2004; Fanaro *et al.*, 2005; Knol *et al.*, 2005; Kim *et al.*, 2007; Scholtens *et al.*, 2008; Ben *et al.*, 2008; Magne *et al.*, 2008; Fanaro *et al.*, 2009).
- 9.72 Both the trials identified in the update search report supplementation of infant formula with non-digestible oligosaccharide (mainly galacto-oligosaccharide, but also some fructo-oligosaccharide; 8g/L) increases the faecal concentration or proportion of *Bifidobacterium* spp. (Veereman-Wauters *et al.*, 2011; Salvini *et al.*, 2011).

Non-digestible oligosaccharides (mainly galacto-oligosaccharide, but also some fructo-oligosaccharide) and faecal bacteria in infants up to three months of age

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- Supplementation of infant formula with non-digestible oligosaccharides increases faecal *Bifidobacterium* spp. concentration or proportion. Whether this effect is beneficial or of biological relevance is currently unclear

Infants more than three months of age

- 9.73 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that examined the effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide (mainly galacto-oligosaccharide, but also some fructo-oligosaccharide) supplementation of either infant formula (2-8g/L), follow-on formula (5g/L) or weaning foods (2.5 to 4g/day) on faecal bacterial concentration or proportion (Brunser *et al.*, 2006; Scholtens *et al.*, 2006a; Waligora-Dupriet *et al.*, 2007; Fanaro *et al.*, 2009). The data on measures of faecal bacterial concentration or proportion were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- 9.74 Three trials report no significant effect of supplementation of infant formula, follow-on formula or weaning foods with non-digestible oligosaccharides on the faecal concentration or proportion of *Bifidobacterium* spp. (Brunser *et al.*, 2006; Scholtens *et al.*, 2006a; Waligora-Dupriet *et al.*, 2007) while one trial reports supplementation of weaning foods increases in the faecal concentration of *Bifidobacterium* spp. (Fanaro *et al.*, 2009).

Non-digestible oligosaccharides (mainly galacto-oligosaccharide, but also some fructo-oligosaccharide) and faecal bacteria in infants more than 3 months of age

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content

- 9.75 Nine randomised controlled trials examined the effect of non-digestible oligosaccharides (mainly galacto-oligosaccharide, but also some fructo-oligosaccharide) or inulin supplementation of infant formula (2-8g/L) or weaning foods (2.5-4g/day) on faecal pH or short chain fatty acid content in infants (Moro *et al.*, 2002; Ben *et al.*, 2004; Bakker-Zierikzee *et al.*, 2005; Fanaro *et al.*, 2005; Knol *et al.*, 2005; Scholtens *et al.*, 2006a; Kim *et al.*, 2007; Ben *et al.*, 2008; Scholtens *et al.*, 2008). Only one trial supplemented infant formula with inulin (average intake 1.5g/day) (Kim *et al.*, 2007). All trials were conducted in infants aged less than three months, except one which was conducted in infants aged four to six months and supplemented weaning foods (Scholtens *et al.*, 2006a). The data on measures of faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. No further studies were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).

- 9.76 Of the five trials that investigated faecal short chain fatty acid content, four trials report supplementation of infant formula with non-digestible oligosaccharides (mainly galacto-oligosaccharide, but also some fructo-oligosaccharide) or inulin, as compared with increases the faecal concentration or proportion of faecal acetate (Ben *et al.*, 2004; Bakker-Zierikzee *et al.*, 2005; Knol *et al.*, 2005; Ben *et al.*, 2008), one trial, in older infants (aged four to six months), reports no significant effect (Scholtens *et al.*, 2006a). All trials report supplementation of infant formula with non-digestible oligosaccharides or inulin, as compared with lowers faecal pH, but one trial in older infants reports supplementation of weaning foods with non-digestible oligosaccharides has no effect on faecal pH (Scholtens *et al.*, 2006a).

Non-digestible oligosaccharides (mainly galacto-oligosaccharide, but also some fructo-oligosaccharide) or inulin and faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content in infants up to three months of age

- Effect
- Adequate evidence
- Supplementation of infant formula with either non-digestible oligosaccharides or inulin increases faecal acetate content and lowers pH. Whether this effect is beneficial or of biological relevance is currently unclear

Polyols

Oral health

- 9.77 Six randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on polyol containing gum and dental caries incidence in both the mixed and permanent dentition in children and adolescents (Finn *et al.*, 1978; Glass, 1983; Beiswanger *et al.*, 1998; Alanen *et al.*, 2000; Machiulskiene *et al.*, 2001; Szoke *et al.*, 2001). The data on measures of dietary exposure, caries incidence/prevalence and risk assessment methods were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Oral health review).
- 9.78 Four trials report an effect of sugar-free chewing gum containing sorbitol, mannitol or xylitol in reducing caries incidence in comparison with not using a chewing gum (Beiswanger *et al.*, 1998; Alanen *et al.*, 2000; Machiulskiene *et al.*, 2001; Szoke *et al.*, 2001). Two trials report no significant effect of sugar-free chewing gum containing sorbitol and/or mannitol in reducing caries incidence in comparison to a no gum control group (Finn *et al.*, 1978; Glass, 1983). In the trials that employ a 'no gum' control group, it is unclear whether it is specifically the polyol or the act of chewing and the concomitant increase in salivary flow that contribute to the effect.

Polyols and dental caries incidence in both the mixed and permanent dentition

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates that use of chewing gum containing polyols in comparison with not using a chewing gum is beneficial to oral health
- The effect is biologically relevant

Outcomes where there is insufficient or inconsistent evidence¹⁴

9.79 The tables below detail the exposures and outcomes where there are two or fewer studies that meet the inclusion criteria for the review (e.g. by study duration, publication date, health of subjects, design of intervention), or where the studies are too inconsistent, to draw a conclusion as per the grading system in Annex 2. A full description of the studies can be found in the relevant systematic reviews.

Table 9.1: Insufficient evidence - randomised controlled trials

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Apolipoproteins	non-digestible oligosaccharides
LDL-cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio Apolipoproteins	non-digestible oligosaccharides
Body weight change	non-digestible oligosaccharides
Eating motivation	resistant starch
Insulin resistance	non-digestible oligosaccharides
Glycaemia	non-digestible oligosaccharides
Insulin levels	non-digestible oligosaccharides and inulin
Faecal short chain fatty acid	RS ₄
Faecal bacteria in children	non-digestible oligosaccharides
Faecal pH	RS ₄
Mineral absorption	resistant starch
Intestinal transit time	polyols polydextrose
Constipation	polyols polydextrose
Diarrhoea	non-digestible oligosaccharides
Adenoma recurrence	resistant starch
Magnesium absorption	non-digestible oligosaccharides
Caries in the deciduous dentition	polyols
Caries in the mixed and permanent dentition	polyol containing confectionery

14 See Annex 2 paragraph A2.21 for criteria.

Table 9.2: Inconsistent evidence - randomised controlled trials

Measure	Exposure
Eating motivation	non-digestible oligosaccharides

Summary and Conclusions

- 9.80 This assessment is based on randomised controlled trials investigating the relationship between supplements of resistant starch, oligosaccharide or inulin and cardio-metabolic and colo-rectal outcomes. There were no prospective cohort studies investigating the relationship between oligosaccharides and the relevant health/disease outcomes. There was no relevant evidence, which met the inclusion criteria for this report, identified on non-digestible oligosaccharides, inulin or resistant starch intake in relation to oral health outcomes.
- 9.81 Nearly all the trials investigating non-digestible oligosaccharides supplemented subjects' diets with arabinoxylan-oligosaccharide, fructo-oligosaccharide, galacto-oligosaccharide or inulin. The data are too limited to draw conclusions on other non-digestible oligosaccharides that may be found naturally in foods or are produced using industrial processes. The non-digestible oligosaccharides and inulin used in trials often differ in their degree of polymerisation, but it is unclear from the data whether these differences have an impact on the outcomes investigated. The doses required for some of the observed effects may vary depending on the specific oligosaccharide preparation. Different enzymatic preparations can result in different molecular structures which may affect functionality.
- 9.82 Randomised controlled trials that supplemented subjects' diets with non-digestible oligosaccharides or inulin indicate a beneficial effect on fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration, but no effect is indicated on fasting total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol or triacylglycerol concentration. Trials indicate no effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide supplementation on fasting glucose, fasting insulin concentration or energy intake. The trials do indicate that non-digestible oligosaccharides cause an increase in faecal weight and effect faecal bacterial content, including increases in the content of *Bifidobacterium* spp., but have no effect on faecal short chain fatty acid content. Trials indicate that non-digestible oligosaccharides or inulin supplementation increases the fractional absorption of calcium in children and adolescents, but not in adults.
- 9.83 Randomised controlled trials that supplemented subjects' diets with resistant starch indicate no effect of resistant starch on energy intake. Resistant starch supplementation (types 1, 2 and 3 analysed together) is shown to cause an increase in faecal weight, has no effect on faecal bacterial content, but modifies faecal short chain fatty acid content, with an increase in the concentration or proportion of butyrate and a lowering of pH. A limited number of trials indicate little effect of resistant starch type 4 on these faecal parameters.
- 9.84 The supplement doses of resistant starch, non-digestible oligosaccharide or inulin at which the effects described above become apparent is above levels currently consumed in typical diets in the UK, but recent and future developments of novel

food ingredients may substantially increase the intake of these carbohydrates. The actual intake and extent of use of these novel food ingredients is, as yet, unknown. The doses required for these effects may, depending on the specific preparation, cause adverse gastrointestinal impacts such as bloating, borborygmi and flatulence in the majority of the population (Coussement, 1999; Bishop *et al.*, 2009; Bonnema *et al.*, 2010). Whether these carbohydrates have an effect on health outcomes is unclear; equally the biological relevance of the effect of non-digestible oligosaccharide and inulin supplementation on calcium fractional absorption in children is unclear.

- 9.85 Trials provide limited evidence that intake of some polyols increases faecal weight and affects faecal bacterial content, e.g. *Bifidobacteria* spp.. The health impact of an effect on faecal bacteria is currently uncertain, thus, whether this observation is beneficial or biologically relevant cannot be determined. Trials also provide limited evidence that polydextrose increases faecal weight. These effects of some polyols and polydextrose are limited by the low levels of these compounds in the diet.
- 9.86 Randomised controlled trials conducted in infants aged less than three months tend to report that supplementation of infant formula with non-digestible oligosaccharides (mainly galacto-oligosaccharide, but also fructo-oligosaccharide) increases the faecal content of *Bifidobacterium* spp., lowers faecal pH and increases faecal acetate concentration, as compared with unsupplemented infant formula. These effects are less consistent in trials conducted in infants aged more than three months. It is, however, unclear what the relationship is between these faecal parameters and relevant outcomes on health.
- 9.87 Randomised controlled trials indicate that the use of chewing gum containing polyols reduces risk of dental caries, as compared with not using a chewing gum, but it is unclear whether it is specifically the polyols or the act of chewing and the concomitant increase in salivary flow that contributed to the effect.

10 Glycaemic index and glycaemic load

- 10.1 This assessment is based on prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials investigating the relationship between the glycaemic characteristics of carbohydrate intake and cardio-metabolic and colo-rectal health outcomes. Links to the individual systematic reviews and update search are given in Annex 1.
- 10.2 Evidence on health/disease outcomes have been discussed in detail only where there are sufficient data for a conclusion to be drawn from studies meeting the pre-agreed inclusion criteria. Outcomes where there are too few studies to reach a conclusion, are listed at the end of the chapter (see Tables 10.1 and 10.2). Outcomes where the evidence was considered too inconsistent to make a valid judgement are also listed at the end of the chapter (see Table 10.3).
- 10.3 Glycaemic index (GI) and glycaemic load (GL) are used as measures of the glycaemic characteristics of foods and used to estimate the glycaemic characteristics of diets, respectively (see paragraph 2.20 for a discussion of the limitations of these terms). GI is a relative measure of the capillary blood glucose response induced by a specific ingredient, food or meal, as compared with the response induced by the same amount (usually 50g) of available carbohydrate from a reference source, such as pure glucose or an alternative source (such as white bread) against which it has been calibrated (Brouns *et al.*, 2005). The GL is the product of a specific food's GI and its carbohydrate content (Brouns *et al.*, 2005), therefore taking into account both the quality of the carbohydrate food/meal/ingredient and the quantity of carbohydrate in the food/meal/ingredient consumed.
- 10.4 For meta-analyses of prospective cohort studies the relative risks are presented for every two GI unit increment and for every 20 GL unit increase. This is equivalent to approximately one standard deviation GI and GL of the population's intake.
- 10.5 In the cardio-metabolic health review, trials investigating GI and GL were combined into a single meta-analysis. Subsequently these trials have been separated into GI and GL studies and further meta-analyses have been performed. These additional analyses are included in Annex 1. The pooled estimates for the trial data in this chapter are, therefore, taken from the additional meta-analyses document rather than the cardio-metabolic health review. The difference between the studies is that the GI trials do not vary carbohydrate quantity, but change the quality of carbohydrate or other aspects of the foods to modify the GI. Trials may or may not balance diets for other aspects of composition (e.g. dietary fibre type and quantity, energy density). Foods of differing GI and carbohydrate content together are used to modify GL. Lower GL diets can be achieved by changing the carbohydrate content and type but can also be achieved by increasing the fat and/or protein content. Nearly all of the trials resulted in weight loss and consideration is given to whether an effect demonstrated could be due to greater weight loss in one of the experimental groups.

Glycaemic index

Cardiovascular disease events

- 10.6 One cohort study was identified that presented evidence on GI and the incidence of cardiovascular disease (Levitan *et al.*, 2007), which found that GI was not associated with the incidence of cardiovascular disease mortality. Five cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on GI and coronary and stroke events combined, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (van Dam *et al.*, 2000; Oh *et al.*, 2005; Beulens *et al.*, 2007; Levitan *et al.*, 2007; Kaushik *et al.*, 2009). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search, which pooled four Danish cohort studies together (Grau *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search).
- 10.7 No significant association was found between GI and incidence of cardiovascular disease events (RR=1.02, 95% CI 0.99, 1.06, for each two GI unit increase), although the result is of borderline statistical significance ($p=0.07$). The pooled analysis paper (Grau *et al.*, 2011) indicates a protective association for a higher GI intake in men for both cardiovascular mortality and morbidity, but no significant association is indicated in women.

Glycaemic index (unit/day) and cardiovascular disease events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Limited evidence

Coronary events

- 10.8 Four cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on GI and coronary event incidence, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (van Dam *et al.*, 2000; Beulens *et al.*, 2007; Levitan *et al.*, 2007; Kaushik *et al.*, 2009). Five cohort studies were subsequently identified in the update search (Levitan *et al.*, 2010; Sieri *et al.*, 2010; Hardy *et al.*, 2010; Grau *et al.*, 2011; Burger *et al.*, 2011), one of which was a pooled analysis of four Danish cohort studies (Grau *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search).
- 10.9 No significant association was found between GI and incidence of coronary events (RR=1.02, 95% CI 0.96, 1.08, for each two GI unit increase/day); however, one study (Levitan *et al.*, 2007), had a strong influence on the outcome, but only presented results for myocardial infarction. Of the five studies identified in the update search, three indicate no significant association (Levitan *et al.*, 2010; Sieri *et al.*, 2010; Burger *et al.*, 2011). The pooled analysis of four cohort studies indicates a protective association for a higher GI intake in men, but not women (Grau *et al.*, 2011). The other study (Hardy *et al.*, 2010) indicates a greater risk of coronary events in African American women with a higher GI diet.

Glycaemic index (unit/day) and coronary events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Moderate evidence

Stroke

- 10.10 Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on GI and fatal and non-fatal stroke incidence, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Oh *et al.*, 2005; Levitan *et al.*, 2007; Kaushik *et al.*, 2009). Two cohort studies were subsequently identified in the update search (Oba *et al.*, 2010; Burger *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search).
- 10.11 No significant association was found between GI and incidence of stroke events (RR=1.01, 95% CI 0.98, 1.05, for each two GI unit increase). Of the two cohort studies identified in the update search, one indicates no significant association (Burger *et al.*, 2011), whereas the other (Oba *et al.*, 2010) indicates a higher GI intake is associated with a higher incidence of mortality from all stroke events in women, but not men.

Glycaemic index (unit/day) and stroke

- No association
- Limited evidence

Blood pressure

- 10.12 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GI in relation to systolic blood pressure (SBP) and diastolic blood pressure (DBP), all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Bellisle *et al.*, 2007; Abete *et al.*, 2008; Jensen *et al.*, 2008; Philippou *et al.*, 2009b). Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, incident hypertension and blood pressure chapter; Update search; Additional meta-analyses)
- 10.13 The meta-analysis of four trials demonstrates no significant effect of GI on SBP (-0.54 mmHg, 95% CI -4.08, 2.99; $p=0.76$) or DBP (0.60 mmHg, 95% CI -2.06, 3.25; $p=0.66$). The two trials identified in the update search (Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011) report no statistically significant effect of GI on SBP or DBP.

Glycaemic index and systolic and diastolic blood pressure

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Fasting blood lipids

Fasting total-, LDL-, HDL-cholesterol and triacylglycerol

- 10.14 Ten randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GI in relation to fasting blood lipid concentration, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Wolever & Mehling, 2003; Raatz *et al.*, 2005; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Bellisle *et al.*, 2007; Sichieri *et al.*, 2007; Abete *et al.*, 2008; Jensen *et al.*, 2008; Philippou *et al.*, 2008; Philippou *et al.*, 2009a; Philippou *et al.*, 2009b). Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011). The majority of these studies were weight loss trials (Cardio-metabolic

review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Update search; Additional meta-analyses).

- 10.15 An effect of a higher GI diet is demonstrated resulting in less of a reduction in fasting total cholesterol concentration (0.20mmol/L, 95% CI 0.08, 0.33; $p=0.002$) and fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration (0.21mmol/L, 95% CI 0.10, 0.32; $p<0.001$) as compared with a lower GI diet. No significant effect of GI is demonstrated on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration (0.01mmol/L, 95% CI -0.05, 0.06; $p=0.81$) or fasting triacylglycerol concentration (-0.04mmol/L, 95% CI -0.17, 0.10; $p=0.59$). The trials identified in the update search report no statistically significant effect of GI on fasting blood lipid concentrations.
- 10.16 Body weight may confound the effect of GI on blood lipids as weight loss was generally less in the higher GI diet experimental groups (the result of the meta-analysis above is almost significant, $p=0.069$; Annex 1 additional meta-analyses) compared to the lower GI diet groups. Fasting blood lipid concentrations are modified by body weight change (Poobalan *et al.*, 2004; Te Morenga *et al.*, 2010; Dow *et al.*, 2013) therefore any differences may not be attributable to the carbohydrate component of the dietary intervention.

Glycaemic index and fasting total cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- A higher GI diet may result in less of a reduction in fasting total cholesterol concentration as compared with a lower GI diet, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables
- The effect is biologically relevant

Glycaemic index and fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- A higher GI diet may result in less of a reduction in fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration as compared with a lower GI diet, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables
- The effect is biologically relevant

Glycaemic index (unit/day) and fasting HDL-cholesterol and triacylglycerol concentration

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio

- 10.17 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GI in relation to the fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Bellisle *et al.*, 2007; Philippou *et al.*, 2008; Philippou *et al.*, 2009b) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids review; Additional meta-analyses).

- 10.18 No significant effect of GI is demonstrated on fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio (0.01, 95% CI -0.20, 0.21; p=0.95).

Glycaemic index and fasting total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Moderate evidence

Fasting non-esterified fatty acids

- 10.19 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GI in relation to fasting non-esterified fatty acid concentration, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Wolever & Mehling, 2002; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Jensen *et al.*, 2008) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter; Additional meta-analyses).
- 10.20 No significant effect of GI is demonstrated on fasting non-esterified fatty acid concentration (0.01 mmol/L, 95% CI -0.05, 0.08; p=0.74).

Glycaemic index and fasting non-esterified fatty acid concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Markers of inflammation (C-reactive protein)

- 10.21 One randomised controlled trial was identified that presented evidence on GI in relation to C-reactive protein concentration (McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006). Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, markers of inflammation chapter; Update search).
- 10.22 None of the trials report a significant effect of GI on C-reactive protein concentration.

Glycaemic index and C-reactive protein concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Eating motivation

- 10.23 Seven randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GI in relation to subjective reports of appetite in adults (Herrmann *et al.*, 2001; Sloth *et al.*, 2004; Alfenas & Mattes, 2005; Bellisle *et al.*, 2007; de Rougemont *et al.*, 2007; Sichieri *et al.*, 2007; Philippou *et al.*, 2009b) (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake and eating motivation chapter).
- 10.24 Due to variation between trials in design, the method of assessing eating motivation and the nature of each intervention, it was not possible to combine these trials in a meta-analysis. One trial reports higher intensity of hunger and desire to eat in the higher GI diet group (Bellisle *et al.*, 2007), but all other trials report no significant effect of dietary GI on subjective ratings of appetite.

Glycaemic index and eating motivation

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 10.25 Twelve cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on GI and type 2 diabetes mellitus incidence (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997a; Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b; Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Stevens *et al.*, 2002; Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Schulze *et al.*, 2004a; Schulz *et al.*, 2006; Villegas *et al.*, 2007; Krishnan *et al.*, 2007; Barclay *et al.*, 2007; Mosdol *et al.*, 2007; Sahyoun *et al.*, 2008). Four cohort studies were subsequently identified in the update search (Sluijs *et al.*, 2010; Mekary *et al.*, 2011; Simila *et al.*, 2011; Sakurai *et al.*, 2012), one of which (Mekary *et al.*, 2011) was a later follow-up of the Nurses' Health Study cohort identified in the initial search (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search). An updated meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic health review (Greenwood *et al.*, 2013), which included all identified studies and one additional study (van Woudenberg *et al.*, 2011) and excluded the earlier follow-up of the Nurses' Health Study cohort (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b). The results of this further analysis are given below.
- 10.26 An association was found between a higher GI and a higher incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus incidence (RR 1.03, 95% CI 1.01, 1.06 for each two GI unit increase/day; $p=0.01$).

Glycaemic index (unit/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus

- Association
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the association indicates consumption of a higher GI diet is detrimental to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Fasting blood glucose

- 10.27 Ten randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GI in relation to fasting blood glucose concentration, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Wolever & Mehling, 2003; Raatz *et al.*, 2005; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Bellisle *et al.*, 2007; Sichieri *et al.*, 2007; Jensen *et al.*, 2008; Philippou *et al.*, 2008; Abete *et al.*, 2008; Philippou *et al.*, 2009a; Philippou *et al.*, 2009b). Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011; Krog-Mikkelsen *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes and glycaemia chapter; Update search; additional meta-analyses).
- 10.28 No significant effect of GI is demonstrated on fasting blood glucose concentration (-0.01 mmol/L, 95% CI $-0.09, 0.07$; $p=0.85$). Of the trials identified in the update search, one reports no significant effect of GI on fasting blood glucose concentration (Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011), while the other (Krog-Mikkelsen *et al.*, 2011) reports fasting blood glucose concentration to be lower in the higher GI diet group.

Glycaemic index (unit/day) and fasting blood glucose concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Moderate evidence

Fasting insulin

- 10.29 Nine randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GI in relation to fasting insulin concentration (Wolever & Mehling, 2003; Raatz *et al.*, 2005; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Bellisle *et al.*, 2007; Sichieri *et al.*, 2007; Abete *et al.*, 2008; Jensen *et al.*, 2008; Philippou *et al.*, 2009a; Philippou *et al.*, 2009b). Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Gogebakan *et al.*, 2011; Krog-Mikkelsen *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search).
- 10.30 Due to variation between trials in the method used to measure fasting insulin concentration, it is not possible to combine these trials using meta-analysis. The trials provide no consistent evidence of an effect of GI on fasting insulin concentration. Both trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of GI on fasting insulin concentration.

Glycaemic index and fasting insulin concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Moderate evidence

Insulin sensitivity/resistance

- 10.31 Seven randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GI in relation to insulin sensitivity/resistance (Sloth *et al.*, 2004; Raatz *et al.*, 2005; McMillan-Price *et al.*, 2006; Bellisle *et al.*, 2007; Sichieri *et al.*, 2007; Abete *et al.*, 2008; Philippou *et al.*, 2009b). Two trials were subsequently identified in the update search (Jebb *et al.*, 2010; Krog-Mikkelsen *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search).
- 10.32 Due to variation between trials in the method used to measure insulin sensitivity/resistance, it is not possible to combine these trials using meta-analysis. All the trials provide no evidence of an effect of GI on insulin sensitivity/resistance. Both trials identified in the update search report no significant effect of GI on insulin sensitivity/resistance.

Glycaemic index and insulin sensitivity/resistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Moderate evidence

Colo-rectal cancer

- 10.33 Seven cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on GI and colo-rectal cancer incidence, all of which were included in the meta-analysis (Higginbotham *et al.*, 2004; Michaud *et al.*, 2005; McCarl *et al.*, 2006; Larsson *et al.*, 2007; Strayer *et al.*, 2007; Weijenberg *et al.*, 2008; George *et al.*, 2009). One cohort study was

identified in the update search (Li *et al.*, 2011) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search).

- 10.34 No significant association was found between GI and incidence of colo-rectal cancer (RR 1.01, 95% CI 0.99, 1.03, for each two GI unit increase). The study identified in the update search (Li *et al.*, 2011) observed no significant association between GI and risk of colo-rectal cancer in women.

Glycaemic index (unit/day) and colo-rectal cancer

- No association
- Adequate evidence

Glycaemic load

Cardiovascular disease events

- 10.35 One cohort study was identified that presented evidence on GL and the incidence of cardiovascular disease (Levitan *et al.*, 2007), which found GL was not associated with the incidence of all cardiovascular disease mortality. Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on GL and the incidence of coronary and stroke events combined, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Oh *et al.*, 2005; Levitan *et al.*, 2007; Beulens *et al.*, 2007). One cohort study was subsequently identified in the update search, which pooled four Danish cohort studies (Grau *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, cardiovascular disease chapter; Update search).
- 10.36 An association was found between a higher GL and a higher incidence of coronary events and strokes combined (RR 1.06, 95% CI 1.01, 1.12, for each 20 GL unit increase; $p=0.03$). The pooled analysis study identified in the update search found no significant association between GL and cardiovascular disease in men, but found an association with higher incidence of cardiovascular disease morbidity, but not mortality, in women (Grau *et al.*, 2011).

Glycaemic load (unit/day) and cardiovascular disease events

- Association
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the association indicates consumption of a higher GL diet is detrimental to health
- The association is biologically relevant

Blood pressure

- 10.37 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GL in relation to systolic blood pressure and diastolic blood pressure, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Pereira *et al.*, 2004; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; Maki *et al.*, 2007). All trials were weight loss trials. No trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, incident hypertension and blood pressure chapter; Additional meta-analyses).

- 10.38 No significant effect is demonstrated for GL on systolic blood pressure (1.92 mmHg, 95% CI -0.76, 4.60; $p=0.16$), but an effect is demonstrated for a higher GL diet resulting in less of a reduction in diastolic blood pressure as compared with a lower GL diet (3.10 mmHg, 95% CI 0.25, 5.95; $p=0.03$).

Glycaemic load (unit/day) and systolic blood pressure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Limited evidence

Glycaemic load (unit/day) and diastolic blood pressure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect • Limited evidence • A higher GL diet may result in less of a reduction in diastolic blood pressure as compared with a lower GL diet, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other dietary variables • The effect is biologically relevant

Fasting blood lipids

Fasting total-, LDL-, HDL-cholesterol and triacylglycerol

- 10.39 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GL in relation to fasting blood lipid concentration and were included in a meta-analysis (Pereira *et al.*, 2004; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; Das *et al.*, 2007; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007). All five trials presented evidence on GL in relation to fasting LDL-cholesterol and triacylglycerol concentration, while three trials (Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; Das *et al.*, 2007; Maki *et al.*, 2007) presented evidence on GL in relation to fasting total cholesterol concentration. No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter, p448-476; Additional meta-analyses).
- 10.40 No significant effect of GL is demonstrated on fasting total cholesterol concentration (-0.01 mmol/L, 95% CI -0.14, 0.13; $p=0.94$) and fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration (0.07 mmol/L, 95% CI -0.05, 0.19; $p=0.29$). The heterogeneity was above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% and, therefore, the pooled estimate has not been reported but the trials present no evidence for an effect on HDL-cholesterol. An effect of a higher GL diet is demonstrated resulting in less of a reduction in fasting triacylglycerol concentration (0.13 mmol/L, 95% CI 0.03, 0.24; $p=0.012$) as compared with the lower GL diet.

Glycaemic load and fasting total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol and HDL-cholesterol concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Limited evidence

Glycaemic load and fasting triacylglycerol concentration

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- A higher GL diet may result in less of a reduction in fasting triacylglycerol concentration than a lower GL diet, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other dietary variables
- The effect is borderline biologically relevant

Markers of inflammation (C-reactive protein)

- 10.41 Two randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GL in relation to C-reactive protein concentration (Pereira *et al.*, 2004; Pittas *et al.*, 2006). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, markers of inflammation chapter; Update search).
- 10.42 One trial reports higher C-reactive protein concentration in the higher GL diet group (Pittas *et al.*, 2006), but the other trial reports no significant effect (Pereira *et al.*, 2004).

Glycaemic load and C-reactive protein concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Body weight change

- 10.43 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GL in relation to body weight change (Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; Das *et al.*, 2007; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2007). One trial could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data, leaving an insufficient number of trials to enable a meta-analysis to be performed (Cardio-metabolic review, obesity chapter).
- 10.44 None of the trials report an effect of GL on body weight change.

Glycaemic load and body weight change

- No effect
Limited evidence

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

- 10.45 Eleven cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on GL and type 2 diabetes mellitus incidence, all of which were included in the meta-analysis (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997a; Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b; Meyer *et al.*, 2000; Stevens *et al.*, 2002; Hodge *et al.*, 2004; Schulze *et al.*, 2004a; Schulz *et al.*, 2006; Villegas *et al.*, 2007; Krishnan *et al.*, 2007; Mosdol *et al.*, 2007; Sahyoun *et al.*, 2008). Six cohort studies were subsequently identified in the update search (Hopping *et al.*, 2010; Sluijs *et al.*, 2010; Mekary *et al.*, 2011; Yu *et al.*, 2011; Simila *et al.*, 2011; Sakurai *et al.*, 2012), one of which (Mekary *et al.*, 2011) was a later follow-up of the Nurses' Health Study cohort identified in the initial search (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b) (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search). An updated meta-analysis was performed by the same research group that conducted the cardio-metabolic

health review (Greenwood *et al.*, 2013), which included the studies found in the update search as well as a later study (van Woudenberg *et al.*, 2011) and excluded the earlier follow-up of the Nurses' Health Study cohort (Salmeron *et al.*, 1997b). The results from the later meta-analysis are presented below and were used to inform this report.

- 10.46 An association was found between a higher GL and a higher incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (RR 1.03, 95% CI 1.00, 1.05, for each 20 GL unit increase; $p=0.02$). Another meta-analysis also indicates a diet higher in glycaemic load is associated with a greater risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus (Livesey *et al.*, 2013).

Glycaemic load (units/day) and type 2 diabetes mellitus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association • Adequate evidence • The direction of the association indicates higher GL is detrimental to health, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other variables • The association is biologically relevant

Fasting blood glucose

- 10.47 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GL in relation to fasting blood glucose concentration, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Maki *et al.*, 2007; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2007; Das *et al.*, 2007). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter; Update search; Additional meta-analyses).
- 10.48 No significant effect of GL is demonstrated on fasting blood glucose concentration (-0.13 mmol/L, 95% CI -0.40, 0.13; $p=0.33$).

Glycaemic load (units/day) and fasting blood glucose concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Limited evidence

Fasting insulin

- 10.49 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GL in relation to fasting insulin concentration (Maki *et al.*, 2007; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2007; Das *et al.*, 2007). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter).
- 10.50 Due to variation between trials in the method used to measure fasting insulin concentration, it is not possible to combine these trials using meta-analysis. The trials provide no evidence of an effect of GL on fasting insulin concentration.

Glycaemic load and fasting insulin concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect • Limited evidence

Insulin sensitivity/resistance

- 10.51 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on GL in relation to insulin sensitivity/resistance (Pereira *et al.*, 2004; Ebbeling *et al.*, 2005; Pittas *et al.*, 2006; Maki *et al.*, 2007). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter).
- 10.52 Due to variation between trials in the method used to measure insulin sensitivity/resistance, it is not possible to combine these trials using meta-analysis. One trial reports an effect of GL on insulin sensitivity/resistance (Pereira *et al.*, 2004), but the other trials provide no evidence of an effect of GL on insulin sensitivity/resistance.

Glycaemic load and insulin sensitivity/ resistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Colo-rectal cancer

- 10.53 Nine cohort studies investigating GL were identified which provided data on diets with a higher or lower GL and their relationship to the incidence of colo-rectal cancer, all of which were included in the meta-analysis (Terry *et al.*, 2003; Higginbotham *et al.*, 2004; Michaud *et al.*, 2005; McCarl *et al.*, 2006; Larsson *et al.*, 2007; Strayer *et al.*, 2007; Howarth *et al.*, 2008; Weijenberg *et al.*, 2008; George *et al.*, 2009). One cohort study was identified in the update search (Li *et al.*, 2011) (Colo-rectal health review; Update search).
- 10.54 No significant association was found between GL and incidence of colo-rectal cancer (RR 1.00, 95% CI 0.97, 1.03, for each 20 GL unit increase).

Glycaemic load (unit/day) and colo-rectal cancer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No association• Adequate evidence

Outcomes where there is insufficient or inconsistent evidence¹⁵

- 10.55 The tables below detail the exposures and outcomes where there are two or fewer studies that meet the inclusion criteria for the review (e.g. by study duration, publication date, health of subjects, design of intervention), or where the studies are too inconsistent, to draw a conclusion as per the grading system in Annex 2. A full description of the studies can be found in the relevant systematic reviews.

¹⁵ See Annex 2 paragraph A2.21 for criteria.

Table 10.1: Insufficient evidence - cohort studies

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Fasting blood lipids Body weight change BMI Body fatness Glycaemia and glucose tolerance Glycosylated blood proteins	Glycaemic Index
Stroke events Fasting blood lipids Body weight change and BMI Body fatness and fat distribution Glycaemia and glucose tolerance Glycosylated blood proteins	Glycaemic Load

Table 10.2: Insufficient evidence - randomised controlled trials

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Pulse wave velocity PAI-1 Body weight change and BMI Body fat mass and distribution Weight regain Glycosylated blood proteins	Glycaemic index
Blood pressure Fasting blood lipids PAI-1 Body weight change and BMI Body fat mass and distribution Glycosylated blood proteins Eating motivation	Glycaemic load

Table 10.3: Inconsistent evidence

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Coronary events	Glycaemic load
Energy intake	Glycaemic index/load

Summary and conclusions

- 10.56 No evidence was identified which met the inclusion criteria for this review on dietary glycaemic index and glycaemic load in relation to oral health. There were no prospective cohort studies or randomised controlled trials conducted in children and adolescents. With observational studies there is substantial potential for biases and the possibility of confounding by an extraneous variable that correlates with both the dependent variable and the independent variable (residual confounding) and any associations must be interpreted with caution.

- 10.57 Glycaemic index is a measure of the blood glucose response to a portion of a food containing a fixed quantity of available carbohydrates; whereas the GL takes into account both the GI and the amount of carbohydrate in a given food. There are, however, many influences on glycaemic index and glycaemic load over and above the content and quality of carbohydrates in a food, both physiological and dietary, not all of which are understood. Higher and lower GI/GL diets will, in most cases, differ in many ways other than the carbohydrate fraction therefore the majority of the literature on GI and GL does not allow for certainty that the carbohydrate content of an exposure is the sole influence on the GI or GL of a diet. Consequently, the effects and associations on health described in the meta-analyses cannot be specifically attributed to the GI or GL and may be a result of other associated factors such as dietary fibre, protein or fat content, as well as cooking methods, food processing, and storage (Brouns *et al.*, 2005; Venn & Green, 2007).
- 10.58 The evidence provided by prospective cohort studies indicates that a diet higher in glycaemic index or load is associated with a greater risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus. There is no evidence from prospective cohort studies to suggest an association between glycaemic index and cardiovascular disease or coronary heart disease. Higher glycaemic load is associated with a greater risk of cardiovascular diseases, but the evidence is limited due to the small number of studies. There is no evidence for an association between glycaemic index or load and colo-rectal cancer incidence.
- 10.59 The evidence provided by randomised controlled trials is limited due to the design of the trials mainly being weight loss trials. Collectively these trials found that a higher glycaemic index diet results in less of a reduction in fasting blood total cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol concentrations as compared with a lower glycaemic index diet. However, this finding could also be due to less weight loss occurring in the higher glycaemic index diet group as compared with the lower glycaemic index diet group. No effect of GL was observed on body weight change as an outcome but this could be due to the small number of studies identified that met the 12 month inclusion criterion. A higher glycaemic load diet results in less reduction in diastolic blood pressure and fasting triacylglycerol concentration as compared with a lower glycaemic load diet, but this is based only on three trials and it is not possible to exclude confounding by other dietary variables, although difference in weight loss between experimental groups appears not to be a factor in these trials. The interventions in trials investigating glycaemic index and glycaemic load in relation to cardio-metabolic risk factors include other factors (see paragraph 2.20) meaning that a cause and effect relationship cannot be established.

11 Dietary recommendations

- 11.1 The proposed carbohydrate dietary recommendations are for adults and children aged 2 years or more and have been made in the context of an energy intake that is appropriate to maintain a healthy weight (SACN, 2011).
- 11.2 It was agreed that the dietary recommendations for total carbohydrate and sugars should be expressed in relation to total dietary energy.

Total carbohydrate

- 11.3 The carbohydrate dietary reference value was previously set on the basis that total fat should contribute about 35% of total dietary energy with protein intake comprising 15% (COMA, 1994). At that time it was recommended that ‘complex carbohydrates’ and sugars in fruits and vegetables should replace some dietary fat, to achieve approximately 50% the proportion of total dietary energy derived from total carbohydrates (COMA, 1994).
- 11.4 Concern has been raised that high intakes of total carbohydrate may be deleterious to health, but this report concludes that total carbohydrate intakes, at levels generally recommended in the UK diet, are not associated with the health outcomes examined. Specifically, total carbohydrate intake shows no association with the incidence of cardiovascular disease endpoints, type 2 diabetes mellitus, glycaemia or colo-rectal cancer. In children and adolescents, limited evidence indicates that there is no association between total carbohydrate intake and body mass index or body fatness. Overall, there is no evidence to warrant a change to the total carbohydrate dietary reference value previously set by COMA of approximately 50% total dietary energy.¹⁶
- 11.5 It is recommended that:
- The dietary reference value for total carbohydrate should be maintained at a population average of approximately 50% of total dietary energy.¹⁷

Sugars

- 11.6 The previous dietary reference value referred to non-milk extrinsic sugars, and recommended that the population average should be no more than 10% of total dietary energy (COMA, 1991). This dietary reference value was based on the observation that dental caries was rare in populations whose intakes were estimated to be approximately 10% of total dietary energy (based on national sugar supply data from food balance sheets and household consumption data). It was also advised that intakes that exceed 30% of total dietary energy should

¹⁶ The previous recommendation for total carbohydrate was 47% of daily total dietary energy intake or 50% of food energy (excluding alcohol) (COMA, 1991).

¹⁷ It is recognised that many individuals will derive some energy from alcohol.

be avoided as they may lead to an increase in plasma concentrations of glucose, insulin and lipids.

- 11.7 There are several definitions of sugars in current use internationally. The present UK term of 'non-milk extrinsic sugars', which is used in national surveys, encompasses sugars in unsweetened fruit juice and honey, as well as sugars that are added to food and drink. It also includes 50% of the weight of sugars found in dried, stewed or canned fruit. The 50% figure is arbitrary and is used to account for the partial breakdown of the cellular structure during processing (Buss *et al.*, 1994; Bates *et al.*, 2012), but proves problematic when trying to estimate the sugars composition of certain foods. The term 'added sugars' as used by the European Food Safety Authority and US Institute of Medicine includes sugars that are added to foods either during manufacture or by the consumer, but does not capture the sugars present in unsweetened fruit juice or honey. The definition of 'free sugars', as used by the World Health Organization, captures all sugars added to foods and those present in fruit juice and honey but does not apply the figure of 50% of sugars in dried and cooked fruit. Therefore, the definition of free sugars is similar to non-milk extrinsic sugars but overcomes the problem of trying to account for the additional sugars from processed fruit. In addition, the term non-milk extrinsic sugars is used exclusively by the UK and does not lend itself to being easily understood compared to the term free sugars or added sugars.
- 11.8 In light of the issues above, it is proposed that the UK adopts the definition of 'free sugars' in place of 'non-milk extrinsic sugars'. Free sugars are defined as all monosaccharides and disaccharides added to foods by the manufacturer, cook or consumer, plus sugars naturally present in honey, syrups and unsweetened fruit juices. Under this definition, lactose naturally present in milk and milk products and sugars contained within the cellular structure of foods would be excluded. In this report the term "sugars" is used because this enables other sugars (e.g. glucose, fructose, lactose) to be included in addition to sucrose. This is important because it will ensure that any replacement of sucrose by high fructose corn syrups (an example of a number of different predominantly 'free' fructose and glucose mixes with variable but most often 40-60% fructose content) in the production of food and drinks is captured.
- 11.9 Since the dietary reference values were last considered, the level of evidence indicating that a high intake of free sugars is detrimental to several health outcomes has strengthened. Higher consumption of sugars, and sugars-containing foods and beverages, is associated with greater risk of dental caries. Randomised controlled trials conducted in adults indicate that increasing or decreasing the percentage of total dietary energy as sugars when consuming an *ad libitum* diet, either through the substitution of other macronutrient components or by replacing sugars with non-caloric sweeteners, leads to a corresponding increase or decrease in energy intake. Consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages is associated with a greater risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus. Randomised controlled trials conducted in children and adolescents indicate that consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages, as compared with non-calorically sweetened beverages, results in greater weight gain and increases in body mass index; this finding suggests that there is inadequate

energy compensation (degree of voluntary reduction in intake of other foods or drinks), for energy delivered as sugar.

- 11.10 The intakes of sugars at the end of the intervention period in trials investigating energy intakes ranged from 4-32% of energy (see paragraphs 6.18 to 6.22). To investigate the relationship between sugar and energy intake further, a meta-regression was conducted, but this found no statistically significant linear dose response relationship between sugars consumption and energy intake (60kj, 95% CI -0.005 125kj), change in total dietary energy intake per one percentage change in energy from sugars; $p=0.066$) (see Figure A9.3 Annex 9). Therefore the precise nature of this relationship remains unknown.
- 11.11 To quantify the dietary recommendation for sugars, advice from the Calorie Reduction Expert Group was considered. It was estimated that a 418 kJ/person/day (100kcal/person/day) reduction in energy intake of the population would address energy imbalance and lead to a moderate degree of weight loss in the majority of individuals (Calorie Reduction Expert Group, 2011). The pooled estimate effect size of 1.01 MJ/day, taken from the updated meta-analysis of trials on sugars and energy intake (see Figure A9.2, Annex 9), was divided by the median between treatment difference in sugars intake of 12.9% (of energy), which results in a 0.078 MJ (78 kJ)/day change in energy intake for each 1 unit change in percentage energy from sugars. To achieve an average reduction in energy intakes of 418 kJ (100kcal/person/day) using this estimated effect size, intake of free sugars would need to be reduced by approximately 5% of total dietary energy ($418\text{kJ}/78\text{kJ}= 5.4$). The findings of the trials discussed in paragraphs 6.18-6.21 suggest that there is inadequate energy compensation (degree of voluntary reduction in intake of other foods or drinks), for energy delivered as sugar. The actual, sustained effect size in populations may differ from that observed in these trials, and, therefore, the estimated figure of 5% should be treated with some caution. Nonetheless these calculations provide a useful guide on which to make an informed judgement on the evidence. A 5 percentage point reduction in energy from the current dietary recommendation for sugars would mean that the population average of free sugars should not exceed 5% of total dietary energy.
- 11.12 Although the dietary recommendation for free sugars has been derived from calculations assuming that the whole calorie reduction would come from the effects of reduced sugars intakes, it is acknowledged that in reality this would not be the case. High intakes of other macronutrients should probably also be lowered in order for the population's total dietary energy intake to be reduced. However, lowering sugar intakes provides one approach to lowering the average total dietary energy intake of the population.
- 11.13 Given the high rates of obesity in the UK, reducing the population's energy intakes is likely to be beneficial to health. Obesity occurs when energy intake from food and drink consumption is greater than energy expended over a prolonged period. In the UK, the prevalence of obesity increased sharply during the 1990s and early 2000s. For example in England, the proportion of adults who were categorised as obese (BMI $30\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ or over) increased from 13.2% of men in 1993 to 24.4% in

2012 and from 16.4% of women in 1993 to 25.1% in 2012 (Health and Social Care Information Centre, 2013a). In addition in England, 9.7% of boys and 8.8% of girls (all children 9.3%) aged 4.0-5.0 years and 20.4% of boys and 17.4% of girls (all children 18.9%) aged 10.0-11.0 years were also classified as obese, according to the British 1990 population monitoring definition of obesity (≥ 95 th centile) (Health and Social Care Information Centre, 2013b). Higher rates of obesity were observed in children living in more deprived areas compared to those living in the least deprived. Obesity is associated with greater risks of type 2 diabetes mellitus, hypertension, coronary artery disease and hyperlipidaemia as well as some types of cancer and other diseases (Foresight, 2007). Since free sugars intake is a dietary factor shown to increase energy intake, decreasing the population intake of free sugars is one step that could be taken to help reduce the current UK overconsumption of energy.

- 11.14 Reducing consumption of free sugars would also help to lower the risk of dental caries which continues to be a widespread problem in the UK. From the Adult Dental Health Survey, it was found that 31% of adults in England, Wales and Northern Ireland experienced dental caries in either the crown or root of the tooth (Steele & O'Sullivan, 2011). In 2012 almost a third (27.9%) of 5 year olds in England had tooth decay (Public Health England, 2013). There are also stark inequalities across the regions for example, 21.2% of five-year olds had tooth decay in South East England compared to 34.8% in the North West of England with even greater inequalities within local authority areas. In the Children's Dental Health Survey, 57% of eight year olds had some kind of dental caries in their primary dentition. In terms of permanent dentition, 14%, 34% and 49% of 8, 12 and 15 year olds had obvious dental caries (Lader *et al.*, 2003).
- 11.15 In 2013, the prevalence of diabetes mellitus was 6% of the adult population. It is estimated that 90% of these cases are type 2 diabetes mellitus (Diabetes UK, 2014). Given that the evidence in this report found that sugars-sweetened beverages are associated with a higher risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus and that obesity is also linked with this outcome, lowering sugars intake may confer additional health benefits.
- 11.16 It is recommended that:
- The definition for 'free sugars' be adopted in the UK and that this comprises all monosaccharides and disaccharides added to foods by the manufacturer, cook or consumer, plus sugars naturally present in honey, syrups and unsweetened fruit juices. Under this definition, lactose naturally present in milk and milk products and sugars contained within the cellular structure of foods would be excluded.
 - The population average intake of free sugars should not exceed 5% of total dietary energy for age groups from 2 years upwards.
 - The consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages should be minimised, in both children and adults.

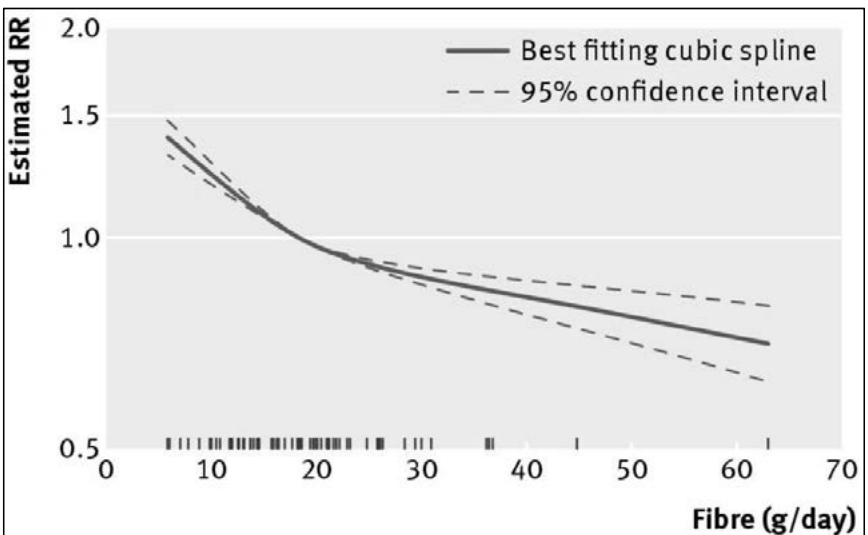
Dietary fibre

- 11.17 In 1991 COMA set a dietary reference value for fibre, defined as non-starch polysaccharides, that recommended the population average intake should be 18g/day, with a minimum of 12 g/day and a maximum of 24 g/day for individuals (COMA, 1991). Non-starch polysaccharides are determined using the Englyst method of analysis (Englyst *et al.*, 1994). Guidance on high intakes of non-starch polysaccharides stated that there was a lack of evidence of benefit associated with intakes in excess of 32g/day. It was noted that such intakes were not seen in self-selected diets and potentially undesirable effects could not be excluded. The dietary reference value was based on the effect of non-starch polysaccharide on increasing faecal weight and the observation that a lower incidence of bowel disease was observed in populations with higher faecal weights.
- 11.18 For this report, it was agreed that components would be considered in the context of SACN's position statement on dietary fibre. This states that for extracted natural carbohydrate components or synthetic carbohydrate products to be defined as dietary fibre, beneficial physiological effects, similar to those demonstrated for the naturally integrated dietary fibre component of foods, must be demonstrated by accepted scientific evidence. Such effects include increasing stool bulk, decreasing intestinal transit time and constipation or the lowering of total cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol concentration (SACN, 2008). However, evidence limited only to effects on gut fermentation or the nature of the microbiota is not sufficient to satisfy this definition. In this report, there is evidence to show that non-digestible oligosaccharides, resistant starch and polydextrose increase faecal mass. On this basis, SACN consider that these three components can be considered as dietary fibre. With the inclusion of non-digestible oligosaccharides, resistant starch and polydextrose this broadens the definition of fibre beyond non-starch polysaccharides. Therefore it is recommended that dietary fibre should be defined as all carbohydrates that are neither digested nor absorbed in the small intestine and have a degree of polymerisation of three or more monomeric units, plus lignin.
- 11.19 The majority of the evidence on fibre and health considered in this report uses the AOAC definition of fibre therefore broadening the definition allows the UK to be aligned with the research base and permits intakes to be directly compared with different countries.
- 11.20 The broader definition of fibre is measured by AOAC methods and is colloquially known as AOAC fibre. There are different AOAC methods available; the older methods (AOAC 985.29 and 991.43) capture non-starch polysaccharides, some resistant starches, lignin and some inulin, but they do not measure most non-digestible oligosaccharides (Prosky *et al.*, 1988; Lee *et al.*, 1992). It is these methods which have been used in the studies included in this report. A newer method of analysis is now available (AOAC 2009.01) which is able to determine all the components included in the proposed definition of fibre above (McCleary *et al.*, 2010; McCleary *et al.*, 2012).

- 11.21 Since the dietary reference values were last considered, the quality of the evidence indicating that a diet rich in dietary fibre (mostly defined as AOAC fibre) reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease and colo-rectal cancer has strengthened considerably. Despite inconsistency between studies in the definitions of whole grains, greater consumption of whole grains is associated with a lower incidence of cardiovascular disease, hypertension, type 2 diabetes mellitus and colon cancer.
- 11.22 Cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus and colo-rectal cancer are of great public health significance in the UK. It is estimated that in 2010, 10.1% of women and 11.7% of men were suffering from cardiovascular disease (coronary heart disease and stroke combined) (British Heart Foundation, 2012). The prevalence of type 2 diabetes is given in paragraph 11.15. There were approximately 41,600 new cases of colo-rectal cancer diagnosed in the UK in 2011 and it is the third most common cancer in both men and women (Cancer Research UK, 2014a). For deriving the dietary reference value for dietary fibre, non-linear dose-response plots included in meta-analyses of prospective cohort studies investigating cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes mellitus and colo-rectal cancer were considered (Figures 11.1-11.5) (Aune *et al.*, 2011; Threapleton *et al.*, 2013b; Threapleton *et al.*, 2013c; Threapleton *et al.*, 2013d). The plots indicate that a non-linear dose-response relationship exists such that as dietary fibre intake increases, the risk of developing these diseases decreases. From these data, it is apparent that intakes of 30g/day and above (as defined using the AOAC methods 985.29 and 991.43) are associated with the greatest health benefits in reducing the incidence of cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes mellitus and colo-rectal cancer. The confidence intervals widen at intakes of 30g/day or more and the health risks are lower at 30g/day than at lower levels of intake. Therefore, it is agreed that the dietary reference value for fibre is set at 30g per day as this is the amount which was shown in the evidence reviewed to be associated most consistently with reduced risk of disease compared to lower intakes. This value was also agreed because the confidence intervals at intakes above 30g/day become much wider and, therefore, there was less certainty about the accuracy of precise values beyond this point.
- 11.23 The dietary reference value is based on evidence in which the consumption of a variety of foods rich in dietary fibre as a naturally integrated component is associated with beneficial health outcomes. A diet rich in these foods will also usually be rich in micronutrients and phytochemicals that may have additional health benefits.
- 11.24 There is a paucity of evidence in relation to the effects of dietary fibre intake in infants and children upon which to base a dietary reference value, e.g. there are no laxation trials and little information is available with regard to possible adverse effects of high intakes of dietary fibre on growth. The National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) indicates that the upper 2.5 percentile of non-starch polysaccharide intakes in infants (10-13g/day; 13-17g/day AOAC methods 985.29 and 991.43) and children aged 4-10 (19g/day; 25g/day AOAC methods 985.29 and 991.43) and 11-18 years (23g/day; 30g/day AOAC methods 985.29 and 991.43) are not associated

with any adverse effects on growth (Lennox *et al.*, 2011; Bates *et al.*, 2012). This is supportive of setting a dietary reference value for children as a proportion of the adult dietary reference value for dietary fibre based on the dietary reference value for energy, providing they are able to achieve an adequate energy intake and are thriving. The dietary reference value for dietary fibre intake in children would then be based on the energy dietary reference value for a given age range (SACN, 2011) as a proportion of the adult value. The dietary reference values for dietary fibre for children and adolescents have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 5g/day and are informed by comparative intakes of dietary fibre in different age groups in the NDNS.

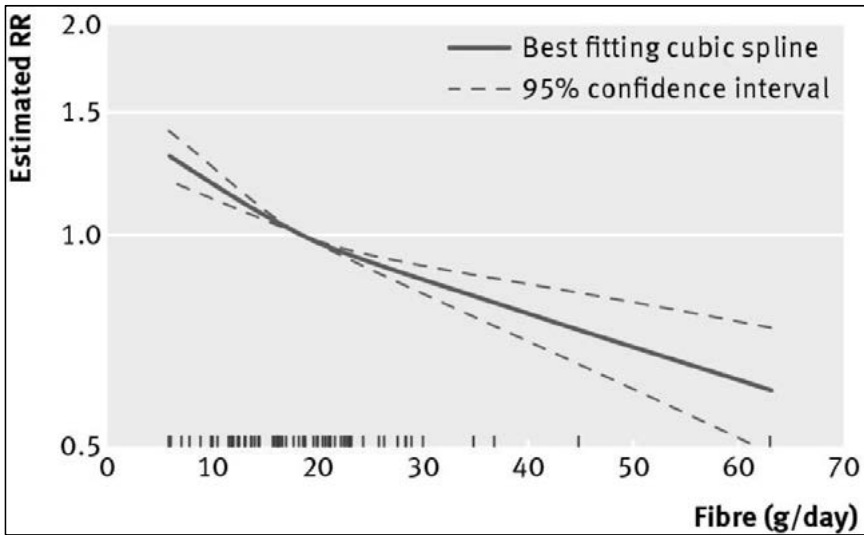
Figure 11.1: Risk of CVD in cohort studies with increasing intake of total fibre



Threapleton et al. (2013d) Dietary fibre intake and risk of cardiovascular disease: systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ* 347, f6879 (supplementary material).

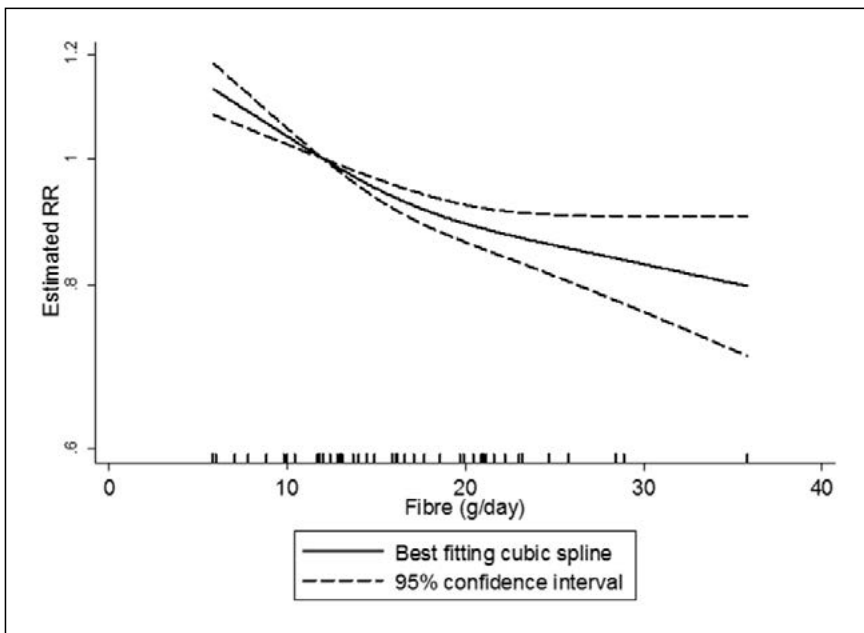
RR: relative risk; the lines at the bottom of the plot represent where a risk estimate has been provided for a given intake within each study.

Figure 11.2: Risk of CHD in cohort studies with increasing intake of total fibre



Threapleton et al. (2013d) Dietary fibre intake and risk of cardiovascular disease: systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ* 347, f6879 (supplementary material). RR: relative risk; the lines at the bottom of the plot represent where a risk estimate has been provided for a given intake within each study.

Figure 11.3: Risk of stroke in cohort studies with increasing intake of total fibre



Threapleton et al. (2013c) Dietary fibre intake and risk of first stroke. *Stroke* 44, 1360-1368.

RR: relative risk; the lines at the bottom of the plot represent where a risk estimate has been provided for a given intake within each study.

Figure 11.4: Risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus in cohort studies with increasing intake of total fibre

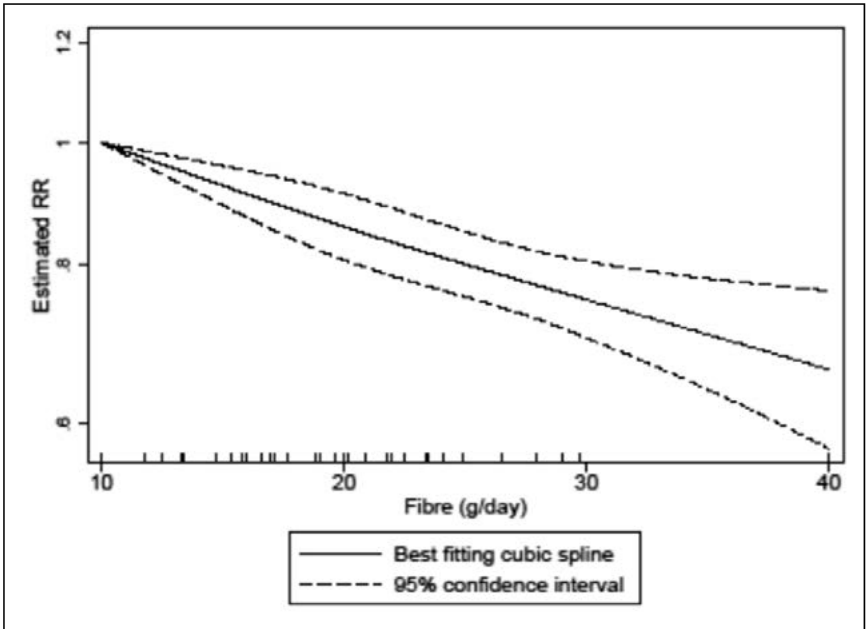
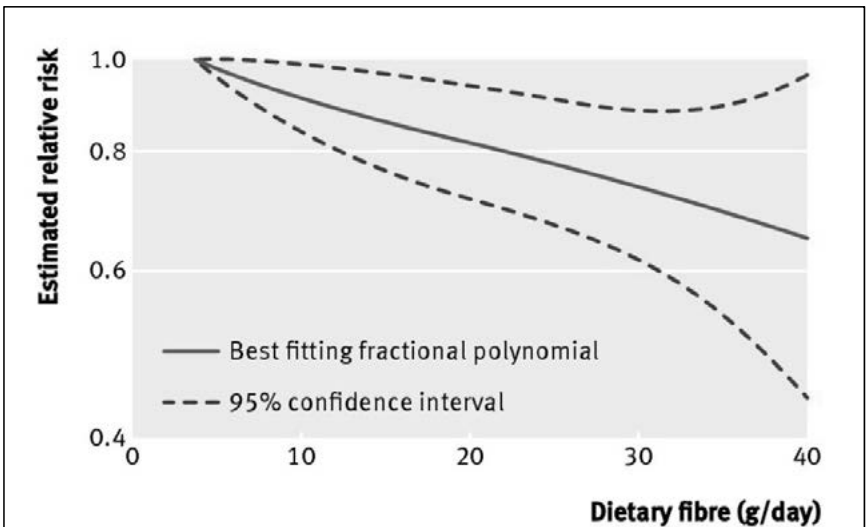


Figure supplied by Victoria Burley based on data in Threapleton et al. 2013b.

RR: relative risk; the lines at the bottom of the plot represents where a risk estimate has been provided for a given intake within each study.

Figure 11.5: Risk of colo-rectal cancer in cohort studies with increasing intake of total fibre



Aune et al. (2011) Dietary fibre intake and risk of cardiovascular disease: systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ* 343, d6617 (supplementary material).

11.25 It is recommended that:

- Dietary fibre should be defined as all carbohydrates that are neither digested nor absorbed in the small intestine and have a degree of polymerisation of

three or more monomeric units, plus lignin. For extracted natural carbohydrate components or synthetic carbohydrate products to be defined as dietary fibre, beneficial physiological effects, similar to those demonstrated for the naturally integrated dietary fibre component of foods, must be demonstrated by accepted scientific evidence. Dietary fibre is to be chemically determined using the prevailing AOAC methods agreed by regulatory authorities.

- It is recommended that the dietary reference value for the average population intake of dietary fibre for adults should be 30g/day, as defined in the paragraph above and measured using the AOAC methods agreed by regulatory authorities. The previous dietary reference value of 18g/day of non-starch polysaccharides, defined by the Englyst method, equates to about 23-24 g/day of dietary fibre if analysed using these AOAC methods, thus the new recommendation represents an increase from this current value.
- It is recommended that the average population intake of dietary fibre for children aged 2 to 5 years should approximate 15g/day, for children aged 5 to 11 years 20g/day, for children aged 11 to 16 years 25 g/day and for adolescents aged 16 to 18 years about 30g/day. These values have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 5g/day and are informed by comparative intakes of dietary fibre in different aged groups in the NDNS. Due to the absence of information, no quantitative recommendations are made for children aged under 2 years, but from about six months of age gradual diversification of the diet to provide increasing amounts of whole grains, pulses, fruits and vegetables is encouraged.
- Most of the evidence for the wide range of health benefits of fibre comes from studies where the exposure reflects dietary fibre intakes achieved through a variety of foods where it is present as a naturally integrated component. There is evidence to show that particular extracted and isolated fibres have positive effects on blood lipids and colorectal function but due to the smaller evidence base, it is not known whether these components confer the full range of health benefits associated with the consumption of a mix of dietary fibre rich foods. Therefore, it is recommended that fibre intakes should be achieved through a variety of food sources.

12 Overall summary and conclusions

- 12.1 This report considered the evidence for a role of dietary carbohydrate in cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health. Systematic reviews on cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health were commissioned to inform the evaluation on carbohydrates and health. Evidence from both prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials was included in the reviews.

Approach taken in the consideration of the evidence

- 12.2 The evidence was assessed using the SACN *Framework for the Evaluation of Evidence* (SACN, 2012) and graded according to the system described in Annex 2. This system was devised specifically to consider the evidence included in the Carbohydrates and Health report. In accord with the SACN *Framework for Evaluation of Evidence*, strict inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied in the systematic reviews to ensure the evidence considered was of sufficient quality to be able to draw sound conclusions. This restricted the evidence considered to prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials. For the individual systematic reviews and update search see Annex 1.
- 12.3 There is potential for biases with observational studies and the possibility of confounding by extraneous variables that correlate with both the dependent variable and the independent variable (residual confounding); hence, any associations must be interpreted with caution. The definitions used in cohort studies to characterise and quantify a specific dietary exposure, e.g. 'whole grains', have been used as described even though they may vary between studies. The same cohort studies were often used to assess different dietary components and so confounding cannot be excluded.
- 12.4 Randomised controlled trials can provide strong evidence for a causal relationship between diet and disease risk, yet a limitation is that they generally investigate markers and risk factors, but not disease outcomes. Trials are only typically carried out for short periods whilst chronic diet over many years is more relevant to health. Consideration of disease outcomes in relation to carbohydrate intake is, therefore, often dependent on prospective cohort studies. Many of the randomised controlled trials involve mixed interventions that modify other dietary components, e.g. the proportion and type of fat or micronutrient content. They also often involve energy restriction with the aim of producing weight loss. Both of these factors could potentially affect the outcomes considered. This limits the conclusions that can be drawn; in particular this applies to the effect of variations in total carbohydrate intake and glycaemic index and glycaemic load on cardio-metabolic risk factors. A further limitation is that the dietary interventions vary greatly between trials examining a specific outcome and it is often not possible to consider dose-response effects; this is especially so for trials varying total carbohydrate intake.

- 12.5 For many of the outcomes considered in this report, there was insufficient evidence of the required quality. However, where possible, the dose-response relationships between carbohydrate intakes and health outcomes have been considered and used to inform the dietary recommendations.

Total dietary carbohydrate

- 12.6 Prospective cohort studies indicate no association between total carbohydrate intake and the incidence of cardiovascular disease endpoints, type 2 diabetes mellitus, glycaemia or colo-rectal cancer; in most studies, the results were adjusted for body mass index. Cohort studies and trials conducted in children and adolescents indicate no association between total carbohydrate intake and body mass index or body fatness. There is a lack of evidence available for oral health outcomes in relation to total carbohydrate intake.
- 12.7 Randomised controlled trials assess the effect of varying total carbohydrate intake and reciprocal variation of fat type and quantity and/or protein intake. No effect of varying total carbohydrate intake on vascular function, inflammatory markers and risk factors for type 2 diabetes mellitus has been demonstrated. Fasting blood lipid concentrations and blood pressure are affected, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by a concomitant reduction in fat intake and/or differences in weight loss between experimental groups. This caveat applies to all the cardio-metabolic risk factors investigated. The trials provide evidence that an energy-restricted higher carbohydrate, lower fat diet, as compared with a lower carbohydrate average fat diet, may be effective in reducing body mass index, but the evidence is based on only four trials and there is high heterogeneity between them. The hypothesis that diets higher in total carbohydrate cause weight gain is not supported by the evidence from randomised controlled trials considered in this report.
- 12.8 Overall, the evidence from both prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials indicates that total carbohydrate intake appears to be neither detrimental nor beneficial to cardio-metabolic health and colo-rectal health. However, this report also highlights that there are specific components or sources of carbohydrates which are associated with more beneficial or detrimental health effects.

Sugars and sugars-sweetened foods and beverages

- 12.9 Prospective cohort studies indicate that sugars or sugars-sweetened beverage intake is not associated with the incidence of colo-rectal cancer. There is no association between the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus and total or individual sugars intake, but a greater risk is associated with a higher intake of sugars-sweetened beverages. There is insufficient evidence to enable conclusions to be drawn in relation to cardiovascular disease endpoints. Prospective cohort studies, conducted in children and adolescents, indicate that higher consumption (i.e. the amount) of sugars, sugars-containing foods and sugars-sweetened beverages is associated with a greater risk of dental caries in the deciduous and

permanent dentitions. There is a lack of evidence to assess the impact of sugars intake on oral health in adults, however the mechanism for the development of dental caries is the same for adults as it is for children. A higher frequency of consumption of sugars-containing foods and beverages, but not total sugars, is also associated with greater risk of dental caries in the deciduous and permanent dentitions. The lack of association observed between frequency of sugars intake and dental caries risk may in part be due to methodological problems in the definition and characterisation of eating events in observational studies. Identifying the relationship between dental caries and sugars intake is confounded by oral hygiene and global preventative measures that have reduced the incidence of caries worldwide.

- 12.10 Randomised controlled trials conducted in adults indicate that increasing or decreasing the percentage of total dietary energy as sugars when consuming an *ad libitum* diet, either through the substitution of other macronutrient components or by replacing sugars with non-caloric sweeteners, leads to a corresponding increase or decrease in energy intake. Consistent with these findings, randomised controlled trials conducted in children and adolescents indicate that consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages, as compared with non-calorically sweetened beverages, results in greater weight gain and increases in body mass index. The findings of these trials suggest that there is inadequate energy compensation (degree of voluntary reduction in intake of other foods or drinks), for energy delivered as sugar. Trials examining cardiovascular risk factors, inflammatory markers and risk factors for type 2 diabetes mellitus demonstrate no effects of increasing sugars intake. There is also insufficient evidence to assess the link between individual sugars and sugars-sweetened foods and beverages and cardio-metabolic outcomes.
- 12.11 The WHO guideline for sugars intake for adults and children (WHO, 2015) was published in the final stages of the drafting of this report. The reviews on sugars intake in relation to body weight and oral health (Te Morenga *et al.*, 2013; Moynihan & Kelly, 2014) employed different inclusion criteria from the reviews conducted to inform this report. The WHO guideline included studies of shorter duration, non-randomised trials, and population and cross-sectional studies unlike this report (see Chapter 1 and Annex 2 for the inclusion criteria used in the reviews informing this report). The WHO made a strong recommendation that in adults and children the intake of free sugars should be reduced to less than 10% of total energy intake and a conditional recommendation for a further reduction in free sugar intake to below 5% of total energy intake.
- 12.12 Overall, there were very few studies on individual sugars, such as glucose, fructose or sucrose, which met the inclusion criteria for this report. Prospective cohort studies indicate that higher consumption of sugars and sugars-containing foods and beverages is associated with a greater risk of dental caries. Prospective cohort studies indicate that greater consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages is associated with risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus. Randomised controlled trials conducted in adults indicate that increasing or decreasing the percentage of total dietary energy as sugars when consuming an *ad libitum* diet leads to a

corresponding increase or decrease in energy intake. Reduction in the percentage of dietary energy as sugars was achieved in these trials either through the substitution of other macronutrient components or by replacing sugars with non-caloric sweeteners. Randomised controlled trials conducted in children and adolescents indicate that consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages, as compared with non-calorically sweetened beverages, results in greater weight gain and increases in body mass index.

Starch and starch-rich foods

- 12.13 Prospective cohort studies indicate no association between starch and refined grain intake and cardiovascular disease endpoints and type 2 diabetes mellitus. There is a lack of evidence relating colo-rectal cancer and oral health to starch and starch-rich foods intake. There is insufficient evidence to draw a conclusion on the association between starch intake and weight gain.
- 12.14 Cohort studies indicate an association between greater consumption of white rice and risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus in Asian populations (in Japan and China) consuming amounts of white rice which are not generally achieved in the UK. It is therefore uncertain whether the detrimental association is relevant to the whole UK population. Consumption of brown rice is associated with a reduction in the risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus, but the evidence is limited to a small number of studies. A higher consumption of potatoes is associated with risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other dietary variables, e.g. cooking methods such as frying. Moreover, the evidence is limited to a small number of studies.

Dietary fibre

- 12.15 Prospective cohort studies indicate that a diet rich in dietary fibre is associated with a lower incidence of cardiovascular diseases, coronary events, type 2 diabetes mellitus and colo-rectal cancer. Over the ranges of intakes studied, it was found that as more dietary fibre was consumed a greater reduction in risk was observed (see Figures 11.1-11.5 Chapter 11). No association was found between dietary fibre intake and body weight. There is a lack of evidence for oral health in relation to dietary fibre intake. Although the definitions used to define whole grains vary between studies, higher whole grains consumption is associated with a lower incidence of cardiovascular disease, hypertension, type 2 diabetes mellitus and colon cancer. Higher cereal fibre consumption is associated with a lower incidence of coronary events, type 2 diabetes mellitus, colo-rectal and colon cancer, although the evidence is more limited for individual types of dietary fibre due to the smaller number of studies.
- 12.16 Randomised controlled trials indicate no effect of (total, mixed) dietary fibre intake on cardiovascular or type 2 diabetes mellitus risk factors considered in this report. Trials indicate that dietary fibre, wheat fibre and other cereal fibres decrease intestinal transit times and increase faecal mass. Higher cereal fibre consumption is shown to reduce constipation. Trials demonstrate no effect of cereal fibre

supplements on recurrence of colo-rectal adenomas. Trials in subjects receiving oat bran and isolated β -glucan demonstrate beneficial effects on fasting blood lipid concentrations and blood pressure. The doses of oat fibre and β -glucan used in these trials generally exceed levels currently consumed in a typical UK diet, but recent and future developments of food ingredients may substantially increase the intake of isolated β -glucan.

- 12.17 There is strong evidence from prospective cohort studies that increased intakes of total dietary fibre, and particularly cereal fibre and wholegrain, as they are classified in this report, are associated with a lower risk of cardio-metabolic disease and colo-rectal cancer. Randomised controlled trials indicate that total dietary fibre, wheat fibre and other cereal fibres, as they are classified in this report, increase faecal mass and decrease intestinal transit times. Randomised controlled trials also indicate that higher intake of oat bran and isolated β -glucans leads to lower total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol and triacylglycerol concentrations and lower blood pressure.
- 12.18 No prospective cohort studies have examined the relationship between non-digestible oligosaccharides or resistant starch and the health/disease outcomes considered in this report. Randomised controlled trials in which diets were supplemented with non-digestible oligosaccharides demonstrated a beneficial effect on fasting blood lipid concentrations, but no effect on fasting glucose and insulin concentration or energy intake. Trials demonstrated that non-digestible oligosaccharides cause an increase in faecal mass and an effect on faecal bacterial content, but no effect on faecal short chain fatty acid levels. Non-digestible oligosaccharides or inulin supplementation increases fractional absorption of calcium in children, but not in adults. Resistant starch supplementation has no effect on energy intake or faecal bacterial content, but increases faecal mass and modifies faecal short chain fatty acid levels. Trials also provide limited evidence that polydextrose and polyol supplementation increase faecal mass.
- 12.19 Overall, randomised controlled trials in adults indicate that supplementation with non-digestible oligosaccharides improved blood lipid concentrations, increased faecal mass and bacterial content. Resistant starch supplementation increased faecal mass and short chain fatty acid content. Polydextrose and polyol supplementation increased faecal mass. The health significance of the effects on faecal parameters and net calcium absorption in children is unclear. While some effects are demonstrated for both non-digestible oligosaccharides and resistant starch, the supplement doses in trials currently exceed estimated dietary intakes in the UK, but a large number of foods containing these compounds have already been authorised in Europe and the potential or actual impact of these on overall intakes is unclear.

Glycaemic index and glycaemic load

- 12.20 Prospective cohort studies indicate that a diet higher in glycaemic index or load is associated with a greater risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus. There is no evidence from prospective cohort studies to suggest an association between glycaemic index

and cardiovascular disease or coronary heart disease. Glycaemic load is associated with a greater risk of cardiovascular disease, but the evidence is limited due to the small number of studies. The available evidence does not suggest an association between glycaemic index or load and colo-rectal cancer incidence. There is a lack of evidence for effects on oral health in relation to glycaemic index or load.

- 12.21 Randomised controlled trials have assessed the effect of varying glycaemic index primarily by changing the quality of the dietary carbohydrate sources. Trials assessing the effect of varying glycaemic load have reduced carbohydrate intake, reciprocally varied fat, type and quantity, and/or protein intake, as well as changing the quality of dietary carbohydrate. These trials indicate no effect of varying glycaemic index or load on vascular function, inflammatory markers, risk factors for type 2 diabetes mellitus and obesity. The trials indicate a higher glycaemic index diet may affect fasting blood lipid concentrations, but it is not possible to exclude confounding due to differential weight changes between the groups. A higher glycaemic load diet has been shown to reduce diastolic blood pressure and fasting blood triacylglycerol concentration to a lesser degree than a lower glycaemic load diet, but it is not possible to exclude confounding by other dietary variables and the evidence is limited due to the small number of trials.
- 12.22 Higher and lower glycaemic index or load diets will, in most cases, differ in many ways other than just the carbohydrate fraction. It is not possible, therefore, to assign cause-effect relationships for outcomes based on variation in diet glycaemic index or load, as the nature of the intervention includes a number of factors.

Dietary carbohydrate recommendations

Carbohydrate dietary reference values for ages 2 years and above

- 12.23 The dietary recommendations for total carbohydrate, free sugars, starch and sugars contained within the cellular structure of food, and milk sugars have been proposed in the context of an energy intake which is appropriate to maintain a healthy weight (SACN, 2011).
- 12.24 It is recommended that:
- The dietary reference value for total carbohydrate should be maintained at an average population intake of approximately 50% of total dietary energy.¹⁸
- 12.25 It is recommended that:
- The definition for ‘free sugars’ be adopted in the UK. This comprises all monosaccharides and disaccharides added to foods by the manufacturer, cook or consumer, plus sugars naturally present in honey, syrups and unsweetened fruit juices. Under this definition lactose when naturally present in milk and milk products is excluded.
 - The average population intake of free sugars should not exceed 5% of total dietary energy for age groups from 2 years upwards.

¹⁸ The previous recommendation for total carbohydrate was 47% of daily total dietary energy intake or 50% of food energy (excluding alcohol) (COMA, 1991).

- With the proposed reduction in the population intake of free sugars, their contribution toward recommended total carbohydrate intake should be replaced by starches, sugars contained within the cellular structure of foods and, for those who consume dairy products, by lactose naturally present in milk and milk products. The complete replacement of energy derived from free sugars by these carbohydrate sources would only apply to those people who are a healthy BMI and in energy balance. In those who are overweight, the reduction of free sugars would be part of a strategy to decrease energy intake.
- The consumption of sugars-sweetened beverages should be minimised in children and adults.

12.26 It is recommended that:

- Dietary fibre should be defined as all carbohydrates that are neither digested nor absorbed in the small intestine and have a degree of polymerisation of three or more monomeric units, plus lignin. For extracted natural carbohydrate components or synthetic carbohydrate products to be defined as dietary fibre, beneficial physiological effects, similar to those demonstrated for the naturally integrated dietary fibre component of foods, must be demonstrated by accepted scientific evidence. Dietary fibre is to be chemically determined using the prevailing AOAC methods agreed by regulatory authorities.
- The dietary reference value for the average population intake of dietary fibre for adults should be 30g/day, as defined in the paragraph above and measured using the AOAC methods agreed by regulatory authorities. The previous dietary reference value of 18g/day of non-starch polysaccharides, defined by the Englyst method, equates to about 23-24 g/day of dietary fibre if analysed using these AOAC methods, thus the new recommendation represents an increase from this current value.
- The average population intake of dietary fibre for children aged 2 to 5 years should approximate 15g/day, for children aged 5 to 11 years 20g/day, for children aged 11 to 16 years 25 g/day and for adolescents aged 16 to 18 years about 30g/day.
- Most of the evidence for the wide range of health benefits of fibre comes from studies where the exposure reflects dietary fibre intakes achieved through a variety of foods where it is present as a naturally integrated component. There is evidence to show that particular extracted and isolated fibres have positive effects on blood lipids and colorectal function but due to the smaller evidence base, it is not known whether these components confer the full range of health benefits associated with the consumption of a mix of dietary fibre rich foods. Therefore, it is recommended that fibre intakes should be achieved through a variety of food sources.
- No quantitative recommendations are made for children aged under 2 years, due to the absence of information, but from about six months of age gradual diversification of the diet to provide increasing amounts of whole grains, pulses, fruits and vegetables is encouraged.

UK carbohydrate intakes

- 12.27 The UK National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) provides robust data at national population level on intakes of carbohydrates, sugar and fibre. Latest available data covering 2008/09 – 2011/12 were compared with the dietary reference values set by COMA in 1991. Mean intakes of total carbohydrate met or were close to meeting the dietary reference value. Mean intakes of non-milk extrinsic sugars exceeded the current dietary reference value (10% of total dietary energy intake) in all age groups and were highest in children aged 4-10 years and children aged 11-18 years (14.7% and 15.4% of total dietary energy intake respectively). Sugars-sweetened beverages (including fizzy drinks, energy drinks and squashes and cordials) provided 30% of non-milk extrinsic sugars intake in the 11-18 year age group and 16% of intake in younger children and adults. Fruit juice provided 10% of non-milk extrinsic sugars intake in the 11-18 year age group and 13% in younger children. Other sources of non-milk extrinsic sugars were table sugar, preserves and confectionery and biscuits, cakes, buns, pastries and breakfast cereals.
- 12.28 Mean intakes of dietary fibre (defined as non-starch polysaccharides) in all age groups were below the current dietary reference value of 18g/day set for adults. Mean intakes were less than 14g/day in adults and 11-12g/day in children. Cereals and cereal products were the main sources of fibre intake in all age groups, followed by vegetables and potatoes. There is evidence from NDNS and other surveys of a socio-economic gradient in intakes of both sugars and fibre, with higher intakes of non-milk extrinsic sugars as a percentage of energy for adults and lower intakes of non-starch polysaccharides for both adults and children in the lower income groups.
- 12.29 Changing the definition of sugars from non-milk extrinsic sugars to free sugars would slightly reduce mean intakes as a percentage of total dietary energy intake, but recommending that the average population intake of free sugars should not exceed 5% of total dietary energy means that current mean intakes in all age groups would be at least twice that recommended and three times that value in the 11-18 year age group.
- 12.30 Changing the definition of fibre from non-starch polysaccharides to AOAC would increase mean intakes by 3-5g in each age group. Setting the dietary reference value for AOAC fibre at 30g/day for adults means that current mean intakes would be 10-11g below the dietary reference value for men and 13g below for women. For children, setting the dietary reference value for AOAC fibre to 15g for the 2-5 year age group and 20g for the 5-11 year age group means that current mean intakes would be 4-6g below the dietary reference value. For older children aged 11-16 years, setting the dietary reference value at 25g means that current mean intake would be 9g below the dietary reference value.

Recommended dietary pattern in relation to carbohydrate

- 12.31 The evidence considered in this report endorses a dietary pattern concerning carbohydrates that is based on a variety of food sources but limiting the amounts consumed of table sugar and rich sources of free sugars, such as preserves and

sweet spreads, fruit juice, confectionery, biscuits, buns and cakes. The report also provides evidence that sugars-sweetened beverages should be consumed in minimal (i.e. infrequently and in small) amounts.

- 12.32 The National Diet and Nutrition Survey shows that, as a whole, the population consumes more than the recommended amount of sugars and the intakes of fibre are below current advice. With the proposed increase of the dietary reference value for fibre and the reduction of the dietary reference value for free sugars, the difference between recommendations and the population's intake would become even greater for both. In order to address this imbalance, there needs to be a change in the population's diet so that people derive a greater proportion of total dietary energy from foods that are lower in free sugars and higher in dietary fibre whilst continuing to derive approximately 50% of total dietary energy from carbohydrates.

Research recommendations

- 12.33 The mechanism underlying the observed effect of sugars consumption on total energy intakes in human populations could be better characterised, and the relationship requires more precise quantification. These issues would be best addressed through well designed human intervention trials at a range of exposure levels relevant to current population intake levels.
- 12.34 Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a significant public health problem in the UK. SACN would welcome research to clarify the relative contribution of sustained exposures to total and specific carbohydrates and related dietary sources/patterns to measures of fasting and post-prandial glycaemia and insulinaemia.
- 12.35 SACN would welcome research to address the lack of evidence available for oral health outcomes in relation to total carbohydrate intake.
- 12.36 SACN would welcome research to improve the functional categorization of specific dietary fibres and relevant extracts: building structure-function understanding to link and predict from defined, measurable physical and chemical properties to specific physiological effects. This should include defining physiologically meaningful effect ranges for colonic and faecal pH, short chain fatty acids, and bacterial populations.
- 12.37 SACN is recommending a change to the definition of fibre used in the UK, and that fibre should be chemically defined using AOAC methods. We note that AOAC fibre is routinely included in PHE's nutrient analysis work, but to ensure that food composition tables reflect this recommendation, forward plans for new analyses of foods should ensure that data are available for key food groups contributing to fibre intakes as soon as is practical.
- 12.38 A standardized definition of 'wholegrain' and wholegrain foods should be developed, both to facilitate recommended portion sizes for wholegrain foods and to complement public health messages about the importance of dietary fibre.

12.39 Continuous improvements in the design, quality and consistency of reporting in nutrition research is required, to facilitate data capture (for meta-analysis) and interpretation. This includes: continued development and validation of markers of dietary exposures which can be used at population level; sufficient duration of exposures in randomised controlled trials, to ensure sustained effects; reporting according to e.g. CONSORT guidelines: baseline data; intervention data; change data with appropriate measures of variance; and definition and specification of exposures, for example with regard to dietary fibres and wholegrains.

Cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health systematic reviews, additional meta-analyses and update search

The documents listed below can be accessed at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sacn-carbohydrates-and-health-report>

Cardio-metabolic health systematic review protocol

Cardio-metabolic health systematic review introduction

Chapter 1. cardiovascular disease and dietary carbohydrate

Chapter 2. markers of cardiovascular disease - hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids

Chapter 2. markers of cardiovascular disease - incident hypertension and blood pressure

Chapter 2. markers of cardiovascular disease - vascular function

Chapter 3. dietary carbohydrate and markers of inflammation

Chapter 4. diabetes and glycaemia

Chapter 5. obesity

Chapter 6. energy intake and eating motivation

Carbohydrates and colo-rectal health systematic review

Carbohydrates and oral health systematic review

Update search for the cardio-metabolic health, colo-rectal health and oral health systematic reviews

Additional meta-analyses

Summary of review methodology

- A2.1 For the cardio-metabolic health review, literature searches were performed to identify evidence on carbohydrates and cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus and obesity, and their associated risk markers. Prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials were included and the literature searches which were performed from 1990 up to November and December 2009. A start date of 1990 was chosen, as the evidence prior to that was considered by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA). To be included in the review, cohort studies investigating cardiovascular disease had to be adjusted for age and smoking as important confounders and studies investigating type 2 diabetes mellitus had to be adjusted for age and body mass index as important confounders. For more details on how the review was conducted, refer to the introductory section and the protocol of the cardio-metabolic health review (see Annex 1).
- A2.2 Studies conducted in pregnant women were excluded from the cardio-metabolic health review because pregnancy represents a unique physiological and metabolic state and any changes observed could not be extrapolated to the general population. Studies conducted in children aged less than 5 years of age were also excluded from the cardio-metabolic health review. A separate assessment considered carbohydrate intake in pregnancy in relation to birth weight and cardio-metabolic health outcomes based on the databases containing all the citations identified in the cardio-metabolic health review literature search and the update search (see Annex 7).
- A2.3 For the colo-rectal health review, literature searches were performed for trials on normal colo-rectal function (bowel habit/function, faecal microflora, fermentation products and calcium and magnesium absorption) and impaired colo-rectal function (constipation, prevention of diarrhoea, diverticular disease and irritable bowel syndrome). In terms of colo-rectal cancer risk, prospective studies on colo-rectal cancer and trials investigating the recurrence of colo-rectal adenomas were included. The literature searches were performed from the inception of the relevant database, regardless of the start date, up to November 2010. To be included in the review, cohort studies investigating colo-rectal cancer had to be adjusted for alcohol intake, smoking, physical activity, age and overweight/obesity as important confounders. For more detail on the review methodology, refer to the colo-rectal health review (see Annex 1).
- A2.4 For the oral health review, literature searches were performed for cohort studies and randomised controlled trials on dental caries, periodontal disease, tooth wear (including dental erosion) and oral mucosal lesions (including oral cancer). To be included in the review, cohort studies investigating dental caries, erosion or periodontal disease had to be adjusted for smoking status (in adults), brushing

frequency and age. For oral cancer, cohort studies were included only if they adjusted for smoking status, alcohol intake and age as important confounders. Searches were conducted from the inception of the relevant databases up to January 2011 regardless of start date. Fruit juice search terms were part of the search strategy for oral health, but not for colo-rectal or cardio-metabolic health. For more details on the review methodology refer to the oral health review (see Annex 1).

A2.5 Outcomes included in the update search were prioritised as follows:

- cardiovascular disease,
- coronary events,
- stroke,
- total cholesterol,
- LDL-cholesterol,
- HDL-cholesterol,
- triacylglycerol,
- type 2 diabetes mellitus,
- glycaemia, impaired glucose tolerance,
- HbA1c, insulinaemia,
- insulin resistance,
- C-reactive protein,
- vascular function,
- dental caries,
- periodontal disease,
- faecal output (intestinal transit time, faecal weight),
- faecal bacteria, faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content,
- constipation and colo-rectal cancer.

A2.6 The data from the included studies were extracted into tables using the same format as in the respective systematic reviews. These can be found in Annex 1 of this report. In the update search, studies investigating the effect of different polymorphisms were not included.

Data analysis

A2.7 Where three or more studies which were sufficiently similar in design were included in the systematic reviews, a meta-analysis was conducted using a random effects model. For meta-analyses of cohort studies, a dose response approach was used to quantify the relationship between dietary intakes and particular health outcomes. In the colo-rectal health review this was referred to as the 'per unit analysis'. Meta-analyses using the highest versus lowest quantile approach were also presented in the colo-rectal health review, however only the results

from the dose response meta-analyses have been used in this report since they are more informative.

- A2.8 Where studies only reported results by population subgroup within the same study (e.g. men and women, colon and rectal cancer), a fixed effect model was used to combine the results in order to obtain a single estimate. The single estimate was subsequently included in the random effects model.
- A2.9 The I^2 statistic was used to denote heterogeneity. This provides an estimate of the percentage of variation across the studies which is due to systematic differences between studies. In general, an I^2 statistic of 0-25% reflects low heterogeneity, 26-75% indicates medium heterogeneity and >75% indicates high heterogeneity. A high I^2 statistic reflects uncertainty regarding the value of the pooled estimate, but not necessarily the direction of effect (which may be consistent across studies). It was agreed that if the result produced an I^2 of more than 75%, the pooled estimate would not be presented because there was excessive heterogeneity and the result would have little meaning. In this case, the studies were presented in a forest plot only.
- A2.10 In the systematic reviews, where meta-analyses were available they have been used to inform conclusions but were not used as the sole basis on which to judge the evidence. Those studies which provided insufficient information to be incorporated into a meta-analysis were considered in support of this evidence.
- A2.11 In the cardio-metabolic health review, studies investigating dietary fibre intake in relation to health outcomes, non-starch polysaccharide values, were where reported, multiplied by 1.33 to estimate AOAC values (Bates *et al.*, 2009). This enabled comparison with studies in which fibre was defined using AOAC methods, before being included in a meta-analysis. For the colo-rectal health review studies measuring both non-starch polysaccharide and AOAC were included in a meta-analysis without adjusting the non-starch polysaccharide values, but this was shown to have negligible impact on the overall pooled risk ratio estimates (see Annex 1 additional analyses).
- A2.12 For more details on the statistical approaches used, refer to the original cardio-metabolic health and colo-rectal health systematic reviews (see Annex 1). Meta-analyses were not conducted in the oral health review, and for some outcomes in the colo-rectal health review, because the studies were not sufficiently comparable, therefore data were extracted into tables and are discussed in the narrative.

Grading system for judging the evidence

- A2.13 It was considered important to grade the evidence included in this report in order to convey the strength and quality of evidence identified. Established grading systems from the World Cancer Research Fund, The Working Group on Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) and the German Nutrition Society were evaluated, however they were considered not to offer the flexibility required for a risk assessment of this nature. Using the SACN

framework for the evaluation of evidence as a basis, a grading system specifically for use in this report was devised. Details of this system are provided in the following paragraphs.

- A2.14 The scientific evidence included in the commissioned systematic reviews and the update search was used to draw conclusions on the relationship between carbohydrates and different health outcomes/intermediate markers. An approach to judge, assess and categorise the evidence, based on the nature of the relationship observed and the amount of available evidence, was agreed.
- A2.15 In keeping with the Framework for the Evaluation of Evidence, the word 'association' was used to describe the evidence from cohort studies and the word 'effect' was used when referring to evidence from randomised controlled trials. An association/effect was determined if statistical significance was demonstrated using the $p < 0.05$ criterion.
- A2.16 Expert judgement was used to determine the exact grading. This included taking account of study quality, study size and methodological considerations, and has resulted in the upgrading or downgrading of evidence, in some instances. For example, expert judgement was applied to upgrade the conclusions from randomised controlled trials presenting evidence on sugars-sweetened beverage intake in relation to body mass index in children and adolescents. Expert judgment was also used in the decision to include studies that did not adjust for tooth brushing in the evidence base on sugars intake and risk of dental caries. The report notes where expert judgment was used to alter conclusions reached through the grading system.

Cohort studies

- A2.17 Generally, evidence from three or more cohort studies was used to judge if there was an association particularly where a meta-analysis had been performed. However, expert judgement was also applied to determine whether the quality of the evidence permitted a conclusion to be drawn. Where an association appeared to be present, the evidence was graded as adequate, moderate or limited. The number of studies acted as an approximate guide only, since issues surrounding study design, study size, methodology and definition of exposures were also considered in determining the final grading of the evidence.
- A2.18 Evidence was graded as follows:
- Adequate – a meta-analysis was performed on five or more cohort studies. Alternatively, a total of five or more studies were identified in the systematic review and/or the update search; these consistently showed the same outcome although a meta-analysis was not performed.
 - Moderate – a meta-analysis was performed on three or four cohort studies. Alternatively, a total of five studies were identified in the systematic review and/or update search, but a meta-analysis was not performed.

- Limited – three to four cohort studies were identified and there was some indication that the results were in the same direction but no meta-analysis was performed. However, the evidence may also have been considered limited if there were a number of studies, but the biological plausibility was unclear or the methodology was not precise or the exposures were heterogeneous.

Randomised controlled trials

A2.19 Generally, there needed to be three or more randomised controlled trials to determine if there was evidence of an effect or not. Expert judgement was used to determine if the quality of these data permitted a conclusion to be drawn. Where an effect appeared to be present, the evidence was graded as adequate, moderate or limited. The number of studies was used as an approximate guide only, since issues surrounding study design, study size, methodology and definition of exposures affected the final grading of the evidence.

A2.20 Evidence was graded as follows:

- Adequate – a meta-analysis was performed on three or more randomised controlled trials. Alternatively, a total of four or more studies were identified in the systematic review and/or the update search; these consistently showed the same outcome although a meta-analysis was not performed.
- Moderate – a meta-analysis was performed on three or more randomised controlled trials. Alternatively, three or more randomised controlled trials were identified in the systematic review and/or the update search, which consistently showed the same outcome although a meta-analysis was not performed.
- Limited – three to four randomised controlled trials were identified and there was some indication that the results were in the same direction, but no meta-analysis was performed. However, the evidence may also have been considered limited if there were a number of studies, but the biological plausibility was unclear, the methodology was not precise or the exposures were heterogeneous.

A2.21 The evidence was normally considered as insufficient where there were fewer than three studies of the same type. Alternatively, if there were more studies but they were of poor quality, the evidence may have also been considered as insufficient.

A2.22 Evidence was deemed inconsistent according to statistical considerations i.e. in a meta-analysis, when $I^2 > 75\%$, the confidence intervals did not overlap or if the results of individual studies were not in the same direction. When the I^2 was greater than 75%, but the forest plot suggested there was evidence of a direction for an outcome, expert judgement was used to upgrade the conclusion, where appropriate.

A2.23 In addition to the evidence grading, if an effect or association was shown, statements have been provided on the following:

- Whether the effect or association indicated beneficial or adverse effects with higher intakes of carbohydrate or carbohydrate components.

- Whether the effect or association was biologically relevant, noting that some changes may be important at a population level, but not at an individual level. This statement also contains, where appropriate, an indication as to whether the intakes reported in the studies were achievable through diets typically consumed in the UK.

Upgrading criteria

A2.24 Specific factors, when present, were used to upgrade the evidence. Expert judgement was used to apply the factors listed below:

- There was a plausible biological gradient ('dose response') in the association or effect. Such a gradient did not need to be linear and could even be 'U'-shaped, so long as this could be explained plausibly.
- Data from a large, well designed randomised controlled trial, which is adequately powered.
- A relatively large summary effect size after appropriate control for confounders. The pooled estimates from observational studies included in the meta-analysis have a relative risk above 1.2 for greater risk or below 0.8 for decreased risk for an agreed increment of intake (one standard deviation of intake as determined by dietary surveys).
- Evidence from appropriately controlled experiments demonstrating one or more plausible and specific mechanisms in humans.
- Consistent direction of effect, despite a small effect size.
- Evidence was also downgraded if there were concerns around study design, if the exposure was heterogeneous or the methodology used to measure the exposure or outcome was not precise.
- For findings on blood lipids, blood pressure and BMI, published literature was also used to inform biological relevance (Stamler *et al.*, 1993; He & Whelton, 1999; Cullen, 2000; Lewington *et al.*, 2007; Flegal *et al.*, 2013; Liu *et al.*, 2013; Asayama *et al.*, 2014).

Concluding statements for judging the strength of the evidence

Randomised controlled trials	Prospective cohort studies
Effect – Adequate evidence	Association – Adequate evidence
Effect – Moderate evidence	Association – Moderate evidence
Effect – Limited evidence	Association – Limited evidence
No effect – Adequate evidence	No Association – Adequate evidence
No effect – Moderate evidence	No Association – Moderate evidence
No effect – Limited evidence	No Association – Limited evidence

A2.25 Note – the following concluding statements were applied to both randomised controlled trials and prospective cohort studies:

- No conclusion – insufficient evidence.
- No conclusion – inconsistent evidence.

Commentary on the evidence on fructose and health

- A3.1 Fructose intakes, through the use of high fructose corn syrup (HFCS, an example of a number of different glucose/fructose mixes with about 40-60% fructose content) have increased in parallel with obesity rates. Current intakes of fructose (as separate from sucrose) in the UK are estimated to provide 3.4% of total dietary energy (3.5% of food energy) in adults, but the National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) does not capture intakes of HFCS; therefore there are no reliable national data on current intakes of this sweetener in the UK. HFCS is more commonly used to sweeten foods and beverages in the US than in Europe. Products sweetened with HFCS are not necessarily significantly higher in fructose than foods sweetened with sucrose as HFCS has a similar composition to sucrose, which is 50% glucose and 50% fructose.
- A3.2 Fructose is metabolised differently compared with other monosaccharides and, for this reason, some authors have argued that it promotes lipid production and insulin resistance. A few trials have demonstrated that diets supplemented with high levels of pure fructose (without similar amounts of glucose) lead to increased fasting blood lipid concentrations, particularly of triacylglycerol (TAG), fat deposition, and lower insulin sensitivity compared with diets supplemented with comparable levels of glucose (Teff *et al.*, 2004; Swarbrick *et al.*, 2008; Stanhope *et al.*, 2009; Teff *et al.*, 2009; Stanhope *et al.*, 2011a; Stanhope *et al.*, 2011b). None of these trials met the inclusion criteria for the reviews conducted to inform this report because they were either not randomised trials (Swarbrick *et al.*, 2008; Stanhope *et al.*, 2009; Stanhope *et al.*, 2011a; Stanhope *et al.*, 2011b) or they were of insufficient duration, i.e. less than six weeks (Teff *et al.*, 2004; Teff *et al.*, 2009).
- A3.3 A randomised controlled trial performed in overweight men found that there was no difference in body weight or levels of hepatic TAG if subjects consumed pure fructose or glucose as part of an isocaloric diet (Johnston *et al.*, 2013). However, when subjects consumed glucose or fructose in addition to an *ad libitum* diet, hepatic, calf muscle and serum levels of TAG all increased along with body weight, but these outcomes did not differ significantly between the fructose or glucose interventions. These results imply that the changes demonstrated were as a result of the additional energy consumed. A systematic review found that overall there was no significant effect on body weight when the intervention involved substituting fructose for another carbohydrate using an isocaloric diet (Sievenpiper *et al.*, 2012). However when fructose was provided in addition to the normal diet, weight significantly increased. The authors noted that a number of the trials they reviewed were not randomised, provided large doses of fructose and were of short duration, with only one of the trials being longer than four weeks.

- A3.4 A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised and non-randomised trials found that there was no statistically significant effect on the concentrations of total, LDL- or HDL-cholesterol, when feeding subjects pure fructose compared with isoenergetic amounts of other carbohydrate (Zhang *et al.*, 2013). However when the analysis was stratified by dose, it was found that very high doses of 100g or more of fructose significantly increased the concentrations of total and LDL-cholesterol. Of the twenty four trials included, only eleven were randomised, nine studies were conducted in diabetics and only nine studies had a duration of six weeks or longer (Zhang *et al.*, 2013).
- A3.5 It is important to note that in these trials participants consumed sugars-sweetened beverages containing high doses of either pure fructose or pure glucose (25-30% of their daily energy intake). However, with the exception of certain fruit juices which contain high doses of pure glucose or fructose, glucose and fructose are not commonly consumed in large amounts independent of each other within the normal diet. Instead they are primarily consumed as components of sucrose or high fructose corn syrups (or honey or other commercial glucose/fructose mixes). Sucrose consists of 50% glucose and 50% fructose and honey and most HFCS and other commercial syrups contain glucose and fructose in ratios broadly similar to sucrose. The body absorbs free fructose and glucose, or the same sugars derived from sucrose and HFCS, in exactly the same way. Therefore it appears unlikely that fructose, as consumed as a component of most HFCS or other glucose-fructose syrups, causes metabolic abnormalities or promotes weight gain more than other sugars consumed in an isocaloric diet (Klurfeld *et al.*, 2013).
- A3.6 There was only one trial that was eligible to be included in the cardio-metabolic health review in which diets were supplemented with either glucose or fructose for six weeks (Bantle *et al.*, 2000). The sugars provided 17% of daily energy, 14% of which were added to foods and drinks as glucose or fructose, and the remaining 3% being derived from foods that naturally contained fructose or glucose. At the end of the intervention TAG concentrations were significantly higher in men following fructose supplementation. However there were no significant differences between the fructose and glucose interventions for any of the other fasting blood lipid concentrations measured.
- A3.7 A meta-analysis of trials in which diets were supplemented with either crystalline or pure fructose (excluding HFCS) concluded that fructose intakes up to 90g/day reduced concentrations of glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c) (Livesey & Taylor, 2008). Significant effects on postprandial triacylglycerols were not evident unless more than 50g fructose/day was consumed, and no significant effects were reported on fasting triacylglycerol concentration or body weight with intakes of 100 g or less fructose/day in adults.
- A3.8 A meta-analysis of six trials concluded that supplementation of diets with fructose doses of 36 g/day or less in isoenergetic exchange for other carbohydrates resulted in reduced concentrations of glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c) and fasting glucose (Sievenpiper *et al.*, 2012). The small number of trials and their relatively short duration, however, limit the strength of the conclusions.

- A3.9 There are few data from trials investigating fructose intake as it would be consumed in the typical diet or as HFCS. One trial investigated the effect of consuming different amounts of sucrose- and HFCS-sweetened, low-fat milk as part of an energy restricted diet, on weight loss and fasting blood lipids in overweight and obese subjects (Lowndes *et al.*, 2012). There were no differences in the extent of weight loss and measures of adiposity or fasting blood lipid concentrations between the sucrose- and HFCS-containing diet groups. Another trial by the same authors demonstrated that consuming sucrose or HFCS-sweetened low-fat milk as part of an *ad libitum* diet had no effect on the amount of fat in the liver or in skeletal muscle or on most fasting blood lipid concentrations. TAG concentrations increased, as did body mass, but this did not differ between the dietary groups (Bravo *et al.*, 2013).
- A3.10 Therefore on balance, it is considered that there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that fructose intake, at levels consumed in the normal UK diet, leads to adverse health outcomes independent of any effects related to its presence as a component of total and free sugars.

Dietary acids and tooth wear (including dental erosion)

Introduction

- A4.1 Teeth wear in function, as a consequence there would be an expected increase in wear with increasing age of the individual. There are also some intrinsic and extrinsic variables, however, that increase the rate of tooth wear. These can act as individual factors but most likely act in combination during any wear process.
- A4.2 There are three types of wear described in the dental literature.
- A4.3 Abrasion, in which tooth substance is removed by the abrasive action of an external substance or device, for example a 'smoker's toothpaste' or incorrect use of interdental cleaning aids.
- A4.4 Attrition in which tooth substance is removed as a consequence of teeth rubbing together in contact, effectively polishing each other, but when combined with a clenching or tooth grinding habit this can result in rapid destruction of teeth.
- A4.5 Erosion in which tooth substance is removed as a consequence of its dissolution by acids from either foods or regurgitated gastric content. This type of wear is different to caries because the acids are not generated in the mouth and it occurs at lower pH than the caries process (typically pH of less than 3 compared with 5.5 or 6 for enamel and dentine respectively for caries). As a consequence of the more aggressive acid attack, the sub-surface demineralisation that characterises dental caries does not occur, rather the tooth surface simply dissolves. The dissolution of mineral from either enamel or dentine results in a residual softened surface that can then be worn away much more rapidly by attrition from tooth-to-tooth contact or by contact with the lips, cheeks and tongue or by tooth brushing, or by hard fibrous foods during chewing. In terms of the study of wear this process would more accurately be described as corrosion, but is universally described as erosion in the dental literature.
- A4.6 Dental erosion is a multi-factorial condition in which an interplay between chemical (e.g. food acidity and its calcium, phosphorus and fluoride content), biological (e.g. salivary flow, buffering capacity and acquired pellicle) and behavioural factors (e.g. oral hygiene and eating and drinking habits) underlies large inter-individual variation (Lussi & Jaeggi, 2008).
- A4.7 The patterns of wear produced by these three different mechanisms have some characteristic features, so for example when wear occurs on a surface of a tooth that cannot be in contact with another, it cannot be produced by attrition. So some attribution of wear mechanisms can be made based on appearance of the teeth. These will tend to be more accurate in younger people where a 'pure'

mechanism may have been acting for a short period of time. In adults this linkage is much more difficult to make as a single observation will show the outcomes of a lifetime's function and wear.

- A4.8 The Children's Dental Health series of national surveys of oral health reported the prevalence of tooth wear (including dental erosion) in 1993 and 2003. A comparison between the two Children's Dental Health surveys of 1993 and 2003 observed that there had been little change in the proportion of five-year-olds with tooth wear: 52% in 1993 and 53% in 2003. There was, however, an increase in the prevalence of tooth wear on permanent teeth, which was statistically significant at age 15 where 27% of upper incisors had tooth wear palatally in 1993 compared with 33% in 2003 (Chadwick *et al.*, 2006).
- A4.9 The national surveys of Adult Dental Health reported the prevalence of tooth wear (including dental erosion) in 1998 and 2009 (Steele & O' Sullivan, 2011); the 2009 survey included data from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but not Scotland. The prevalence of tooth wear in England has increased since the 1998 survey, when two thirds (66%) of the dentate population showed signs of wear compared with over three quarters (76%) in the 2009 survey. There have also been small increases in the proportion of adults with moderate wear, 11% in 1998 compared with 15% in 2009. The greatest increase was in the youngest three age groups; 15 percentage points, 10 percentage points and 13 percentage points for those aged 16 to 24, 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 years, respectively. For adults under the age of 65 moderate and severe tooth wear has increased since 1998, but for those aged 65 and over, there has been a small decrease. While the increase in moderate tooth wear was small, moderate tooth wear in 16 to 34 year olds was suggestive of rapid tooth wear.
- A4.10 The study designs for all prospective cohort studies have been considered in the next section, while the study designs for all randomised controlled trials have been considered in the following section. The results from both prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials have been considered together for each dietary exposure.

Prospective cohort studies

- A4.11 The initial search identified three articles, which were assessed as full-text articles. All three were eligible for inclusion (Lussi & Schaffner, 2000; Dugmore & Rock, 2004; El Aidi *et al.*, 2011).
- A4.12 The study design details have been summarised in Table A4.1. All studies investigated tooth wear in mixed and permanent dentition. In one study (Lussi & Schaffner, 2000) the tooth wear indices (facial, oral and occlusal surfaces) were based upon diagnostic criteria used in a previous study (Lussi *et al.*, 1991). Another study assessed tooth wear using the criteria used in the 1993 survey of Children's Dental Health (Dugmore & Rock, 2004): a Tooth Wear Index that recorded all three main types of tooth wear irrespective of aetiology (Smith & Knight, 1984). For the third study (El Aidi *et al.*, 2011) the criteria for the clinical assessment of tooth wear were a modification (van Rijkom *et al.*, 2002) of diagnostic criteria developed previously (Lussi, 1996).

A4.13 Cohort sizes ranged from 55 to 1149 and the follow-up period ranged from two to six years. Dietary assessment was by a simple questionnaire in two studies and by food frequency questionnaire in the other (El Aidi *et al.*, 2011). All studies investigated consumption of acidic foods and drinks in relation to tooth wear. Multivariate logistic regression analysis was used in all studies to explore associations. The confounders considered by the studies investigating carbohydrate and dental caries risk have been summarised in Table A4.2. Only one study reported its funding sources which were mainly commercial (El Aidi *et al.*, 2011); 67% of studies did not report funding sources.

Table A4.1: Prospective cohort studies of acidic food and drink intake and risk of dental erosion

Study	Country	Sex	Baseline age (y)	Cohort size	Mean follow-up duration (y)	Statistical method	Fluoride intake/water content	Dental erosion assessment and method	Dietary assessment method	Dietary components investigated/question asked	Funding source
Lussi & Schaffner, 2000	Switzerland	Mixed	26-50	55	6	MLR	NR	Tooth wear; clinical assessment	Questionnaire	Consumption of fruits, citrus fruits, fruit juice, apple juice, vegetables and yoghurt	NR
Dugmore & Rock, 2004	England	Mixed	12	1149	2	MLR	NR	Tooth Wear Index; clinical assessment	Questionnaire	Consumption of apples, oranges or grapefruit, other fruit, chips with vinegar or tomato sauce, chocolate or sweets (yes or no) Daily frequency of glasses/cans of water, milk, tea/coffee, chocolate, squash, fruit juice or carbonated soft drink.	NR
El Aidi <i>et al.</i> , 2011	The Netherlands	Mixed	mean 11.9	572	3	MLR	NR	Tooth wear; clinical assessment	Food frequency questionnaire every 6 months	Consumption on the previous day of acidic drinks, water, tea, dairy products, yoghurt products, milk products, acidic fruit and non-acidic fruit, sour vegetables, pickled vegetables, cheese, chewing gum, red sauces, curry, chilli sauce and white/yellow sauces	Radboud University Nijmegen, the Dutch Dairy Association, Dutch Sugar Bureau and Dutch Soft Drinks Association

MLR, multivariate logistic regression; mth, month; y, year; NR, not reported.

Table A4.2: Confounders considered in prospective studies investigating acidic food and drink intake and dental erosion risk

Study	Age	Sex	Tooth-brushing habits	SES	Gingival index	Plaque index	Calculus	Fluoride intake	Baseline caries prevalence	Ethnicity
Lussi & Schaffner, 2000	Y		Y							
Dugmore & Rock, 2004			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
El Aidi <i>et al.</i> , 2011			Y			Y				

Y, yes; SES, socio-economic status.

Randomised controlled trials

- A4.14 Thirteen studies were identified as eligible (Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1998; West *et al.*, 1998; West *et al.*, 1999; Hughes *et al.*, 1999a; Hughes *et al.*, 1999b; Hughes *et al.*, 2002; West *et al.*, 2003; West *et al.*, 2004; Hooper *et al.*, 2004; Hooper *et al.*, 2005; Venables *et al.*, 2005; Hooper *et al.*, 2007; Caglar *et al.*, 2008).
- A4.15 A summary of the trial designs has been given for those trials investigating tooth wear in relation to soft drinks and fruit juices (see Table A4.3). All trials had an *in situ* design whereby assessment of enamel or dentine blocks contained within intra-oral appliance was investigated. The wear was determined by surface profilometry.
- A4.16 The enamel or dentine blocks were exposed to dietary factors by either applying solutions *ex vivo*, once the intra-oral appliances were removed and then replacing them afterwards, or by exposing dental blocks to dietary factors *in vivo*, e.g. by eating food or consuming drinks while the intra-oral appliance was being worn. In the trial where solutions were dipped onto the dental blocks, subjects were instructed to remove the intra-oral palatal appliances during meals.
- A4.17 All trials were cross-over in design with either no washout period or a washout period ranging from two days to one week. The experimental period ranged from seven to twenty one days. The funding sources were mainly commercial, reflecting product modifications to reduce the erosive potential of soft drinks.
- A4.18 One of the trials used a split-mouth intra-oral palatal appliance where the blocks on each side of the mouth were exposed to different test solutions (Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1998).
- A4.19 In a series of trials by the same authors investigating the effect of fruit juices and soft drinks on dental erosion (see Table A4.3), intra-oral appliances were worn between 9am and 5pm and removed for one hour over lunch (West *et al.*, 1998; Hughes *et al.*, 1999b; Hughes *et al.*, 1999a; West *et al.*, 1999; Hughes *et al.*, 2002; West *et al.*, 2003; Hooper *et al.*, 2004; West *et al.*, 2004; Hooper *et al.*, 2005; Hooper *et al.*, 2007). In another trial, investigating the effect of a malt-based drink on dental erosion, intra-oral appliances were worn between 9am and 4pm and removed for one hour over lunch (Caglar *et al.*, 2008). In one trial investigating the effect of sport drink consumption on enamel loss when subjects participated in planned exercise, the intra-oral appliances were worn during the exercise period between 7:00am and 9:10am (Venables *et al.*, 2005).
- A4.20 Most of the trials investigated the effect of modifying soft drinks, by the addition of calcium compounds, to reduce their erosive potential, but this aspect has not been included in the review (Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1998; Hughes *et al.*, 1999b; Hughes *et al.*, 1999a; West *et al.*, 1999; Hughes *et al.*, 2002; Hunter *et al.*, 2003; West *et al.*, 2003; Hooper *et al.*, 2004; West *et al.*, 2004; Hooper *et al.*, 2005; Venables *et al.*, 2005; Hooper *et al.*, 2007). Several trials investigated the effect of juice drinks non-calorically sweetened with aspartame, acesulfame K and saccharin.

Table A4.3: Soft drink and fruit juice trial design

Study	Trial design	Country	Fluoride	Age (y)	Subject characteristics	Dental erosion method and exposure time	Duration (d)	Dietary assessment method	Basal diet	Intervention	Control intervention	Funding source
Rugg-Gunn <i>et al.</i> , 1998	XO – no washout	England	NR	NR	11 adults	Bovine permanent incisor enamel mouth palatal appliances analysed by profilometer and scanning electron microscopy	7	NR	No restrictions – volunteers asked to maintain similar eating and drinking patterns during experimental periods	Dental blocks dipped with either non-calorically sweetened phosphoric acid-based cola drink or non-calorically sweetened citric acid-based orange drink for 15 minutes 4 times/d	Dental blocks dipped with distilled water 4 times/d	Proctor and Gamble Ltd.
West <i>et al.</i> , 1998	XO – 1 wk washout	England	No tooth brushing allowed when appliance <i>in situ</i>	mean 24, range 20-30	10 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer and surface microhardness	15	Compliance questionnaire completed each study day	Only tea, coffee or water could be consumed while the appliances were <i>in situ</i>	250ml orange juice 4 times/d	250ml mineral water 4 times/d	Smith-Kline Beecham Consumer Healthcare
Hughes <i>et al.</i> , 1999a	XO – 2 ½ d washout	England	No tooth brushing allowed when appliance <i>in situ</i>	mean 28, range 20-34	12 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer	15	Compliance questionnaire completed each study day	Only tea, coffee or water could be consumed while the appliances were <i>in situ</i>	250ml orange juice 4 times/d	250ml mineral water 4 times/d	Smith-Kline Beecham Consumer Healthcare

NR, not reported; y, year; d, day; XO, cross-over.

Table A4.3: continued

Study	Trial design	Country	Fluoride	Age (y)	Subject characteristics	Dental erosion method and exposure time	Duration (d)	Dietary assessment method	Basal diet	Intervention	Control intervention	Funding source
Hughes <i>et al.</i> , 1999b	XO – 2 d washout	England	No tooth brushing allowed when appliance <i>in situ</i>	NR	15 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer	15	Compliance questionnaire completed each study day	Only tea, coffee or water could be consumed while the appliances were <i>in situ</i>	250ml non-calorically sweetened orange drink or non-calorically sweetened apple and blackcurrant juice drink 4 times/d	250ml mineral water 4 times/d	Smith-Kline Beecham Consumer Healthcare
West <i>et al.</i> , 1999	XO – no washout	England	No tooth brushing allowed when appliance <i>in situ</i>	mean 27, range 20-39	12 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer	15	Compliance questionnaire completed each study day	Only tea, coffee or water could be consumed while the appliances were <i>in situ</i>	250ml orange juice or blackcurrant juice drink 4 times/d	250ml mineral water 4 times/d	Smith-Kline Beecham Consumer Healthcare
Hughes <i>et al.</i> , 2002	XO – 2 d washout	England	No tooth brushing allowed when appliance <i>in situ</i>	mean 29, range 22-42	12 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer and ultrasonication	10	Compliance questionnaire completed each study day, drinks were sipped under supervision	Only tea, coffee or water could be consumed while the appliances were <i>in situ</i>	250ml orange juice 4 times/d	250ml mineral water 4 times/d	GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare
West <i>et al.</i> , 2003	XO – 2 d weekend washout	England	No tooth brushing allowed when appliance <i>in situ</i>	median 32, range 17-56	15 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer	20	Compliance questionnaire completed each study day	Only tea, coffee or water could be consumed while the appliances were <i>in situ</i>	250ml non-calorically sweetened carbonated orange juice drink 4 times/d	250ml mineral water 4 times/d	GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare

NR, not reported; y, year; d, day; XO, cross-over.

Table A4.3: continued

Study	Trial design	Country	Fluoride	Age (y)	Subject characteristics	Dental erosion method and exposure time	Duration (d)	Dietary assessment method	Basal diet	Intervention	Control intervention	Funding source
Hooper <i>et al.</i> , 2004	XO – no washout	England	No tooth brushing allowed when appliance <i>in situ</i>	Mean 33	21 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer	15	Compliance questionnaire completed each study day	Only tea, coffee or water could be consumed while the appliances were <i>in situ</i>	250ml sweetened citric acid-based sports drink 4 times/d	250ml mineral water 4 times/d	GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare
West <i>et al.</i> , 2004	XO – no washout	England	No tooth brushing allowed when appliance <i>in situ</i>	mean 34	16 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer	15	Compliance questionnaire completed each study day	Only tea, coffee or water could be consumed while the appliances were <i>in situ</i>	250ml non-calorically sweetened apple and blackcurrant juice drink 4 times/d	250ml mineral water 4 times/d	GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare
Hooper <i>et al.</i> , 2005	XO – 16hr overnight washout	England	No tooth brushing allowed when appliance <i>in situ</i>	range 19-45	10 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer	10	Compliance questionnaire completed each study day, sipping of drinks was supervised	No other food and drink could be consumed while the appliance was <i>in situ</i>	1.5 litres sweetened citric acid-based sports drink consumed within 1 hour/d	1.5 litres mineral water consumed within 1 hour/d	NR
Venables <i>et al.</i> , 2005	XO – no washout	England	NR	mean 22	19 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer	21	NR, sipping of drinks was supervised	No restrictions	1.4 litres sweetened citric acid-based sports drink consumed within two hours, 5 days a week during planned exercise	1.4 litres mineral water consumed within 2 hours, 5 days a week during planned exercise	GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare

NR, not reported; y, year; d, day; XO, cross-over.

Table A4.3: *continued*

Study	Trial design	Country	Fluoride	Age (y)	Subject characteristics	Dental erosion method and exposure time	Duration (d)	Dietary assessment method	Basal diet	Intervention	Control intervention	Funding source
Hooper <i>et al.</i> , 2007	XO – 2 d washout	England	No tooth brushing allowed when appliance <i>in situ</i>	18+	15 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer	10	Compliance questionnaire completed each study day	No other food and drink could be consumed while the appliances were <i>in situ</i>	250ml non-calorically sweetened citric acid-based drink 4 times/d	250ml mineral water 4 times/d	GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare
Çaglar <i>et al.</i> , 2008	XO – no washout	Turkey	NR	range 21-23	10 adults	Human third molar teeth enamel in palatal appliances analysed by profilometer	10	NR	No other food and drink could be consumed while the appliances were <i>in situ</i>	250ml/d malt drink	250ml/d mineral water	NR

NR, not reported; y, year; d, day; XO, cross-over.

Risk of bias assessment

- A4.21 A summary of the risk of bias assessment has been given in Table A4.4.
- A4.22 All trials explicitly reported being randomised. Allocation concealment was not reported in any of the trials. One trial reported the method random sequence generation. Only two trials reported having any drop-outs, which ranged from 11-14%. The missing outcome data in these trials were balanced in numbers across intervention groups, with similar reasons for missing data across groups.
- A4.23 Due to the nature of the interventions all trials were open to participants since the volunteers were either able to identify the treatments by the flavour and consistency of the solutions or the intervention involved consumption of specific foods. All of the trials reported that the trials were blind with respect to the assessors.

TableA4.4: Risk of bias assessment

Study	Randomisation	Sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Blinding	Incomplete outcome data	Dropouts (%)
Rugg-Gunn et al., 1998	Y	Random number tables	NR	Open to participants and personnel, but assessors blind	No missing outcome data	0
West et al., 1998	Y	NR	NR	Open to participants and personnel, but assessors blind	No missing outcome data	0
Hughes et al., 1999a	Y	NR	NR	Open to participants and personnel, but assessors blind	No missing outcome data	0
Hughes et al., 1999b	Y	NR	NR	Open to participants and personnel, but assessors blind	No missing outcome data	0
West et al., 1999	Y	NR	NR	Open to participants and personnel, but assessors blind	No missing outcome data	0
Hughes et al., 2002	Y	NR	NR	Open to participants and personnel	No missing outcome data	0
West et al., 2003	Y	NR	NR	Open to participants and personnel	No missing outcome data	0
Hooper et al., 2004	Y	NR	NR	Open to participants and personnel, but assessors blind	Missing outcome data unlikely to be related to outcome	14
West et al., 2004	Y	Computer generated randomisation sequence	NR	Open to participants and personnel, but assessors blind	No missing outcome data	13
Hooper et al., 2005	Y	NR	NR	Open to participants and personnel, but assessors blind	No missing outcome data	0

yes indicates low risk of bias; no indicates high risk of bias; NR, not reported

Table A4.4: *continued*

Study	Randomisation	Sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Blinding	Incomplete outcome data	Dropouts (%)
Venables <i>et al.</i> , 2005	Y	NR	NR	Open to participants and personnel, but assessors blind	Missing outcome data unlikely to be related to outcome	11
Hooper <i>et al.</i> , 2007	Y	NR	NR	Open to participants and personnel, but assessors blind	No missing outcome data	0
Caglar <i>et al.</i> , 2008	Y	NR	NR	Open to participants and personnel, but assessors blind	No missing outcome data	0

yes indicates low risk of bias; no indicates high risk of bias; NR, not reported

Table A4.5: Results from prospective cohort studies

Study	% with enamel loss at baseline	% with dentine exposed at baseline	% with enamel loss at follow-up	% with dentine exposed at follow-up	Dietary exposure	Reported association
Lussi & Schaffner, 2000	10-15*	3-8	30-51	8-26	Consumption of fruits, citrus fruits, fruit juice, apple juice, vegetables and yoghurt	Consumption of dietary acids was associated with significantly increased dental erosion
Dugmore & Rock, 2004	56	2	65	9	Consumption of apples, oranges or grapefruit, other fruit, chips with vinegar or tomato sauce, chocolate or sweets Daily frequency of glasses/cans of water, milk, tea/coffee, chocolate, squash, fruit juice or carbonated soft drink	Carbonated soft drink consumption was significantly associated with increased tooth wear
El Aidi <i>et al.</i> , 2011	32	NR	42	NR	Consumption on the previous day of acidic drinks, water, tea, dairy products, yoghurt products, milk products, acidic fruit and non-acidic fruit; sour vegetables, pickled vegetables, cheese, chewing gum, red sauces, curry, chilli sauce and white/yellow sauces	Consumption of alcoholic mixed drinks and sour vegetables and tooth grinding during sleep were significantly associated with increased erosive wear incidence. Consumption of yoghurt and milk products was negatively associated with the incidence of erosive wear. No significant association was indicated between carbonated soft drink consumption and erosive wear incidence or progression

* Data given as ranges in the report; NR, not reported.

Results

- A4.24 Data on measures of dietary exposure or interventions used and risk assessment methods were insufficiently comparable to allow quantitative synthesis.
- A4.25 For the following dietary exposures no relevant articles were identified: glycaemic index and glycaemic load, dietary fibre, non-digestible oligosaccharides, polyols, sugar, starch, infant feeding, carbohydrate rich foods and total carbohydrate.

Prospective cohort studies

- A4.26 The findings from all prospective cohort studies of acidic food and drink consumption and risk of tooth wear have been summarised in Table A4.5.
- A4.27 A small study in adults investigated the association between the consumption of erosive foodstuffs and tooth wear after six years follow-up (Lussi & Schaffner, 2000). An assessment of fruits, citrus fruits, fruit juice, apple juice, vegetables and yoghurt consumption was used to assess dietary acid ingestion. Multiple linear regression analysis revealed age and dietary acid consumption to explain 28% of the variability in the progression of tooth wear between baseline and follow-up. A subgroup analysis of subjects who accounted for most of the total tooth wear progression observed (about a third of cohort subjects) indicated that, compared with the rest of the cohort, their intake of dietary acids and the hardness of their tooth brush bristles were significantly higher and the buffering capacity of their saliva significantly lower.
- A4.28 A study of 12 year old children followed-up at 14 years of age reported no significant associations with tooth wear regarding dental cleanliness, gingival health, eating apples, chips with tomato sauce or vinegar, citrus fruit, sweets or chocolate; or drinking coffee, chocolate or squash (Dugmore & Rock, 2004). Experience of caries and carbonated soft drink consumption were observed to increase the chances of tooth wear by around 50%, whilst an orthodontic anomaly, the presence of calculus or consumption of fruits other than apples or citrus types (OR 0.61; 95% CI 0.4, 0.84) appeared to confer a protective effect. High consumption of carbonated drinks increased the odds of erosion being present at 12 years of age by 252% and was a strong predictor of the amount of erosion found at age 14. All odds ratios were adjusted for all variables, both significant and non-significant.
- A4.29 The relationship between a broad collection of food items and the incidence and progression of erosive tooth wear among adolescents was investigated in one study (El Aidi *et al.*, 2011). Incidence was defined as the percentage of subjects without tooth wear at baseline developing tooth wear over the course of the study. Progression was defined as the percentage of subjects with tooth wear at baseline showing an increase in severity score at the final examination. In multivariate analyses significant associations were indicated between the incidence of erosive tooth wear and alcoholic mixed drinks (odds ratio, OR 1.82; 95% CI 1.03, 3.23), sour vegetables (OR 1.16; 95% CI 1.02, 1.32) and tooth grinding during sleep (OR 4.03; 95% CI 1.09, 13.67). The intake of yoghurt products was negatively associated with the incidence of erosive wear (OR 0.79; 95% CI 0.66, 0.94). Erosive wear was less

likely to progress in subjects who consumed milk and yoghurt products (OR 0.89; 95% CI 0.82, 0.97 and 0.76; 95% CI 0.60, 0.98, respectively). Yoghurt, despite a low pH, has hardly any erosive effect in vitro due to its high calcium and phosphate content (Lussi *et al.*, 2004). Carbonated soft drink consumption was not associated with either the incidence (OR 1.03; 95% CI .0.99, 1.08) or progression (OR 0.97; 95% CI 0.91, 1.02) of erosive tooth wear and nor were any of the other acidic drinks investigated.

A4.30 To test whether interaction between factors gave an added or reduced risk, both the incidence and progression model were extended with interactions between the combined acidic products (carbonated soft drink, fruit lemonade, lemonade squash, energy/sports drink, alcoholic mixed drink and sour vegetables) and biological factors. The interaction of acidic products and tooth grinding resulted in a significant extra risk (OR 1.20; 95% CI 1.01, 1.42). Overall this study indicates that factors such as tooth grinding during sleep play a large role in tooth wear in the cohort studied. The consumption of carbonated soft drinks in this cohort (mean intake of 8.8 glasses/week) was lower than that indicated in the Dugmore & Rock study where a positive association between carbonated soft drink and tooth wear was found: 40.9% of the 12-year-olds drank three or more glasses per day; by the age of 14 this increased to 45% (Dugmore & Rock, 2004). The prevalence of dental erosion in the cohort studied by Dugmore and Rock was also higher than that indicated in the cohort studied by El Aidi *et al.*

Randomised controlled trials

A4.31 The findings from all trials investigating the effect of acidic food and drink on tooth wear have been summarised in Table A4.6. As many of the trials provide no variance data only the means for enamel erosion have been tabulated.

A4.32 One trial investigated the effect on bovine enamel dental block demineralisation in response to either water, a non-calorically sweetened phosphoric acid-based cola drink (pH 3.1) or a non-calorically sweetened citric acid-based orange drink (pH 3.6) for 15 minutes four times a day for one week (Rugg-Gunn *et al.*, 1998). The exposure of enamel slabs to the phosphoric acid-based cola drink resulted in a deeper depth of enamel loss, as determined by profiling casts of the enamel slabs and scanning electron microscopy, compared with the distilled water control. There was no difference in depth of enamel loss between distilled water and the citric acid-based orange drink treatments. The finding that non-calorically sweetened phosphoric acid-based cola drink was more erosive to enamel than the non-calorically sweetened citric acid-based orange drink suggested that the pH of the drink may have been a factor.

Table A4.6: Results of trials investigating the effect of acidic food and drink on tooth wear

Study	Intervention	Control enamel lesion depth	Intervention enamel lesion depth	Results
Rugg-Gunn <i>et al.</i> , 1998	non-calorically sweetened phosphoric acid-based cola drink non-calorically sweetened citric acid-based orange drink	depth of loss of enamel 3.8µm	depth of loss of enamel 12.8µm depth of loss of enamel 5.9µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss No effect
West <i>et al.</i> , 1998	orange juice	depth of gain of enamel 0.05µm	depth of loss of enamel 2.77µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss
Hughes <i>et al.</i> , 1999a	orange juice	depth of loss of enamel 0.19µm	depth of loss of enamel 2.54µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss
Hughes <i>et al.</i> , 1999b	non-calorically sweetened orange drink non-calorically sweetened apple and blackcurrant juice drink	depth of loss of enamel 0.08µm	depth of loss of enamel 8.29µm depth of loss of enamel 2.04µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss
West <i>et al.</i> , 1999	orange juice sugars-sweetened blackcurrant juice drink	depth of loss of enamel 0.05µm	depth of loss of enamel 1.70µm depth of loss of enamel 2.75µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss
Hughes <i>et al.</i> , 2002	orange juice	depth of loss of enamel 0.18µm	depth of loss of enamel 2.03µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss
West <i>et al.</i> , 2003	non-calorically sweetened carbonated orange drink	depth of loss of enamel 0.11µm	depth of loss of enamel 4.92µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss
Hooper <i>et al.</i> , 2004	sugars-sweetened citric acid-based sports drink	depth of loss of enamel 0.01µm	depth of loss of enamel 3.91µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss
West <i>et al.</i> , 2004	non-calorically sweetened apple and blackcurrant juice drink	NR	depth of loss of enamel 4.67µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss

NR, not reported.

Table A4.6: continued

Study	Intervention	Control enamel lesion depth	Intervention enamel lesion depth	Results
Hooper <i>et al.</i> , 2005	sugars-sweetened citric acid-based sports drink	depth of loss of enamel 0.04µm	depth of loss of enamel 4.08µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss
Venables <i>et al.</i> , 2005	sugars-sweetened citric acid-based sports drink	depth of loss of enamel 0.14µm	depth of loss of enamel 4.24µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss
Hooper <i>et al.</i> , 2007	non-calorically sweetened citric acid-based drink	depth of loss of enamel 0.00µm	depth of loss of enamel 6.04µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss
Caglar <i>et al.</i> , 2008	malt-based drink	depth of loss of enamel 0.26µm	depth of loss of enamel 0.59µm	The intervention significantly increased enamel surface loss

NR, not reported.

- A4.33 Three trials investigated the effect of one litre a day of orange juice (pH 3.7-3.9) consumed over fifteen days on dental erosion in relation to a water control (West *et al.*, 1998; Hughes *et al.*, 1999a; West *et al.*, 1999). All demonstrated a progressive loss of enamel with time during the orange juice consumption period, but not the water consumption period, as determined by profiling the enamel slabs during the intervention period. After fifteen days the mean enamel loss ranged from 1.70 – 2.77µm following orange juice consumption, while water consumption had little effect on enamel loss, 0.05 – 0.19µm. One trial also performed a surface microhardness analysis of enamel that had either been exposed or not exposed to the oral environment (PVC tape was used to cover part of the enamel to prevent exposure during the experimental periods) (West *et al.*, 1998). There was no difference in demineralisation between the exposed and unexposed areas after the water consumption period, but following the orange juice consumption period the exposed enamel was significantly different from the unexposed enamel. The exposed-unexposed difference was greater for orange juice than for water (p=0.049).
- A4.34 One trial investigated the effect of one litre a day of orange juice (pH 3.3) consumed over ten days on dental erosion in relation to a water control (Hughes *et al.*, 2002). There was a progressive loss of enamel with time during the orange juice consumption period, but not the water consumption period, as determined by profiling the enamel slabs during the intervention period. After fifteen days the mean enamel loss was 2.03µm following orange juice consumption, while water consumption had little effect on enamel loss, 0.18µm. The mean softening depth of the enamel was determined using ultrasonication. Orange juice consumption resulted in a deeper softening depth of the enamel than water consumption.
- A4.35 The effect of one litre a day of non-calorically sweetened orange drink (pH 3.0) and a non-calorically sweetened apple and blackcurrant juice drink (pH 3.4) over fifteen days on dental erosion was investigated in relation to a water control (Hughes *et al.*, 1999b). A progressive loss of enamel with time was demonstrated during the orange drink and apple and blackcurrant drink consumption periods, but not the water consumption period, as determined by profiling the enamel slabs during the intervention period. After fifteen days the mean enamel loss was 8.29µm following non-calorically sweetened orange drink and was 2.04µm following non-calorically sweetened apple and blackcurrant juice drink, while water consumption had little effect on enamel loss, 0.08µm.
- A4.36 Another trial also investigated the effect of a non-calorically sweetened blackcurrant juice drink (pH 3.6) over fifteen days on dental erosion in relation to a water control (West *et al.*, 2004). A progressive loss of enamel with time was demonstrated during the apple and blackcurrant drink consumption periods, but not the water consumption period, as determined by profiling the enamel slabs during the intervention period. After fifteen days the mean difference in enamel loss between the non-calorically sweetened apple and blackcurrant juice drink and water consumption was 4.67µm (p<0.001).

- A4.37 The effect of one litre a day of sugars-sweetened blackcurrant juice drink (pH 2.9) over fifteen days on dental erosion was investigated in relation to orange juice and a water control (West *et al.*, 1999). A progressive loss of enamel with time was demonstrated during the blackcurrant juice drink consumption period, but not the water consumption period, as determined by profiling the enamel slabs during the intervention period. After fifteen days the mean enamel loss was 2.75 μm following sugars-sweetened blackcurrant juice drink consumption, while water consumption had little effect on enamel loss, 0.05 μm .
- A4.38 Carbonated drinks are potentially more erosive than non-carbonated drinks due to the additional carbonic acid present. The effect of one litre a day of non-calorically sweetened carbonated orange juice drink (pH 3.1) over twenty days on dental erosion was investigated in relation to a water control (West *et al.*, 2003). A progressive loss of enamel with time was demonstrated during the non-calorically sweetened carbonated orange juice drink consumption period, but not the water consumption period, as determined by profiling the enamel slabs during the intervention period. After fifteen days the mean enamel loss was 3.19 μm and after twenty days this was 4.92 μm following non-calorically sweetened carbonated orange juice drink consumption, while water consumption had little effect on enamel loss, 0.11 μm after twenty days.
- A4.39 The effect of one litre a day of sugars-sweetened citric acid-based sports drink (pH 3.2) over fifteen days on dental erosion was investigated in relation to a water control (Hooper *et al.*, 2004). A progressive loss of enamel with time was demonstrated during the sugars-sweetened citric acid-based sports drink consumption period, but not the water consumption period, as determined by profiling the enamel slabs during the intervention period. After fifteen days the mean enamel loss was 3.91 μm following sugars-sweetened citric acid-based sports drink consumption, while water consumption had little effect on enamel loss, mean erosion 0.01 μm .
- A4.40 The effect of one and a half litres a day of sugars-sweetened citric acid-based sports drink (pH 3.2), consumed within one hour, over ten days on dental erosion was investigated in relation to a water control (Hooper *et al.*, 2005). A progressive loss of enamel at five and ten days duration was demonstrated during the sugars-sweetened citric acid-based sports drink consumption period, but not the water consumption period, as determined by profiling the enamel slabs during the intervention period. After ten days the mean enamel loss was 4.08 μm following sugars-sweetened citric acid-based sports drink consumption, while water consumption had little effect on enamel loss, mean erosion 0.04 μm .
- A4.41 The effect of 1.4 litres sugars-sweetened citric acid-based sports drink (pH 3.2) consumed within two hours, five days a week during planned exercise on dental erosion was investigated in relation to a water control over twenty one days (Venables *et al.*, 2005). After twenty one days, of exposure, the mean enamel loss, as determined by profiling the enamel slabs, was 4.24 μm following sugars-sweetened citric acid-based sports drink consumption, while water consumption had little effect on enamel loss, mean erosion 0.14 μm .

- A4.42 The effect of one litre a day of non-calorically sweetened citric acid-based drink (pH 3.4) over ten days on dental erosion was investigated in relation to a water control (Hooper *et al.*, 2007). A progressive loss of enamel with time was demonstrated during the non-calorically sweetened citric acid-based drink consumption period, but not the water consumption period, as determined by profiling the enamel slabs during the intervention period. After fifteen days the mean enamel loss was 6.04 μm following non-calorically sweetened citric acid-based drink consumption, while water consumption had no effect on enamel loss, mean erosion 0.00 μm .
- A4.43 The effect of 250ml a day of a malt-based drink (pH 4.3) over ten days on dental erosion was investigated in relation to a water control (Caglar *et al.*, 2008). After ten days the mean enamel loss was higher (0.59 μm) following non-calorically sweetened citric acid-based drink consumption, while water consumption had less effect on enamel loss, mean erosion 0.26 μm .
- A4.44 In all trials a large degree of variation in enamel loss was demonstrated, with some subjects showing negligible erosion and others showing large degrees of erosion, e.g. the range of responses in one trial in response to acidic soft drink consumption was 0.07 μm to 22.06 μm enamel erosion (Hooper *et al.*, 2007).

Summary and conclusions

- A4.45 Prospective cohort studies of acidic food and drink consumption and risk of tooth wear provided some evidence that a higher consumption of dietary acids may result in more tooth wear. *In situ* trials demonstrated that consumption of fruit juices (e.g. orange juice and apple and blackcurrant juice) and acidic soft drinks and sports drinks (whether non-calorically sweetened or sugars-sweetened) resulted in a progressive loss of enamel and dentine from dental blocks. No direct comparison between non-calorically sweetened soft drinks and sugars-sweetened soft drinks on dental erosion was conducted in the trials included. Individuals showed a large degree of variation in response to the erosive challenge ranging from almost negligible erosion to large degrees of erosion, reflecting the multi-factorial nature of dental erosion.

Fibre isolates

- A5.1 Prospective cohort studies and randomised controlled trials investigating the relationship between dietary fibre and whole grains intake and cardio-metabolic, colo-rectal and oral health outcomes are discussed in chapter 8. Randomised controlled trials investigating the relationship between dietary fibre isolates and cardio-metabolic health and colo-rectal health outcomes are considered separately in this annex. No randomised trials were conducted in children and adolescents.
- A5.2 Evidence on health/disease outcomes has been discussed in detail only where there are sufficient data for a conclusion to be drawn, from studies meeting the pre-agreed inclusion criteria. Outcomes where there are too few such studies to reach a conclusion, are listed at the end of the chapter (see Table A5.1).

Psyllium

- A5.3 Psyllium husk is a source of soluble fibre found in dietary supplements.

Fasting blood lipids

- A5.4 Two randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on psyllium supplements in relation to fasting blood lipids (total cholesterol; HDL- and LDL- cholesterol and triacylglycerol concentration) (Bell *et al.*, 1990; Romero *et al.*, 1998). One trial was subsequently identified in the update search (Pal *et al.*, 2011) (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipid chapter; Update search). Body weights were unchanged in all trials.
- A5.5 An effect of psyllium supplements on lowering fasting total cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol concentration is reported in all three trials.
- A5.6 No significant effect of psyllium supplementation on either fasting HDL-cholesterol or triacylglycerol concentration is reported in any of the trials.

Psyllium and fasting total cholesterol concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect • Limited evidence • The direction of the effect demonstrates consumption of psyllium supplements is beneficial to health • The effect is biologically relevant, but only achieved through psyllium supplementation

Psyllium and fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates consumption of psyllium supplements is beneficial to health
- The effect is biologically relevant, but only achieved through psyllium supplementation

Fasting HDL-cholesterol or triacylglycerol concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Faecal weight and intestinal transit time

A5.7 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on psyllium supplements in relation to faecal weight and intestinal transit time (Spiller *et al.*, 1979; Stevens *et al.*, 1988; Marteau *et al.*, 1994; Vuksan *et al.*, 2008). The transit time methodologies were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).

A5.8 An effect of psyllium supplements (10-19g/d dietary fibre) on increasing faecal weight is demonstrated in all trials. Two trials compare the effects of wheat bran and psyllium on increasing faecal weight: one reports a greater effect using a mixture of psyllium and wheat bran compared with wheat bran alone (Vuksan *et al.*, 2008); the other reports wheat bran and psyllium have similar effects on increasing faecal weight (Stevens *et al.*, 1988). One trial compares psyllium to a cellulose/pectin mixture and reports both equally increase faecal wet weight, but only cellulose/pectin mixture significantly decreases intestinal transit time (Spiller *et al.*, 1979). None of the trials report a significant effect of psyllium supplements on reducing intestinal transit time.

Psyllium and faecal weight

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates consumption of psyllium supplements is potentially beneficial to health
- The effect is potentially biologically relevant, but only achieved through psyllium supplementation

Psyllium and intestinal transit time

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Constipation

- A5.9 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on psyllium supplements in relation to constipation symptoms in outpatients with constipation or patients with self-reported constipation (Fenn *et al.*, 1986; Ashraf *et al.*, 1995; Cheskin *et al.*, 1995; Ashraf *et al.*, 1997). The data were insufficiently comparable to enable a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- A5.10 An effect of psyllium supplements on increasing bowel motion frequency is demonstrated in three trials. The other trial reports a non-significant tendency for psyllium supplements to increase bowel motion frequency (Cheskin *et al.*, 1995). An effect of psyllium supplements on improving faecal consistency and abdominal pain is reported in the two larger trials (Fenn *et al.*, 1986; Ashraf *et al.*, 1995), but the other two trials report no effect.

Psyllium and frequency of bowel movements

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates consumption of psyllium supplements is beneficial to health
- The effect is biologically relevant, but only achieved through psyllium supplementation

Psyllium and faecal consistency and abdominal pain

- Effect
- Limited evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates consumption of psyllium supplements is beneficial to health
- The effect is biologically relevant, but only achieved through psyllium supplementation

Pectin

Faecal weight and intestinal transit time

- A5.11 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on purified pectin in relation to relation to faecal weight and intestinal transit times (Spiller *et al.*, 1980; Stasse-Wolthuis *et al.*, 1980; Hillman *et al.*, 1983). The transit time methodologies were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- A5.12 No significant effect is demonstrated for purified pectin (5-15g/day) on faecal weight or intestinal transit time.

Pectin and faecal weight and intestinal transit time

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Cellulose

Faecal weight and intestinal transit time

- A5.13 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on cellulose in relation to faecal weight and intestinal transit times (Spiller *et al.*, 1980; Hillman *et al.*, 1983; Behall *et al.*, 1987). The transit time methodologies were insufficiently comparable to allow a meta-analysis to be performed. No further trials were identified in the update search (Colo-rectal health review).
- A5.14 An effect of cellulose (14-23g/day) is demonstrated on increasing faecal weight in all trials. Two trials report an effect of cellulose on reducing intestinal transit time, but one trial reports no significant effect in subjects with a relatively fast initial intestinal transit time (Behall *et al.*, 1987). The effect sizes are comparable to wheat fibre.

Cellulose and faecal weight and intestinal transit time

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates consumption of cellulose is potentially beneficial to health
- The effect is potentially biologically relevant, but demonstrated at concentration of intake achieved through supplementation

Mixed isolated fibres

Isolated gums and gelling agents

Blood Pressure

- A5.15 Seven randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on isolated gums and gelling agents in relation to blood pressure (Bell *et al.*, 1990; Landin *et al.*, 1992; Pasman *et al.*, 1997a; Maret & Slavin, 2004; Lehtimaki *et al.*, 2005; Schwab *et al.*, 2006; Wood *et al.*, 2007). Two trials could not be included in a meta-analysis as they did not report the necessary data (Pasman *et al.*, 1997a; Maret & Slavin, 2004) (Cardio-metabolic review, incident hypertension and blood pressure chapter). The trials included in the analysis supplemented subjects' diets with either pectin, guar gum, chitosan, or konjac mannan.
- A5.16 No significant effect is demonstrated for various isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on systolic blood pressure (-0.82mmHg, 95% CI -5.2, 3.6; p=0.72).
- A5.17 No consistent effect is demonstrated for various isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on diastolic blood pressure on the forest plot. Furthermore the heterogeneity was above the pre-specified cut-off of 75% ($I^2=81%$) therefore, the pooled estimate has not been reported.
- A5.18 The two trials that are not included in the meta-analysis report no significant effect of either guar gum or arabino-galactans on blood pressure (Pasman *et al.*, 1997a; Maret & Slavin, 2004).

Isolated gums and gelling agent supplements and systolic or diastolic blood pressure

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Fasting blood lipids

- A5.19 Thirteen randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on isolated gums and gelling agents in relation to fasting blood lipids (Bell *et al.*, 1990; Ryle *et al.*, 1990; Landin *et al.*, 1992; Vido *et al.*, 1993; Mee & Gee, 1997; Pasman *et al.*, 1997b; Panlasigui *et al.*, 2003; Marett & Slavin, 2004; Lehtimaki *et al.*, 2005; Schwab *et al.*, 2006; Garcia *et al.*, 2006; Wood *et al.*, 2007; Reppas *et al.*, 2009) Two trials could not be included in a meta-analysis (Vido *et al.*, 1993; Pasman *et al.*, 1997b), but demonstrated no significant effect of fibre isolates and gum supplements on fasting blood lipids. One trial only provided data for fasting triacylglycerol concentration (Landin *et al.*, 1992). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemia and blood lipids chapter). Three of the trials demonstrated differential weight loss between experimental groups (Vido *et al.*, 1993; Schwab *et al.*, 2006; Wood *et al.*, 2007). The trials compared guar gum, pectin, gum arabic, carrageenan, arabinogalactan, chitosan, arabinoxylan, konjac mannan or methylcellulose supplements with a control or placebo.
- A5.20 No significant effect is demonstrated for various isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on fasting total cholesterol concentration (-0.15mmol/L, 95% CI -0.32, 0.01; p=0.07). A borderline non-significant effect is demonstrated.
- A5.21 No significant effect is demonstrated for various isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration (-0.09mmol/L, 95% CI -0.25, 0.07; p=0.29).
- A5.22 No significant effect is demonstrated for various isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration (0.0mmol/L, 95% CI -0.04, 0.05; p=0.89).
- A5.23 No significant effect is demonstrated for various isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on fasting triacylglycerol concentration (-0.01mmol/L, 95% CI -0.09, 0.07; p=0.84).

Isolated gums and gelling agent supplements and fasting total cholesterol concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Isolated gums and gelling agent supplements and fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Isolated gums and gelling agent supplements and fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Isolated gums and gelling agent supplements and fasting triacylglycerol concentration

- No effect
- Adequate evidence

Energy intake

A5.24 Eleven randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on isolated gums and gelling agents in relation to energy intake (Tredger *et al.*, 1991; Haskell *et al.*, 1992; Pasman *et al.*, 1997b; Panlasigui *et al.*, 2003; Marett & Slavin, 2004; Schwab *et al.*, 2006; Garcia *et al.*, 2007; Mattes, 2007; Pelkman *et al.*, 2007; Wood *et al.*, 2007; Paxman *et al.*, 2008), seven of which were included in a meta-analysis (Tredger *et al.*, 1991; Pasman *et al.*, 1997b; Schwab *et al.*, 2006; Garcia *et al.*, 2007; Pelkman *et al.*, 2007; Wood *et al.*, 2007; Paxman *et al.*, 2008). Four trials could not be included in a meta-analysis but demonstrated no statistically significant effect of soluble fibre isolates on energy intake (Haskell *et al.*, 1992; Panlasigui *et al.*, 2003; Marett & Slavin, 2004; Mattes, 2007). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake and eating motivation chapter). The trials compared guar gum, pectin, gum arabic, carrageenan, algal polysaccharides, arabinogalactan, chitosan or arabinoxylan supplements with a placebo.

A5.25 An effect is demonstrated for various isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on reducing energy intake (-567 kJ, 95% CI -931, -202 kJ; $p < 0.01$) (-135 kcal, 95% CI -223, -48 kcal).

Isolated gums and gelling agent supplements and energy intake

- Effect
- Adequate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of fibre isolates and gum supplements is beneficial to health
- The effect is biologically relevant, but demonstrated at intakes achieved through supplementation

Eating motivation

A5.26 Five randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on isolated gums and gelling agents in relation to eating motivation (Pasman *et al.*, 1997b; Heini *et al.*, 1998; Schwab *et al.*, 2006; Mattes, 2007; Pelkman *et al.*, 2007). (Cardio-metabolic review, Energy intake and eating motivation chapter). The trials compared either guar gum, pectin or glucomannan with a placebo.

A5.27 Due to variation in study designs, the method of assessing eating motivation and the nature of each intervention, it was not possible to combine these studies in

a meta-analysis. Overall, the trials provide inconsistent evidence of the effects of various isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on subjective ratings of eating motivation

Isolated gums and gelling agent supplements and eating motivation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Limited evidence

Fasting blood glucose

A5.28 Nine randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on isolated gums and gelling agents in relation to fasting blood glucose (Bell *et al.*, 1990; Ryle *et al.*, 1990; Landin *et al.*, 1992; Pasman *et al.*, 1997a; Maret & Slavin, 2004; Lehtimaki *et al.*, 2005; Schwab *et al.*, 2006; Wood *et al.*, 2007; Garcia *et al.*, 2007), eight of which were included in a meta-analysis (Bell *et al.*, 1990; Ryle *et al.*, 1990; Landin *et al.*, 1992; Maret & Slavin, 2004; Lehtimaki *et al.*, 2005; Schwab *et al.*, 2006; Wood *et al.*, 2007; Garcia *et al.*, 2007). One trial could not be included in a meta-analysis as it did not report the necessary data, but demonstrated no significant effect of soluble fibre isolates in relation to fasting blood glucose (Pasman *et al.*, 1997a). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter). The trials compared either guar gum, pectin, arabinogalactan, chitosan, arabinoxylan or konjac mannan supplements with a placebo.

A5.29 No significant effect is demonstrated for isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on fasting blood glucose concentration (-0.11mmol/L, 95% CI -0.26, 0.05; p=0.18).

Isolated gums and gelling agent supplements and fasting blood glucose concentration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No effect• Moderate evidence

Fasting blood insulin

A5.30 Eight publications relating to seven randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on isolated gums and gelling agents in relation to fasting insulin (Ryle *et al.*, 1990; Landin *et al.*, 1992; Pasman *et al.*, 1997a; Maret & Slavin, 2004; Schwab *et al.*, 2006; Garcia *et al.*, 2006; Wood *et al.*, 2007; Garcia *et al.*, 2007). Two papers presented evidence from one trial (Garcia *et al.*, 2006; Garcia *et al.*, 2007). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, diabetes chapter). The trials compared either guar gum, pectin, arabinogalactan, chitosan, arabinoxylan or konjac mannan supplements with a placebo.

A5.31 Due to variation in the methodologies used to measure insulin concentration, it is not possible to combine these studies using meta-analysis. Overall these trials do not provide evidence of an effect of various isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on fasting blood insulin concentration.

Isolated gums and gelling agent supplements and fasting blood insulin concentration

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Mixed gums and gelling agents

Fasting blood lipids

- A5.32 Four randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on mixed isolated gums and gelling agents and fasting blood lipid concentrations, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Haskell *et al.*, 1992; Jensen *et al.*, 1997; Knopp *et al.*, 1999; Salas-Salvado *et al.*, 2008) No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, hyperlipidaemias and blood lipids chapter). One trial was a weight loss trial (Salas-Salvado *et al.*, 2008). The trials compared either acacia gum, a mixture of psyllium, pectin, guar gum, and locust bean gum, guar gum and pectin, or psyllium and glucomannan, with a placebo.
- A5.33 An effect is demonstrated for mixed isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on reducing fasting total cholesterol concentration (-0.36mmol/L, 95% CI -0.50, -0.23; p<0.001).
- A5.34 No significant effect is demonstrated for mixed isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration (-0.04mmol/L, 95% CI -0.11, 0.04; p=0.36).
- A5.35 An effect is demonstrated for mixed isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on reducing fasting LDL-concentration (-0.29mmol/L, 95% CI -0.45, -0.12; p=0.001).
- A5.36 No significant effect is demonstrated for mixed isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on fasting triacylglycerol concentration (0.00mmol/L, 95% CI -0.18, 0.18; p=1.0).

Mixed isolated gums and gelling agents and fasting total cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of mixed isolated gums and gelling agent supplements is beneficial to health
- The effect is biologically relevant, but only demonstrated at intakes achieved through supplementation

Mixed isolated gums and gelling agents and fasting HDL-cholesterol concentration

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Mixed isolated gums and gelling agents and fasting LDL-cholesterol concentration

- Effect
- Moderate evidence
- The direction of the effect demonstrates higher consumption of soluble fibre isolates and gum supplements is beneficial to health
- The effect is biologically relevant, but only demonstrated at intakes achieved through supplementation

Mixed isolated gums and gelling agents and fasting triacylglycerol concentration

- No effect
- Moderate evidence

Markers of inflammation C-reactive protein

A5.37 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on mixed isolated gums and gelling agents in relation to C-reactive protein concentration (Wood *et al.*, 2006; Salas-Salvado *et al.*, 2008; King *et al.*, 2008). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, inflammation chapter). One trial was a weight loss trial (Salas-Salvado *et al.*, 2008). The trials compared psyllium, konjac mannan, or psyllium and glucomannan with a placebo.

A5.38 No significant effect of mixed isolated gums and gelling agent supplements on C-reactive protein concentration is reported in any of the trials.

Mixed isolated gums and gelling agents and C-reactive protein concentration

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Mixed dietary fibre isolates

Energy intake

A5.39 Three randomised controlled trials were identified that presented evidence on mixed soluble and insoluble fibre isolates in relation to energy intake, all of which were included in a meta-analysis (Rigaud *et al.*, 1990; Hunninghake *et al.*, 1994; Jenkins *et al.*, 1999b). No further trials were identified in the update search (Cardio-metabolic review, energy intake and eating motivation chapter). The trials compared cereal and citrus fibre, a mixture of guar gum, pectin, soy, corn bran, pea fibre or coarse bran wheat fibre breakfast cereal with either a control or placebo.

A5.40 No significant effect is demonstrated for mixed soluble and insoluble fibre isolates on energy intake (-405kJ, 95% CI -1017, 207 kJ; p=0.20).

Mixed dietary fibre isolates and energy intake

- No effect
- Limited evidence

Outcomes where there is insufficient or inconsistent evidence¹⁹

A5.41 The tables below detail the exposures and outcomes where there are two or fewer trials that meet the inclusion criteria for the review (e.g. by study duration, publication date, health of subjects, design of intervention) or where the studies are too inconsistent, to draw a conclusion as per the grading system in Annex 2. A full description of the studies can be found in the relevant systematic reviews.

Table A5.1: Insufficient evidence-randomised controlled trials

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Blood pressure	psyllium and isolated fibres
Total cholesterol	isolated fibres
HDL-cholesterol	isolated fibres
LDL-cholesterol	isolated fibres
Fasting triacylglycerol	isolated fibres
LDL:HDL-cholesterol ratio	psyllium and isolated fibres
Total cholesterol:HDL-cholesterol ratio	psyllium and isolated fibres
Apolipoproteins	isolated fibres
TNF- α , IL-6, Fibrinogen, plasminogen	isolated fibres
Change in body weight and BMI	guar gum
Body fatness and fat distribution	guar gum
Energy intake in adults	psyllium
Energy intake	psyllium
Eating motivation	isolated fibres
Fasting glycaemia	psyllium and isolated fibres
Insulin resistance/sensitivity	isolated fibres
Insulinaemia	isolated fibres
Glycosylated blood proteins	isolated fibres
Intestinal transit time	isolated fibres
Faecal weight	isolated fibres
Faecal bacteria populations	isolated fibres
Faecal pH and short chain fatty acid content	isolated fibres
Symptoms of constipation	isolated fibres
Intestinal transit times in people with constipation	psyllium

¹⁹ See Annex 2 paragraph A2.21 for criteria.

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Irritable bowel syndrome	fibre supplements

Table A5.2: Inconsistent evidence

Risk factor	Exposure
Diastolic blood pressure	isolated fibres

Summary and conclusions

- A5.42 This assessment is based on randomised controlled trials investigating the relationship between dietary fibre isolates and cardio-metabolic health and colorectal health outcomes. No randomised trials were conducted in children and adolescents.
- A5.43 Trials supplementing subjects with psyllium indicate beneficial effects on fasting blood lipid concentrations, faecal weight and constipation. The major types of soluble fibre present in food are pectin and oat β -glucan and trials with psyllium are not indicative of the possible efficacy of these types of soluble fibre. The particular property of psyllium, which may make it particularly effective as a laxative, is the presence of a poorly fermentable arabinoxylan fraction that stays intact all the way through the colon (Marlett *et al.*, 2000).
- A5.44 Trials indicate that extracted cellulose decreases intestinal transit times and increases faecal mass. Extracted pectin has no effect on these parameters.
- A5.45 Trials in subjects receiving supplements of mixed fibre isolates indicate that these components have beneficial effects on fasting blood lipid concentrations and decrease energy intake. The evidence for any individual extracted/isolated fibre, however, needs to be based on cause-effect evidence, and that requires clear specification of exposures. The evidence from mixed fibre interventions, therefore, contributes to a view on the potential for some specific combinations of these materials to meet the dietary fibre definition, but it is not possible to draw conclusions on the individual components.

Abbreviations

ANCOVA	Analysis of covariance
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
AUC insulin	Area under the curve insulin
BMI	Body Mass Index
CHD	Coronary heart disease
CI	Confidence interval
COMA	Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy
CRP	C-reactive protein
CVD	Cardiovascular disease
DBP	Diastolic blood pressure
DP	Degree of polymerisation
DRV	Dietary Reference Value
EAR	Estimated Average Requirement
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EI	Energy intake
EPIC	European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition
E-selectin	Endothelial selectin
FAO/WHO	Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization
FTO gene	Fat mass and obesity associated gene
g	Gram
GI	Glycaemic Index
GL	Glycaemic Load
GLUT	Glucose transporters
HbA1c	Glycated haemoglobin
HDL	High-density lipoprotein
HFCS	High fructose corn syrup
ICAM-1	Intercellular Adhesion Molecule 1

IL-6	Interleukin 6
J	Joule
kcal	Kilocalorie
kg	Kilogram
kJ	Kilojoule
L	Litres
LDL	Low-density lipoprotein
mg	Milligram
MJ	Megajoule
mmHg	Millimetre of mercury
mmol	Millimole
NDNS	National Diet and Nutrition Survey
NMES	Non-milk extrinsic sugars
NSP	Non-starch polysaccharide
PAI-1	Plasminogen activator inhibitor-1
P-selectin	Platelet-selectin
RR	Relative risk
RS1	Physically inaccessible resistant starch
RS2	Resistant starch granules
RS3	Retrograde amylose resistant starch
RS4	Chemically modified resistant starch
SACN	Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition
SBP	Systolic blood pressure
SCFA	Short chain fatty acids
SEM	Standard error of the mean
SGLT1	Sodium glucose linked transporter
TAG	Triacylglycerol
TEE	Total Energy Expenditure
TNF	Tumour necrosis factor
tPA	Tissue plasminogen activator
VCAM-1	Vascular cell adhesion molecule 1

Carbohydrate intake in pregnancy in relation to birth weight and cardio-metabolic health outcomes

Introduction

- A7.1 This assessment is based on prospective cohort studies investigating the relationship between carbohydrate intake and birth weight and cardio-metabolic health outcomes. Randomised controlled trials were also considered, but there were an insufficient number of trials to enable any conclusions to be drawn (see table A7.2). Studies involving pregnant women were identified from the databases containing all the citations identified in the original literature search for the cardio-metabolic health review and the update search. Links to the cardio-metabolic health reviews and update search are given in Annex 1. A limitation to examining the role of carbohydrate intake during pregnancy in cardio-metabolic health outcomes is that the terms used to search the literature did not include measures of birth size other than weight. Outcomes such as duration of gestation, head circumference, crown-heel length or ponderal index were not, therefore, considered.
- A7.2 Evidence on health/disease outcomes has been discussed in detail only where there were sufficient data for a conclusion to be drawn from studies meeting the pre-agreed inclusion criteria. Outcomes where there were too few studies to reach a conclusion, are listed at the end of the chapter (see tables A7.1 and A7.2). For all outcome measures, the data (exposure and outcome) were insufficiently comparable to allow quantitative synthesis.

Birth weight

- A7.3 Birth weight is a widely cited indicator of neonatal and perinatal risk. It has been commonly adduced as a summary index of fetal nutritional exposure in epidemiological studies, but is not a sensitive or specific measure of fetal nutrient supply, nor the only measure indicative of fetal nutritional exposure. Although birth weight provides some information about the end point of fetal growth, it neither describes the fetal growth trajectory nor reflects body composition. The pattern of fetal growth may affect the development of organs and physiologic systems in ways that are not explained by birth weight and body proportions (Prentice & Goldberg, 2000). Birth weight has thus been regarded as an 'outcome of convenience' for perinatal health policy (Wilcox, 2001) rather than a complete descriptor of nutritional phenotype. Birth weight is also subject to other influences, including environmental contaminants such as smoking (Lumley *et al.*, 2009). Importantly it is also influenced by the duration of gestation and the mother's physique and parity.

- A7.4 Higher birth weight is associated in later life with a higher body mass index and an increased risk of certain cancers, notably breast cancer (particularly in premenopausal women) and child leukaemia (SACN, 2011). Lower birth weight is associated with increased risk of coronary heart disease and a J- or U-shaped relationship has been described between infant birth weight and blood pressure (Curhan *et al.*, 1996; Davies *et al.*, 2006; Gamborg *et al.*, 2007) and type 2 diabetes mellitus risk (Harder *et al.*, 2007) in later life.
- A7.5 Ten cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on dietary carbohydrate intake during pregnancy and infant birth weight (Haste *et al.*, 1991; Lenders *et al.*, 1994; Godfrey *et al.*, 1996; Lenders *et al.*, 1997; Mathews *et al.*, 1999; Langley-Evans & Langley-Evans, 2003; Moore *et al.*, 2004; Lagiou *et al.*, 2004; Scholl *et al.*, 2004; Watson & McDonald, 2010).
- A7.6 Three studies were conducted in England only (Haste *et al.*, 1991; Mathews *et al.*, 1999; Langley-Evans & Langley-Evans, 2003), one study in the UK (Godfrey *et al.*, 1996), four in the USA (Lenders *et al.*, 1994; Lenders *et al.*, 1997; Lagiou *et al.*, 2004; Scholl *et al.*, 2004), one in Australia (Moore *et al.*, 2004) and one in New Zealand (Watson & McDonald, 2010).
- A7.7 Three cohort studies were conducted in low-income pregnant women; two cohort studies included only adolescents (Lenders *et al.*, 1994; Lenders *et al.*, 1997) and the other included adolescents and adult women (Scholl *et al.*, 2004).

Total carbohydrate

- A7.8 Seven cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on maternal total carbohydrate intake, either as grams or percentage energy, and infant birth weight (Haste *et al.*, 1991; Godfrey *et al.*, 1996; Mathews *et al.*, 1999; Langley-Evans & Langley-Evans, 2003; Lagiou *et al.*, 2004; Moore *et al.*, 2004; Watson & McDonald, 2010).
- A7.9 Three of these studies were conducted in England. One assessed maternal carbohydrate intake (g/day) at 28 and 36 weeks gestation in non-smokers (n=97) and smokers (n=72) (Haste *et al.*, 1991). The amount of total carbohydrate consumed at either dietary assessment during pregnancy was not associated with the infant birth weight in either smokers or non-smokers. In another study, 693 women had their dietary intake assessed in early pregnancy (recorded at the booking appointment) and the 28th week of gestation (Mathews *et al.*, 1999). The amount of total carbohydrate consumed (g/day) either early or later in pregnancy was not associated with infant birth weight (p=0.90). The third cohort indicated no association between infant birth weight and maternal intakes of total carbohydrate (g/day or % energy) (Langley-Evans & Langley-Evans, 2003).
- A7.10 A UK cohort study assessed maternal carbohydrate intake (g/day) in early and late pregnancy in 538 women in relation to infant birth weight (Godfrey *et al.*, 1996). Nutrient intakes were log transformed where appropriate. Increased carbohydrate intake in early pregnancy was associated with a lower birth weight (-143 g, 95% CI -28 g, -258 g; P=0.01 per log gram increase in carbohydrate intake). However, there was no significant association between the mothers' carbohydrate intake in late pregnancy and infant birth weight.

- A7.11 An Australian study conducted in 557 women observed no association between the percentage of energy from carbohydrate in early and late pregnancy and infant birth weight (Moore *et al.*, 2004).
- A7.12 A study in the USA conducted in 224 women assessed dietary intake at the 27th week of gestation (Lagiou *et al.*, 2004). The intake of total carbohydrate (g/day) was not associated with infant birth weight ($p=0.21$). Partial regression coefficients showing changes in adjusted birth weight per increments of one standard deviation of carbohydrate intake also indicated no association ($p=0.62$).
- A7.13 A study conducted in New Zealand assessed maternal diet at months four and seven of gestation in 439 low-income women. Maternal total carbohydrate intake was not associated with birth weight. A further analysis indicated that percentage energy from carbohydrate, but not grams carbohydrate/day, was associated with birth weight in a quadratic relationship. In multiple regression analyses the authors observe that when carbohydrate consumption was below or above 48% of energy, birth weight was significantly lower (Watson & McDonald, 2010). The subgroup with the highest mean birth weight (approximately 3600g) had a percentage energy intake from carbohydrate of 48%, 35% from fat and 17% from protein.
- A7.14 Overall, the seven cohort studies provide little indication that maternal total carbohydrate intake (g/day or % energy) is associated with infant birth weight.

Total carbohydrate (g/day or % energy) and birth weight
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Adequate evidence

Sugars

- A7.15 Five cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on maternal intake of sugars (total and individual sugars) and infant birth weight (Lenders *et al.*, 1994; Godfrey *et al.*, 1996; Lenders *et al.*, 1997; Langley-Evans & Langley-Evans, 2003; Watson & McDonald, 2010).
- A7.16 The two studies conducted in adolescents from low income families both compared participants in the top 10th percentile of sugars intake (≥ 206 g/day) with the remainder of adolescents (sugars intake < 206 g/day). In the first study, adolescents in the top 10th percentile defined as high consumers of sugars ($n = 34$) gave birth to infants weighing 215 ± 104 g (mean \pm sd) less ($p = 0.04$) than the remainder of adolescents ($n = 303$) (Lenders *et al.*, 1994). The total sugars intake was computed from a single 24-hour recall conducted at the first prenatal visit. In the second study, the adjusted odds ratio for delivering a small-for-gestational-age infant (defined as < 10 th percentile of birth weight for gestational age) was 2.01 (95% CI 1.05, 7.53) for adolescents with a high sugars intake ($n=60$) compared with the remainder of adolescents ($n=534$) (Lenders *et al.*, 1997). The total sugars intake was computed from three 24-hour recalls in the course of pregnancy. Any associations between sugars intake and birth weight were not reported in this latter study.

A7.17 One cohort study observed that a higher total sugars intake during early pregnancy was associated with a significantly lower birth weight ($P= 0.02$; only the p-value was reported) (Godfrey *et al.*, 1996). Results for sugars intake in late pregnancy were not reported. Another cohort study found that a higher sucrose intake at 4 months, but not 7 months, was associated with reduced birth weight. No associations were found for glucose or fructose independent of sucrose, lactose or maltose (Watson & McDonald, 2010).

A7.18 Overall, four studies provide some indication that higher sugars intake is associated with lower infant birth weight (Lenders *et al.*, 1994; Godfrey *et al.*, 1996; Lenders *et al.*, 1997; Watson & McDonald, 2010), but one other indicates no association (Langley-Evans & Langley-Evans, 2003). The biological plausibility and significance of these findings is unclear. Only one study presents birth weights according to sugars intake (Lenders *et al.*, 1994); the other studies report birth weights only for the whole cohort. Confounding by other dietary factors, e.g. micronutrient intakes, cannot be excluded. Only two of the studies excluded preterm births (born before the 37th week of pregnancy) from their analyses (Godfrey *et al.*, 1996; Langley-Evans & Langley-Evans, 2003).

Sugars (g/day) and infant birth weight
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Association• Limited evidence• The direction of the association indicates that greater consumption of sugars during pregnancy is associated with lower birth weight, but the studies are insufficient in number and quality to allow confidence in the observed association. It is also not possible to exclude confounding by other dietary variables• The biological relevance is unclear

Gestational diabetes mellitus

A7.19 All dietary assessments were conducted prior to the development of gestational diabetes mellitus. Three cohort studies were identified that presented evidence on dietary carbohydrate intake during pregnancy and the risk of developing gestational diabetes mellitus (Saldana *et al.*, 2004; Radesky *et al.*, 2008; Ley *et al.*, 2011). One cohort study was identified that presented evidence on dietary carbohydrate intake pre-pregnancy and risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (Zhang *et al.*, 2006). All the studies were conducted in North America.

Total carbohydrate

A7.20 Three cohort studies reported on total carbohydrate, as percentage energy, during pregnancy and the risk of developing gestational diabetes mellitus (Saldana *et al.*, 2004; Radesky *et al.*, 2008; Ley *et al.*, 2011). One cohort study was identified that reported on total carbohydrate intake pre-pregnancy and the risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (Zhang *et al.*, 2006).

- A7.21 A study conducted in 1698 women in the USA assessed maternal diet in the second trimester in relation to the risk of developing gestational diabetes mellitus or impaired glucose tolerance (Saldana *et al.*, 2004). The authors observed that women defined as having developed gestational diabetes mellitus (n=89) consumed a lower percentage of energy from carbohydrates and a higher percentage of energy from fat than the women who maintained normal glucose tolerance. Modelling showed that adding 100 kcal from carbohydrates to the diet was associated with a decrease in the risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (RR 0.9, 95% CI 0.85, 0.98, p=0.01). A theoretical substitution model was devised which substituted one macronutrient for another. It was found that substituting fat for carbohydrates (per each 1% of total dietary energy) resulted in a significant increase in the risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (RR 1.10, 95% CI 1.02, 1.12 and RR 1.10, 95% CI 1.02, 1.10, respectively). Predicted probabilities of gestational diabetes mellitus were reduced by one half with a 10% decrease in dietary fat and a 10% increase in carbohydrate.
- A7.22 A study conducted in 1722 women in the USA assessed maternal diet in early pregnancy in relation to the risk of developing gestational diabetes mellitus (Radesky *et al.*, 2008). The percentage energy from carbohydrate was not associated with risk of developing gestational diabetes mellitus (OR 1.00, 95% CI 0.96, 1.03) in this cohort. Unlike the findings reported by Saldana *et al.* (2004) there was no evidence that adding fat or carbohydrates to the diet, or substituting fat for carbohydrates, fat for protein, or carbohydrates for protein was associated with altered risk for gestational diabetes mellitus.
- A7.23 A smaller study in 205 women in Canada assessed maternal diet in the second trimester in relation to the risk of developing gestational diabetes mellitus (Ley *et al.*, 2011). A decreased risk of gestational diabetes mellitus was associated with higher carbohydrate intake as a percentage of energy (OR 0.60, 95% CI 0.40, 0.90 per 1 standard deviation change in intake).
- A7.24 A study conducted in 13,110 women in the USA assessed maternal diet pre-pregnancy in relation to the risk of developing gestational diabetes mellitus (Zhang *et al.*, 2006). There was no association observed between total carbohydrate intake as a percentage of energy pre-pregnancy and gestational diabetes mellitus risk (RR 1.00, 95% CI 0.62, 1.63) for the highest versus lowest quartile of intake. In this study, higher carbohydrate intake pre-pregnancy was associated with lower gestational diabetes mellitus risk after adjustment for age and BMI, but this association disappeared after additional adjustment for lifestyle and other dietary factors (Zhang *et al.*, 2006). One of the studies in which it was observed that higher total carbohydrate intake as a percentage of energy was associated with decreased risk of gestational diabetes mellitus only adjusted risk for age, race and BMI (Saldana *et al.*, 2004) and none of the studies assessing diet during pregnancy adjusted for other dietary factors. Overall, there is little indication of an association between total carbohydrate intake as a percentage of energy and risk of gestational diabetes mellitus.

Carbohydrate intake (% energy) and risk of gestational diabetes mellitus or impaired glucose tolerance

- No association
- Limited evidence

Dietary Fibre

- A7.25 Two cohort studies reported on fibre intake during pregnancy and the risk of developing gestational diabetes mellitus (Radesky *et al.*, 2008; Ley *et al.*, 2011). One cohort study was identified that reported on dietary fibre intake pre-pregnancy and the risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (Zhang *et al.*, 2006).
- A7.26 Two of the cohort studies observed no association between fibre intakes and the risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (Radesky *et al.*, 2008; Ley *et al.*, 2011). The results for Ley *et al.* (2011) are as follows: dietary fibre OR 1.03, 95% CI 0.61, 1.74 per 1 standard deviation change in intake; cereal fibre OR 1.07, 95% CI 0.69, 1.65 per 1 standard deviation change in intake; vegetable and fruit fibre OR 0.94, 95% CI 0.63, 1.41 per 1 standard deviation change in intake. The findings for Radesky *et al.* (2008) are as follows: dietary fibre OR 0.92, 95% CI 0.74, 1.15 per each 5g increase.
- A7.27 Higher dietary fibre intake in pre-pregnancy, in particular cereal and fruit fibre, was associated with a reduced risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (Zhang *et al.*, 2006). These associations remained significant after adjustment for the other sources of dietary fibre. For dietary fibre, RR 0.74, 95% CI 0.51, 0.91 for each 10g/day increase, $p=0.005$; for cereal fibre RR 0.77, 95% CI 0.64, 0.91 for each 5g/day increase, $p=0.02$; and for fruit fibre RR 0.74, 95% CI 0.58, 0.95 for each 5g/day increase, $p=0.02$. There was no association observed between vegetable fibre intake and risk of gestational diabetes mellitus.

Dietary fibre intake (g/day) and gestational diabetes mellitus

- No association
- Limited evidence

Glycaemic index and glycaemic load

- A7.28 Two cohort studies were identified which reported on dietary glycaemic load during pregnancy and the risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (Radesky *et al.*, 2008; Tovar *et al.*, 2009). One cohort study was identified that reported on dietary glycaemic load and glycaemic index pre-pregnancy and the risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (Zhang *et al.*, 2006).
- A7.29 Neither of the studies investigating dietary glycaemic load during pregnancy in relation to gestational diabetes mellitus found any significant associations (Radesky *et al.*, 2008: OR 0.96, 95% CI 0.76, 1.22 per 32 unit increase; Tovar *et al.*, 2009: OR 0.99, 95% CI 0.97, 1.01). Higher glycaemic load pre-pregnancy was associated with an increased risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (highest versus lowest quintile RR 1.61, 95% CI 1.02, 2.53; $p=0.03$); but there was no significant association between glycaemic index and risk of gestational diabetes mellitus (highest versus lowest quintile RR 1.30, 95% CI 1.00, 1.68; $p=0.07$) (Zhang *et al.*, 2006). The combination

of a higher glycaemic load and lower cereal fibre diet was associated with a 2.15-fold (95% CI 1.04, 4.29) increased risk compared with the reciprocal diet (*P* for interaction 0.02).

Glycaemic load or glycaemic index and gestational diabetes mellitus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No association • Limited evidence

Outcomes where there is insufficient evidence²⁰

A7.30 The tables below detail the exposures and outcomes where there are two or fewer studies that meet the inclusion criteria for the review (e.g. by study duration, publication date, health of subjects, design of intervention), or where the studies are too inconsistent, to draw a conclusion as per the grading system in Annex 2.

Table A7.1: Insufficient evidence-cohort studies

Risk factor/health outcome/measure	Exposure
Birth weight	starch glycaemic index and glycaemic load
Gestational diabetes mellitus	whole grains sugars-sweetened beverages
Impaired glucose tolerance during pregnancy	total carbohydrate (% energy) glycaemic index and glycaemic load dietary fibre whole grains
Glycosylated blood proteins	glycaemic index and glycaemic load
Maternal weight gain	total carbohydrate (g/day) total sugars glycaemic index and glycaemic load
Offspring's blood pressure	total carbohydrate (g/day) carbohydrate-rich foods

Table A7.2: Insufficient evidence-randomised controlled trials

Risk factor/health outcome	Exposure
Birth weight	glycaemic index and glycaemic load
Maternal weight gain	glycaemic index and glycaemic load
Maternal blood glucose concentration	glycaemic index and glycaemic load dietary fibre
Maternal blood insulin concentration	glycaemic index and glycaemic load dietary fibre
Gestational duration	glycaemic index and glycaemic load

20 See Annex 2 paragraph A2.21 for criteria.

Summary and conclusions

- A7.31 This assessment is based on prospective cohort studies investigating the relationship between carbohydrate intake and birth weight and cardio-metabolic health outcomes. Seven cohort studies indicated there was no association between maternal total carbohydrate intake (g/day or % energy) and infant birth weight.
- A7.32 Four cohort studies indicated that higher maternal sugars intake was associated with lower infant birth weight, while one other indicated no association with infant birth weight. The biological plausibility and significance of these findings is unclear. Only one study presented birth weights according to sugars intake; the other studies only reported birth weights for the whole cohort. Confounding by other dietary factors, e.g. micronutrient intakes, could be responsible for the observation and only two of the studies excluded preterm births from their analyses. Overall the studies were insufficient in number and quality to allow confidence in the observed association.
- A7.33 Cohort studies provided limited evidence that dietary glycaemic load, glycaemic index, dietary fibre intake and total carbohydrate intake, as a percentage of energy, were not associated with risk of gestational diabetes. For many other outcomes and exposures there was insufficient evidence to enable conclusions to be drawn.

Dietary sources and intakes of carbohydrates

Table 3.1	Average daily intake of total carbohydrate by age and sex
Table 3.2	Average daily intake of starch by age and sex
Table 3.3	Average daily intake of total sugars by age and sex
Table 3.4	Average daily intake of intrinsic and milk sugars by age and sex
Table 3.5	Average daily intake of non-milk extrinsic sugars by age and sex
Table 3.6	Average daily intake of intrinsic and milk sugars and starch by age and sex
Table 3.7	Average daily intake of glucose by age and sex
Table 3.8	Average daily intake of fructose by age and sex
Table 3.9	Average daily intake of sucrose by age and sex
Table 3.10	Average daily intake of maltose by age and sex
Table 3.11	Average daily intake of lactose by age and sex
Table 3.12	Average daily intake of non-starch polysaccharides (NSP) by age and sex
Table 3.13a	Total quantities consumed of selected carbohydrate-containing foods: males (including non-consumers) by age
Table 3.13b	Total quantities consumed of selected carbohydrate-containing foods: male consumers by age
Table 3.14a	Total quantities consumed of selected carbohydrate-containing foods: females (including non-consumers) by age
Table 3.14b	Total quantities consumed of selected carbohydrate-containing foods: female consumers by age
Table 3.15a	Total quantities consumed of selected carbohydrate-containing foods: all (including non-consumers) by age
Table 3.15b	Total quantities consumed of selected carbohydrate-containing foods all consumers by age
Table 3.16	Percentage contribution of food types and food groups to total carbohydrate intake by sex and age

Table 3.17	Percentage contribution of food types and food groups to non-milk extrinsic sugar intake by sex and age
Table 3.18	Percentage contribution of food types and food groups to non-starch polysaccharides intake by sex and age
Table 3.19a	Top twenty contributors to total carbohydrate intake: children 1½-3 years
Table 3.19b	Top twenty contributors to total carbohydrate intake: children 4-10 years
Table 3.19c	Top twenty contributors to total carbohydrate intake: children 11-18 years
Table 3.19d	Top twenty contributors to total carbohydrate intake: adults 19-64 years
Table 3.19e	Top twenty contributors to total carbohydrate intake: adults 65 years and over
Table 3.20a	Top twenty contributors to total sugar intake: children 1½-3 years
Table 3.20b	Top twenty contributors to total sugar intake: children 4-10 years
Table 3.20c	Top twenty contributors to total sugar intake: children 11-18 years
Table 3.20d	Top twenty contributors to total sugar intake: adults 19-64 years
Table 3.20e	Top twenty contributors to total sugar intake: adults 65 years and over
Table 3.21a	Top twenty contributors to starch intake: children 1½-3 years
Table 3.21b	Top twenty contributors to starch intake: children 4-10 years
Table 3.21c	Top twenty contributors to starch intake: children 11-18 years
Table 3.21d	Top twenty contributors to starch intake: adults 19-64 years
Table 3.21e	Top twenty contributors to starch intake: adults 65 years and over
Table 3.22a	Top twenty contributors to NSP intake: children 1½-3 years
Table 3.22b	Top twenty contributors to NSP intake: children 4-10 years
Table 3.22c	Top twenty contributors to NSP intake: children 11-18 years
Table 3.22d	Top twenty contributors to NSP intake: adults 19-64 years
Table 3.22e	Top twenty contributors to NSP intake: adults 65 years and over

Table 3.1: Average daily intake of total carbohydrate by age and sex

Total carbohydrate		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)											
		Sex and age group (years)											
		Boys		Men		Girls		Women		Total			
	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+
g/day													
Mean	219	265	251	231	205	211	197	187	151	212	239	224	206
Median	218	259	243	223	203	209	193	187	150	209	233	216	199
sd	48	73	76	75	45	59	61	50	37	47	72	74	66
Upper 2.5 percentile	318	449	407	389	305	335	336	303	228	308	398	389	362
Lower 2.5 percentile	136	150	122	113	132	103	92	99	79	134	115	101	107
% food and drink energy (excluding energy from alcohol)													
Mean	52.2	50.9	47.8	46.9	52.0	51.1	48.2	47.5	50.6	52.1	51.0	48.0	47.2
Median	52.1	50.8	47.6	47.3	52.2	51.0	48.2	47.4	50.6	52.1	50.9	47.8	47.4
sd	4.8	5.5	6.8	6.3	5.1	5.6	7.2	6.5	5.7	4.9	5.5	7.0	6.4
Upper 2.5 percentile	62.0	62.0	61.3	58.3	62.5	61.1	61.7	59.6	61.6	62.3	61.4	61.4	59.5
Lower 2.5 percentile	43.1	40.3	35.4	34.0	43.0	39.7	33.8	33.9	40.4	43.0	39.9	34.5	33.9
% total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol)													
Mean	52.2	50.5	45.1	44.9	52.0	50.7	46.3	46.5	50.6	52.1	50.6	45.7	45.8
Median	52.1	50.4	44.9	45.6	52.2	50.8	46.4	46.2	50.6	52.1	50.6	45.8	46.2
sd	4.8	5.7	7.7	7.2	5.1	5.8	7.7	6.9	5.7	4.9	5.7	7.7	7.1
Upper 2.5 percentile	62.0	61.7	60.7	57.5	62.5	61.0	61.4	59.6	61.6	62.3	61.3	61.1	59.4
Lower 2.5 percentile	43.1	39.3	30.7	29.3	43.0	39.2	30.9	32.3	40.4	43.0	39.3	30.8	29.8
Number of participants (unweighted)	665	744	1,126	317	612	753	1,571	436	604	1,277	1,497	2,697	753

Table 3.2: Average daily intake of starch by age and sex

Starch		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)													
		Sex and age group (years)													
		Boys		Men		Girls		Women		Total					
4-10		11-18		19-64		65+		4-10		11-18		19-64		65+	
g/day															
Mean	118.6	149.3	145.5	128.9	110.8	120.7	112.6	98.3	114.8	135.4	129.0	111.8			
Median	117.9	145.7	143.9	127.1	108.2	122.6	111.3	95.4	112.5	131.8	125.5	106.4			
sd	28.8	41.3	44.3	45.5	26.6	35.6	36.2	28.7	28.0	41.2	43.7	40.0			
Upper 2.5 percentile	178.2	236.6	245.6	218.5	170.7	185.1	185.2	150.4	174.4	228.0	228.5	195.1			
Lower 2.5 percentile	65.8	76.4	66.7	56.0	61.0	48.1	48.4	41.0	64.6	58.7	52.1	48.3			
% food and drink energy (excluding energy from alcohol)															
Mean	28.4	28.9	27.9	26.3	28.3	29.2	27.7	25.2	28.3	29.1	27.8	25.7			
Median	28.3	28.7	28.0	26.6	28.0	29.3	27.6	25.2	28.1	29.0	27.8	25.6			
sd	4.6	4.9	5.9	5.7	5.1	5.5	6.2	5.9	4.8	5.2	6.0	5.8			
Upper 2.5 percentile	38.3	39.0	40.2	38.1	38.3	39.1	41.4	38.5	38.3	39.1	40.6	38.1			
Lower 2.5 percentile	19.4	19.4	16.9	14.6	18.9	18.6	15.7	14.1	19.2	19.2	16.1	14.6			
% total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol)															
Mean	28.4	28.7	26.4	25.1	28.3	29.1	26.7	24.7	28.3	28.9	26.5	24.9			
Median	28.3	28.5	26.4	25.2	28.0	29.1	26.3	24.4	28.1	28.8	26.3	24.8			
sd	4.6	5.1	6.3	5.9	5.1	5.6	6.4	6.0	4.8	5.3	6.4	6.0			
Upper 2.5 percentile	38.3	39.0	39.7	37.1	38.3	39.1	41.4	38.5	38.3	39.0	40.2	37.1			
Lower 2.5 percentile	19.4	19.1	14.0	13.2	18.9	17.9	14.5	13.6	19.2	18.6	14.3	13.2			
Number of participants (unweighted)	665	744	1,126	317	612	753	1,571	436	1,277	1,497	2,697	753			

Table 3.3: Average daily intake of total sugars by age and sex

Aged 1.5 years and over		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)														
		Sex and age group (years)														
		Boys			Men			Girls			Women		Total			
	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+
Total sugars																
g/day																
Mean	100.2	115.7	105.6	102.4	94.6	90.4	84.6	88.4	97.4	103.4	95.1	94.5				
Median	97.7	108.2	100.8	97.6	91.5	85.0	78.2	83.2	94.7	96.5	87.6	88.2				
sd	32.7	47.7	48.3	46.6	30.6	37.6	39.4	34.8	31.8	44.8	45.3	41.0				
Upper 2.5 percentile	168.4	245.8	221.6	203.9	153.7	173.4	176.1	175.8	164.5	216.9	204.2	196.2				
Lower 2.5 percentile	45.6	43.8	32.0	32.4	41.0	29.5	26.6	32.3	43.8	35.0	30.6	32.4				
% food and drink energy (excluding energy from alcohol)																
Mean	23.8	22.0	19.8	20.6	23.8	21.8	20.5	22.3	23.8	21.9	20.2	21.6				
Median	23.6	21.6	19.2	20.3	23.7	21.1	19.9	21.9	23.6	21.3	19.5	21.2				
sd	5.8	6.4	6.6	6.6	5.4	6.9	6.8	6.3	5.6	6.7	6.7	6.5				
Upper 2.5 percentile	36.2	36.8	35.5	34.3	35.2	37.9	35.3	36.5	35.4	37.1	35.5	36.3				
Lower 2.5 percentile	13.5	11.1	9.3	8.5	13.7	9.7	9.1	10.1	13.5	9.9	9.1	9.8				
% total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol)																
Mean	23.8	21.8	18.7	19.7	23.8	21.6	19.6	21.8	23.8	21.7	19.1	20.9				
Median	23.6	21.5	18.1	18.8	23.7	20.9	19.0	21.2	23.6	21.1	18.5	20.5				
sd	5.8	6.3	6.3	6.5	5.4	6.8	6.6	6.2	5.6	6.6	6.5	6.4				
Upper 2.5 percentile	36.2	36.2	33.8	34.3	35.2	36.8	34.8	35.0	35.4	36.8	34.4	35.0				
Lower 2.5 percentile	13.5	11.0	8.8	8.1	13.7	9.7	8.7	9.9	13.5	9.9	8.7	9.2				
Number of participants (unweighted)	665	744	1,126	317	612	753	1,571	436	1,277	1,497	2,697	753				

Table 3.4: Average daily intake of intrinsic and milk sugars by age and sex

Intrinsic and milk sugars		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)											
		Sex and age group (years)											
		Boys		Men		Girls		Women		Total			
	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+
g/day													
Mean	37.2	31.7	37.2	43.8	36.1	26.6	35.3	42.2	39.5	36.7	29.2	36.3	42.9
Median	34.7	28.2	33.4	42.9	33.6	24.1	32.6	40.0	38.0	34.0	26.2	32.9	41.1
sd	14.7	16.6	20.0	20.3	15.3	13.3	17.6	18.5	15.6	15.0	15.3	18.8	19.3
Upper 2.5 percentile	72.2	71.4	84.3	91.9	71.0	58.7	72.4	81.3	73.9	71.0	68.0	78.7	87.5
Lower 2.5 percentile	13.5	9.7	10.7	13.3	12.3	9.2	11.1	15.0	11.6	13.2	9.6	10.8	13.6
% food and drink energy (excluding energy from alcohol)													
Mean	9.0	6.1	7.2	9.0	9.2	6.6	8.8	10.9	13.2	9.1	6.3	8.0	10.1
Median	8.5	5.6	6.4	8.4	8.6	5.8	8.0	10.2	13.2	8.6	5.7	7.3	9.4
sd	3.4	2.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.5	4.2	4.2	4.6	3.6	3.1	4.1	4.1
Upper 2.5 percentile	16.5	12.4	16.5	18.5	18.7	16.2	18.7	21.4	22.5	17.4	13.9	17.6	20.5
Lower 2.5 percentile	3.9	2.3	2.6	3.6	3.5	2.5	3.3	4.5	5.2	3.6	2.5	2.8	3.8
% total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol)													
Mean	9.0	6.0	6.8	8.7	9.2	6.6	8.5	10.6	13.2	9.1	6.3	7.7	9.7
Median	8.5	5.5	6.1	8.3	8.6	5.8	7.8	10.0	13.2	8.6	5.7	6.9	9.2
sd	3.4	2.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.5	4.2	4.1	4.6	3.6	3.1	4.0	4.1
Upper 2.5 percentile	16.5	12.4	16.2	17.8	18.7	16.2	18.5	20.5	22.5	17.4	13.9	17.1	19.2
Lower 2.5 percentile	3.9	2.2	2.3	3.5	3.5	2.5	2.9	4.1	5.2	3.6	2.3	2.6	3.6
Number of participants (unweighted)	665	744	1,126	317	612	753	1,571	436	604	1,277	1,497	2,697	753

Table 3.5: Average daily intake of non-milk extrinsic sugars by age and sex

Aged 1.5 years and over		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)												
		Non-milk extrinsic sugars (NMES)					Sex and age group (years)							
		Boys		Men		Girls		Women		Total				
		4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+
g/day														
Mean		63.0	84.0	68.4	58.5	58.5	63.9	49.2	46.2	36.1	60.8	74.2	58.8	51.6
Median		58.5	77.9	62.2	53.1	54.8	59.3	41.6	39.8	32.9	57.0	66.8	49.2	42.9
sd		29.2	42.5	41.8	40.3	25.2	33.9	35.0	25.5	19.3	27.4	39.8	39.7	33.4
Upper 2.5 percentile		128.6	189.3	169.1	141.7	114.1	142.1	130.9	117.4	81.9	122.2	165.1	157.9	137.7
Lower 2.5 percentile		19.5	18.4	10.8	8.5	18.5	11.4	5.9	7.5	7.8	19.3	14.9	8.2	8.5
% food and drink energy (excluding energy from alcohol)														
Mean		14.8	16.0	12.7	11.6	14.6	15.2	11.6	11.5	11.9	14.7	15.6	12.1	11.5
Median		14.3	15.2	11.6	10.9	14.1	14.4	10.8	10.8	11.2	14.2	14.9	11.2	10.9
sd		5.6	6.6	6.4	6.3	5.1	6.4	6.6	5.1	5.4	5.3	6.5	6.5	5.7
Upper 2.5 percentile		27.9	32.4	27.6	24.3	25.4	29.8	25.8	23.6	25.0	26.3	31.1	26.3	24.3
Lower 2.5 percentile		5.8	4.5	2.8	1.9	5.6	3.6	2.0	2.4	3.6	5.8	4.1	2.4	2.1
% total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol)														
Mean		14.8	15.8	11.9	11.1	14.6	15.0	11.1	11.2	11.9	14.7	15.4	11.5	11.2
Median		14.3	15.2	11.0	10.6	14.1	14.3	10.1	10.7	11.2	14.2	14.7	10.6	10.7
sd		5.6	6.4	6.0	6.2	5.1	6.3	6.3	5.1	5.4	5.3	6.4	6.1	5.6
Upper 2.5 percentile		27.9	31.2	25.0	23.8	25.4	29.0	25.1	23.4	25.0	26.3	29.6	25.0	23.7
Lower 2.5 percentile		5.8	4.5	2.7	1.8	5.6	3.6	1.8	2.4	3.6	5.8	4.1	2.2	1.8
Number of participants (unweighted)		665	744	1,126	317	612	753	1,571	436	604	1,277	1,497	2,697	753

Table 3.6: Average daily intake of intrinsic and milk sugars and starch by age and sex

Aged 1.5 years and over		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)												
		Sex and age group (years)												
Intrinsic and milk sugars and starch		Boys		Men		Girls		Women		Total				
		4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+
% food and drink energy (excluding energy from alcohol)														
Mean		37.4	35.0	35.1	35.3	37.4	35.9	36.6	36.1	38.7	37.4	35.4	35.8	35.7
Median		37.4	35.1	34.5	34.9	37.3	35.8	36.1	35.4	38.2	37.3	35.3	35.3	35.2
sd		5.0	5.4	6.8	6.6	5.6	5.9	7.0	6.5	5.4	5.3	5.7	7.0	6.5
Upper 2.5 percentile		47.6	45.3	50.0	46.2	48.2	48.2	51.9	50.3	50.4	48.2	47.2	50.4	49.6
Lower 2.5 percentile		28.1	24.1	23.2	22.9	27.7	25.0	23.9	22.2	28.0	27.7	24.4	23.6	22.2
% total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol)														
Mean		37.4	34.7	33.3	33.8	37.4	35.7	35.2	35.3	38.7	37.4	35.2	34.2	34.6
Median		37.4	34.8	32.9	33.8	37.3	35.6	34.7	34.9	38.2	37.3	35.2	33.8	34.6
sd		5.0	5.7	7.5	7.0	5.6	6.1	7.5	6.7	5.4	5.3	5.9	7.6	6.9
Upper 2.5 percentile		47.6	45.3	49.8	46.2	48.2	48.2	51.9	49.8	50.4	48.2	47.2	50.3	48.9
Lower 2.5 percentile		28.1	23.0	19.8	19.4	27.7	24.5	21.1	21.9	28.0	27.7	23.5	20.4	20.4
Number of participants (unweighted)		665	744	1,126	317	612	753	1,571	436	604	1,277	1,497	2,697	753

Table 3.7: Average daily intake of glucose by age and sex

Glucose		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)											
		Sex and age group (years)											
		Boys		Men		Girls		Women		Total			
	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+
g/day													
Mean	15.6	20.6	19.7	17.7	14.1	15.7	15.1	15.2	11.2	14.8	18.2	17.4	16.3
Median	15.0	18.7	17.0	15.2	13.7	13.7	13.3	13.9	10.4	14.3	16.4	15.1	14.6
sd	7.1	11.3	12.5	10.5	6.1	9.8	9.2	8.9	5.8	6.7	10.9	11.2	9.7
Upper 2.5 percentile	32.9	50.9	53.0	47.1	26.3	38.7	36.7	39.0	26.4	30.8	47.8	46.2	43.2
Lower 2.5 percentile	5.0	4.9	4.0	4.2	4.1	3.3	2.6	2.4	2.6	4.4	3.7	3.2	3.1
% food and drink energy (excluding energy from alcohol)													
Mean	3.7	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.7	3.7
Median	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4
sd	1.5	2.0	2.3	1.9	1.4	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.5	2.1	2.1	1.9
Upper 2.5 percentile	7.7	8.7	9.2	8.4	6.4	9.2	8.7	8.4	7.9	6.9	9.1	8.9	8.5
Lower 2.5 percentile	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8
% total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol)													
Mean	3.7	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.4	3.6
Median	3.5	3.6	3.1	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.3
sd	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.4	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	2.0	1.8	1.8
Upper 2.5 percentile	7.7	8.2	7.7	8.2	6.4	8.8	7.5	8.1	7.9	6.9	8.5	7.6	8.2
Lower 2.5 percentile	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8
Number of participants (unweighted)	414	445	710	191	389	439	945	237	386	803	884	1,655	428

i Analysis based on NDNS core UK sample excluding additional sample from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

Table 3.8: Average daily intake of fructose by age and sex

Fructose		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)																
		Sex and age group (years)																
		Boys			Men			Girls			Women			Total				
	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	
g/day																		
Mean	17.5	19.4	17.3	17.4	15.5	15.6	15.4	15.6	16.5	17.6	16.3	16.4	12.9	16.5	17.6	16.3	16.4	
Median	15.8	16.8	15.0	15.0	14.3	14.6	13.8	13.7	14.7	15.9	14.4	14.2	11.6	14.7	15.9	14.4	14.2	
sd	9.4	10.9	11.5	10.9	7.7	9.4	9.7	10.2	8.6	10.4	10.7	10.5	7.7	8.6	10.4	10.7	10.5	
Upper 2.5 percentile	41.2	45.7	46.6	42.4	34.0	37.5	37.4	39.1	37.0	43.0	42.5	41.7	31.7	37.0	43.0	42.5	41.7	
Lower 2.5 percentile	4.6	3.8	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.0	2.3	4.0	3.1	2.3	2.9	2.6	4.0	3.1	2.3	2.9	
% food and drink energy (excluding energy from alcohol)																		
Mean	4.2	3.7	3.3	3.5	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.8	
Median	3.8	3.4	2.8	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.1	3.4	
sd	2.2	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	
Upper 2.5 percentile	9.8	7.9	8.1	8.0	8.6	9.2	9.2	9.7	9.3	8.8	8.8	9.2	9.5	9.3	8.8	8.8	9.2	
Lower 2.5 percentile	1.3	1.0	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.8	
% total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol)																		
Mean	4.2	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.8	4.1	3.7	3.3	3.6	4.3	4.1	3.7	3.3	3.6	
Median	3.8	3.4	2.6	3.0	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.4	2.9	3.1	3.9	3.7	3.4	2.9	3.1	
sd	2.2	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	
Upper 2.5 percentile	9.8	7.9	7.5	7.7	8.6	9.2	8.1	9.6	9.2	8.5	7.9	8.9	9.5	9.2	8.5	7.9	8.9	
Lower 2.5 percentile	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.8	
Number of participants (unweighted)	414	445	710	191	389	439	945	237	803	884	1,655	428	386	803	884	1,655	428	

i. Analysis based on NDNS core UK sample excluding additional sample from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

Table 3.9: Average daily intake of sucrose by age and sex

Sucrose		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)																
		Sex and age group (years)																
		Boys			Men			Girls			Women		Total					
	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	
g/day																		
Mean	46.9	55.5	46.7	45.0	46.0	44.5	38.6	37.6	46.4	50.2	42.6	40.8	29.8	46.4	50.2	42.6	40.8	
Median	45.6	49.7	42.4	38.1	43.0	42.0	34.6	35.7	44.1	46.0	37.6	36.1	28.0	44.1	46.0	37.6	36.1	
sd	18.5	26.8	27.7	30.0	18.0	21.4	23.3	19.3	18.2	24.9	25.9	24.8	13.5	18.2	24.9	25.9	24.8	
Upper 2.5 percentile	87.1	124.4	114.8	106.3	86.4	98.8	90.8	78.0	86.4	114.3	102.9	95.5	62.0	86.4	114.3	102.9	95.5	
Lower 2.5 percentile	17.0	13.6	9.0	8.5	16.7	11.9	5.9	8.1	17.0	12.4	7.0	8.2	9.7	17.0	12.4	7.0	8.2	
% food and drink energy (excluding energy from alcohol)																		
Mean	11.0	10.6	8.8	9.0	11.5	10.6	9.3	9.4	11.2	10.6	9.1	9.2	9.8	11.2	10.6	9.1	9.2	
Median	10.8	10.2	8.1	8.1	11.2	10.3	8.9	9.5	11.0	10.2	8.5	9.0	9.5	11.0	10.2	8.5	9.0	
sd	3.4	4.2	4.3	4.7	3.3	4.0	4.6	3.8	3.4	4.1	4.4	4.2	3.5	3.4	4.1	4.4	4.2	
Upper 2.5 percentile	18.8	20.1	19.6	19.9	18.5	19.2	19.7	18.0	18.7	19.8	19.7	19.2	17.3	18.7	19.8	19.7	19.2	
Lower 2.5 percentile	4.7	3.3	2.4	2.2	5.3	3.8	2.0	2.7	5.1	3.6	2.2	2.4	3.9	5.1	3.6	2.2	2.4	
% total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol)																		
Mean	11.0	10.5	8.2	8.5	11.5	10.5	8.9	9.2	11.2	10.5	8.5	8.9	9.8	11.2	10.5	8.5	8.9	
Median	10.8	10.1	7.6	7.8	11.2	10.2	8.4	9.2	11.0	10.2	7.9	8.8	9.5	11.0	10.2	7.9	8.8	
sd	3.4	4.1	4.2	4.6	3.3	4.0	4.4	3.8	3.4	4.0	4.3	4.2	3.5	3.4	4.0	4.3	4.2	
Upper 2.5 percentile	18.8	19.7	18.8	18.4	18.5	19.1	17.9	17.3	18.7	19.3	18.7	18.3	17.3	18.7	19.3	18.7	18.3	
Lower 2.5 percentile	4.7	3.3	1.9	2.0	5.3	3.8	1.8	2.7	5.1	3.5	1.9	2.0	3.9	5.1	3.5	1.9	2.0	
Number of participants (unweighted)																		
	414	445	710	191	389	439	945	237	803	884	1,655	428	386	803	884	1,655	428	

i Analysis based on NDNS core UK sample excluding additional sample from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

Table 3.10: Average daily intake of maltose by age and sex

Maltose		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)												
		Sex and age group (years)												
		Boys			Men			Girls			Women		Total	
		4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+
g/day														
Mean		4.1	5.9	10.5	8.3	3.8	4.0	4.2	3.8	2.6	3.9	5.0	7.4	5.8
Median		3.9	4.8	7.0	5.3	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.3	2.3	3.6	4.1	4.6	3.8
sd		1.8	5.0	11.3	9.5	2.3	2.6	3.5	2.8	1.3	2.0	4.1	8.9	7.0
Upper 2.5 percentile		8.0	17.5	45.1	31.5	7.7	9.4	12.4	9.8	5.4	7.9	14.7	30.9	25.5
Lower 2.5 percentile		1.5	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.6	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.8
% food and drink energy (excluding energy from alcohol)														
Mean		1.0	1.2	2.1	1.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.6	1.3
Median		0.9	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9
sd		0.4	1.1	2.5	2.1	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.9	2.0	1.5
Upper 2.5 percentile		1.8	3.1	9.7	8.7	1.7	2.2	2.9	2.8	1.8	1.8	2.7	6.3	6.6
Lower 2.5 percentile		0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
% total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol)														
Mean		1.0	1.1	1.7	1.6	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.2
Median		0.9	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9
sd		0.4	0.8	1.5	1.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.3	1.2
Upper 2.5 percentile		1.8	2.9	6.2	6.4	1.7	2.1	2.6	2.8	1.8	1.8	2.5	4.7	4.9
Lower 2.5 percentile		0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Number of participants (unweighted)		474	445	710	191	389	439	945	237	386	803	884	1,655	428

i. Analysis based on NDNS core UK sample excluding additional sample from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

Table 3.11: Average daily intake of lactose by age and sex

Lactose		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)											
		Sex and age group (years)											
		Boys		Men		Girls		Women		Total			
	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+
g/day													
Mean	14.0	12.2	10.8	13.5	12.8	9.1	9.5	12.7	17.7	13.4	10.7	10.2	13.1
Median	13.0	9.2	8.8	11.6	11.6	7.7	8.3	11.5	16.0	12.3	8.4	8.5	11.6
sd	7.9	10.3	7.9	8.6	7.8	6.8	6.5	7.1	11.0	7.9	8.9	7.3	7.8
Upper 2.5 percentile	32.9	36.5	29.7	34.3	29.1	29.3	25.7	31.8	44.4	30.9	34.4	27.8	33.2
Lower 2.5 percentile	2.1	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.7	0.8	1.1	2.4	2.2	2.0	0.8	1.1	1.7
% food and drink energy (excluding energy from alcohol)													
Mean	3.3	2.3	2.1	2.7	3.2	2.2	2.4	3.3	5.9	3.3	2.2	2.2	3.0
Median	3.2	1.9	1.8	2.5	3.0	1.8	2.1	3.0	5.7	3.1	1.9	2.0	2.7
sd	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.7	3.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.7
Upper 2.5 percentile	7.9	6.3	5.4	6.5	7.3	6.0	6.2	7.5	13.6	7.4	6.0	5.9	7.0
Lower 2.5 percentile	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.5
% total dietary energy (including energy from alcohol)													
Mean	3.3	2.3	1.9	2.6	3.2	2.2	2.3	3.2	5.9	3.3	2.2	2.1	2.9
Median	3.2	1.9	1.6	2.4	3.0	1.8	2.0	2.9	5.7	3.1	1.8	1.8	2.7
sd	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.7	3.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.7
Upper 2.5 percentile	7.9	6.3	4.8	6.3	7.3	6.0	6.0	7.0	13.6	7.4	6.0	5.7	6.6
Lower 2.5 percentile	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.3
Number of participants (unweighted)	414	445	710	191	389	439	945	237	386	803	884	1,655	428

i Analysis based on NDNS core UK sample excluding additional sample from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

Table 3.12: Average daily intake of non-starch polysaccharide (NSP) by age and sex

Aged 1.5 years and over		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)												
		Sex and age group (years)												
Non starch polysaccharide (NSP)		Boys		Men		Girls		Women		Total				
		4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+
g/day														
Mean		11.5	12.8	14.7	14.9	10.7	10.7	12.8	13.1	8.2	11.1	11.8	13.7	13.9
Median		11.3	12.5	14.1	14.5	10.5	10.3	12.2	12.8	8.1	10.9	11.3	13.2	13.3
sd		3.2	4.3	5.3	5.6	3.2	3.5	4.5	4.2	2.7	3.2	4.1	5.0	4.9
Upper 2.5 percentile		18.8	23.1	27.4	26.9	17.8	18.3	23.1	21.9	14.3	18.6	21.6	25.1	26.1
Lower 2.5 percentile		5.9	5.7	6.2	5.7	5.4	4.5	5.2	6.5	3.2	5.7	4.7	5.5	6.1
Number of participants (unweighted)		665	744	1,126	317	612	753	1,571	436	604	1,277	1,497	2,697	753

Table 3.13a: Total quantities consumed of selected carbohydrate-containing foods (grams) per day: males (including non-consumers) by age

Food group	National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)												
	Boys			11-18			Total boys			Men			
	4-10	Mean	sd	Mean	sd	Mean	sd	19-64	Mean	sd	65+	Mean	sd
White bread	45	39	51	66	47	57	47	63	57	57	57	57	55
Wholemeal bread	10	23	26	10	24	10	24	19	39	39	23	23	39
Brown, granary and wheatgerm bread	15	28	30	13	29	14	29	16	32	32	16	16	34
Other breads ^a	2	9	11	2	10	2	10	3	12	12	2	2	10
High fibre breakfast cereals ^b	19	30	25	13	27	16	27	19	52	52	44	44	75
Other breakfast cereals ^c	10	13	19	13	17	12	17	7	13	13	6	6	12
Chips, fried and roast potatoes and potato products	39	35	52	58	46	50	46	47	51	51	41	41	43
Boiled, mashed and baked potatoes, potato salads and dishes	28	30	40	33	36	31	36	47	57	57	65	65	84
Table sugar, preserves and sweet spreads	6	8	10	7	10	7	10	14	18	18	19	19	27
Sugar confectionery	8	14	17	8	16	8	16	2	7	7	1	1	5
Chocolate confectionery	9	13	20	13	17	11	17	10	21	21	4	4	10
Fruit juice	106	138	147	92	143	98	143	59	129	129	50	50	96
Soft drinks, not low calorie ^d	139	174	314	310	275	234	275	160	256	256	54	54	142
Soft drinks, low calorie ^d	197	241	286	183	267	189	267	116	280	280	44	44	204
<i>Number of participants (unweighted)</i>	665	744	1,409	1,126	1,126	317	317	317	317	317	317	317	317

a Breads made with non-wheat flour; Includes rye bread, gluten free, oatmeal bread, besan flour chappatis, soya and linseed bread

b Breakfast cereals with NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes Muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

c Breakfast cereals with NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

d Non alcoholic beverages are reported as consumed with diluent water

Table 3.13b: Total quantities consumed of selected carbohydrate-containing foods (grams) per day: male consumers^a by age

Food Group ^b		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)															
		Age group (years)															
		Boys 4-10			11-18			% consu- mers			Total boys			Men 19-64			65+
Mean	Median	% consu- mers	Mean	Median	% consu- mers	Mean	Median	% consu- mers	Mean	Median	% consu- mers	Mean	Median	% consu- mers	Mean	Median	% consu- mers
White bread	53	47	85	75	64	88	65	58	87	78	68	81	74	68	77		
Wholemeal bread	39	34	26	46	31	21	42	34	23	58	43	33	59	53	38		
Brown, granary and wheatgerm bread	44	35	35	48	36	26	46	36	30	50	38	32	55	40	28		
Other breads ^b	26	18	8	38	33	6	32	21	7	35	23	8	34	22	7		
High fibre breakfast cereals ^c	31	20	63	34	24	39	32	23	49	48	30	40	76	41	58		
Other breakfast cereals ^d	17	14	60	26	23	48	22	16	53	22	19	31	23	23	26		
Chips, fried and roast potatoes and potato products	48	40	80	75	68	78	63	52	79	71	53	67	66	55	62		
Boiled, mashed and baked potatoes, potato salads and dishes	44	36	64	59	49	55	52	45	59	76	56	62	87	68	75		
Table sugar, preserves and sweet spreads	9	6	66	12	8	61	11	8	63	20	15	68	27	20	70		
Sugar confectionery	17	12	47	24	15	33	20	14	39	13	8	13	12	6	6		
Chocolate confectionery	15	12	62	24	16	54	20	15	58	24	15	42	15	11	26		
Fruit juice	164	125	65	186	150	49	175	133	56	147	100	40	151	125	33		
Soft drinks, not low calorie ^e	203	145	68	387	315	80	312	238	75	289	196	55	184	137	29		
Soft drinks, low calorie ^e	288	225	68	340	261	54	314	237	60	351	183	33	279	125	16		
<i>Number of participants (unweighted)</i>															1,409	1,126	317

a Per cent consumers is over the four days although the gram intake is per day

b Breads made with non-wheat flour; Includes rye bread, gluten free, oatmeal bread, besan flour chappatis, soya and linseed bread

c Breakfast cereals with NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes Muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

d Breakfast cereals with NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

e Non-alcoholic beverages are reported as consumed with diluent water

Table 3.14a: Total quantities consumed of selected carbohydrate-containing foods (grams) per day: females (including non-consumers) by age

Food group	National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)											
	Girls						Age group (years)					
	4-10		11-18		Total girls		19-64		65+		Mean	sd
White bread	43	36	48	39	46	38	40	41	29	37		
Wholemeal bread	8	18	6	16	7	17	15	27	18	29		
Brown, granary and wheatgerm bread	13	24	11	22	12	23	13	23	16	26		
Other breads ^a	2	9	2	9	2	9	3	11	3	12		
High fibre breakfast cereals ^b	16	24	10	20	13	22	21	43	38	53		
Other breakfast cereals ^c	10	12	8	13	9	13	5	10	6	22		
Chips, fried and roast potatoes and potato products	35	33	50	45	43	41	35	41	22	28		
Boiled, mashed and baked potatoes, potato salads and dishes	29	32	33	41	31	37	41	44	62	52		
Table sugar, preserves and sweet spreads	5	8	6	9	5	8	9	13	11	12		
Sugar confectionery	9	22	6	15	7	19	2	7	1	5		
Chocolate confectionery	9	14	11	15	10	15	7	13	5	11		
Fruit juice	79	100	73	113	76	107	48	96	48	88		
Soft drinks, not low calorie ^d	117	150	210	244	169	212	112	202	53	96		
Soft drinks, low calorie ^d	171	246	173	258	172	253	100	212	28	96		
<i>Number of participants (unweighted)</i>	612		753		1,365		1,571		436			

a Breads made with non-wheat flour; includes rye bread, gluten free, oatmeal bread, besan flour chappatis, soya and linseed bread

b Breakfast cereals with NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes Muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

c Breakfast cereals with NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

d Non alcoholic beverages are reported as consumed with diluent water

Table 3.14b: Total quantities consumed of selected carbohydrate-containing foods (grams) per day: female consumers^a by age

Food Group ^b		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)													
		Girls						Age group (years)							
		4-10		11-18		Total girls		19-64		65+		Total			
Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median		
White bread	50	46	86	56	50	87	53	48	86	52	41	78	48	39	61
Wholemeal bread	31	23	26	29	21	21	30	22	23	40	30	38	41	30	45
Brown, granary and wheatgerm bread	36	28	36	34	23	31	35	25	33	36	30	36	42	40	38
Other breads ^b	22	12	10	31	24	7	26	20	8	28	21	11	34	23	10
High fibre breakfast cereals ^c	28	20	58	27	20	36	27	20	46	45	26	46	60	40	64
Other breakfast cereals ^d	17	15	59	19	16	43	18	15	50	17	15	31	18	12	35
Chips, fried and roast potatoes and potato products	45	38	78	65	55	77	56	47	77	56	47	62	45	41	49
Boiled, mashed and baked potatoes, potato salads and dishes	43	35	66	57	45	58	51	43	62	61	50	66	73	67	85
Table sugar, preserves and sweet spreads	8	6	63	9	6	61	9	6	62	14	10	63	15	12	74
Sugar confectionery	19	12	50	16	9	37	17	10	43	11	7	17	10	6	11
Chocolate confectionery	16	11	55	19	13	59	18	12	57	17	13	44	14	10	33
Fruit juice	135	113	59	153	125	48	144	120	53	118	83	41	121	100	40
Soft drinks, not low calorie ^e	167	113	70	279	222	75	231	170	73	221	133	51	144	111	37
Soft drinks, low calorie ^e	265	195	65	303	205	57	285	200	60	267	173	38	157	100	18
<i>Number of participants (unweighted)</i>	612			753			1,365			1,571			436		

a Per cent consumers is over the four days although the gram intake is per day

b Breads made with non-wheat flour; Includes rye bread, gluten free, oatmeal bread, besan flour chappatis, soya and linseed bread

c Breakfast cereals with NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes Muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

d Breakfast cereals with NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

e Non-alcoholic beverages are reported as consumed with diluent water

Table 3.15a: Total quantities of selected carbohydrate-containing foods consumed (grams) per day: all (including non-consumers) by age

Food group	National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)											
	Aged 1.5 years and over				Age group (years)							
	1.5-3		4-10		11-18		19-64		65+		Mean	sd
White bread	26	25	44	37	57	47	52	51	42	47		
Wholemeal bread	8	16	9	20	8	21	17	34	20	34		
Brown, granary and wheatgerm bread	10	20	14	26	12	26	15	28	16	28		
Other breads ^a	1	4	2	9	2	10	3	12	3	11		
High fibre breakfast cereals ^b	19	29	18	27	11	23	20	47	41	63		
Other breakfast cereals ^c	5	7	10	12	11	16	6	12	6	18		
Chips, fried and roast potatoes and potato products	19	21	37	34	54	49	41	46	30	37		
Boiled, mashed and baked potatoes, potato salads and dishes	21	25	28	31	33	40	44	51	63	68		
Table sugar, preserves and sweet spreads	4	7	6	8	6	10	11	16	14	20		
Sugar confectionery	4	9	9	18	7	16	2	7	1	5		
Chocolate confectionery	5	7	9	13	12	18	9	17	4	11		
Fruit juice	57	81	93	121	83	132	54	114	49	92		
Soft drinks, not low calorie ^d	65	119	128	163	261	286	136	232	53	118		
Soft drinks, low calorie ^d	183	273	185	244	178	273	108	248	35	153		
<i>Number of participants (unweighted)</i>	604	1,277	1,497	2,697	753							

a Breads made with non-wheat flour; Includes rye bread, gluten free, oatmeal bread, besan flour chappatis, soya and linseed bread

b Breakfast cereals with NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes Muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

c Breakfast cereals with NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

d Non alcoholic beverages are reported as consumed with diluent water

Table 3.15b: Total quantities consumed of selected carbohydrate-containing foods (grams) per day: all consumers by age

Food Group	National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)													
	Age group (years)													
	1.5-3		4-10		11-18		19-64		65+		consu- mers		consu- mers	
Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	%
White bread	32	27	52	46	85	65	58	88	65	53	80	61	51	68
Wholemeal bread	26	21	35	28	26	38	26	21	48	36	36	48	36	42
Brown, granary and wheatgerm bread	28	21	40	30	35	41	28	29	43	33	34	47	40	34
Other breads ^b	14	11	7	24	18	9	34	6	31	22	10	34	23	8
High fibre breakfast cereals ^c	28	19	66	29	60	30	21	37	46	28	43	66	40	61
Other breakfast cereals ^d	10	8	52	17	59	23	19	46	19	15	31	19	15	31
Chips, fried and roast potatoes and potato products	29	25	65	47	79	70	63	77	64	50	64	55	50	55
Boiled, mashed and baked potatoes, potato salads and dishes	32	25	65	44	65	58	46	57	69	55	64	79	68	80
Table sugar, preserves and sweet spreads	7	5	53	9	65	10	8	61	17	13	65	20	15	73
Sugar confectionery	13	9	31	18	49	20	13	35	12	7	15	11	6	9
Chocolate confectionery	9	7	52	15	59	22	15	56	20	14	43	15	10	30
Fruit juice	114	91	50	151	118	170	131	49	132	100	41	133	100	37
Soft drinks, not low calorie ^e	143	100	46	185	130	336	263	78	256	158	53	160	113	33
Soft drinks, low calorie ^e	285	206	64	277	201	67	321	55	306	175	35	207	100	17
<i>Number of participants (unweighted)</i>	604		1,277		1,497		2,697		753					

a Per cent consumers is over the four days although the gram intake is per day

b Breads made with non-wheat flour; Includes rye bread, gluten free, oatmeal bread, besan flour chappatis, soya and linseed bread

c Breakfast cereals with NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes Muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

d Breakfast cereals with NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

e Non-alcoholic beverages are reported as consumed with diluent water

Table 3.16: Percentage contribution of food groups to average daily carbohydrate intake by sex and age

Food group ^a		National Diet and Nutrition Survey Years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)													
		Sex and age group (years)													
		Boys		Men		Girls		Total		Women		Total		65+	
4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	%	%	
Cereals and cereal products	46	46	45	46	47	44	44	45	45	46	45	45	45	45	45
<i>of which:</i>															
Pasta, rice, pizza and other miscellaneous cereals	9	12	11	4	9	12	11	11	10	9	12	11	4	8	4
White bread	11	13	13	13	11	12	11	11	10	11	12	12	10	9	11
Wholemeal bread	2	2	4	4	2	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	4	2	2
Brown, granary and wheatgerm bread	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Other breads ^b	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
High fibre breakfast cereals ^c	5	3	4	5	4	3	3	3	4	6	4	3	4	6	6
Other breakfast cereals ^d	4	4	2	2	5	3	4	2	2	3	4	2	2	3	4
Biscuits	5	4	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	4
Buns, cakes, pastries and fruit pies	5	3	4	7	6	4	4	5	4	7	4	5	4	3	7
Puddings	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	2
Milk and milk products	9	6	5	6	9	6	7	6	6	9	6	9	5	16	8
Eggs and egg dishes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fat spreads	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meat and meat products	4	6	6	6	4	6	5	6	6	5	4	6	6	4	5
Fish and fish dishes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Vegetables and potatoes	11	12	11	14	11	13	12	12	14	13	11	12	14	9	14
<i>of which:</i>															
Salad and other raw vegetables	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Vegetables (not raw) including vegetable dishes	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	3
Chips, fried and roast potatoes and potato products	5	6	6	5	5	7	6	6	5	3	5	7	5	4	4
Other potatoes, potato salads and dishes	2	3	4	5	3	3	3	3	4	6	3	3	4	3	4

Table continues

Table 3.16: continued

National Diet and Nutrition Survey Years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)																		
Food group ^a	Sex and age group (years)																	
	Boys			Men			Girls			Women			Total					
	4-10	11-18	%	19-64	%	4-10	11-18	%	19-64	%	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	%	19-64	65+	%	
Savoury snacks	3	3		2	1	3	3		2	2	3	3	3		2	1	2	3
Nuts and seeds	0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Fruit	6	3		5	8	7	4		5	7	10	7	3		6	9	7	7
Sugar, preserves and confectionery of which:	7	7		8	8	7	7		7	7	7	7	7		7	7	5	7
Sugars, including table sugar, preserves and sweet spreads	2	2		5	7	2	2		2	4	5	2	2		2	2	2	2
Sugar confectionery	2	2		0	0	3	2		2	1	0	2	2		2	1	2	2
Chocolate confectionery	3	3		2	1	3	3		3	2	1	2	3		3	2	2	1
Non-alcoholic beverages of which:	10	14		8	4	9	13		11	7	5	7	9		8	5	7	13
Fruit juice	5	3		2	2	4	3		4	2	2	4	4		2	2	4	3
Soft drinks, not low calorie	5	11		5	2	5	9		7	5	2	3	5		5	2	3	10
Alcoholic beverages of which:	0	1		4	2	0	1		0	2	1	0	0		1	1	0	1
Beer, lager, cider and perry	0	1		3	2	0	1		0	1	0	0	0		0	0	0	1
Miscellaneous ^b	2	2		2	3	2	2		2	3	5	2	2		3	5	3	2
Average daily carbohydrate intake g	219	265		244	231	205	211		209	197	187	212	239		224	206	151	212
Bases (unweighted)	665	744		1,409	317	612	753		1,365	1,571	436	1,277	1,497		2,697	753	604	1,497

a Food groups that contribute <0.5% to intake across all age/sex groups are excluded from the table. All other food groups are included

b Breads made with non-wheat flour; Includes rye bread, gluten free, oatmeal bread, besan flour chappatis, soya and linseed bread

c Breakfast cereals with NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes Muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

d Breakfast cereals with NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

e In addition to dry weight beverages; soup, manufactured/retail and homemade; savoury sauces, pickles, gravies and condiments; and commercial toddler foods, Miscellaneous also includes nutrition powders and drinks

Table 3.17: Percentage contribution of food groups to average daily non-milk extrinsic sugars (NMES) intake by sex and age

Food group ^a		National Diet and Nutrition Survey Years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)															
		Sex and age group (years)															
		Boys		Total		Men		Girls		Total		Women		Total			
4-10	11-18	11-18	boys	19-64	65+	4-10	11-18	11-18	girls	19-64	65+	1.5-3	4-10	11-18	19-64	65+	
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cereals and cereal products	28	22	25	19	29	29	23	26	24	29	29	25	29	22	21	29	
<i>of which:</i>																	
Pasta, rice, pizza and other miscellaneous cereals	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	
High fibre breakfast cereals ^b	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
Other breakfast cereals ^c	4	5	5	2	1	5	4	4	3	2	2	3	3	5	4	3	2
Biscuits	8	7	7	5	7	8	8	8	7	6	7	8	8	8	7	6	7
Buns, cakes, pastries and fruit pies	9	5	7	6	13	10	6	8	8	13	6	6	9	6	7	13	
Puddings	3	2	2	2	4	3	1	2	2	5	3	3	3	2	2	4	4
Milk and milk products	11	6	9	5	6	12	8	10	7	10	18	18	12	7	6	8	8
<i>of which:</i>																	
Other milk and cream	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	
Yoghurt, fromage frais and other dairy desserts	6	2	4	3	3	6	3	4	4	6	13	6	6	3	3	5	5
Ice cream	4	2	3	2	2	5	3	4	2	3	3	3	4	3	2	3	3
Eggs and egg dishes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fat spreads	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meat and meat products	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Fish and fish dishes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vegetables and potatoes	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Savoury snacks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nuts and seeds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fruit	1	0	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	4	3	4	1	1	1	4	4

Table continues

Table 3.17: continued

Food group ^a		National Diet and Nutrition Survey Years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)																					
		Sex and age group (years)																					
Boys		Total			Men			Girls			Total			Women			Total						
4-10	11-18	%	11-18	boys	19-64	%	65+	4-10	%	11-18	%	19-64	girls	19-64	%	65+	4-10	%	11-18	%	19-64	65+	
Sugar, preserves and confectionery	22	21	21	27	28	22	22	22	22	22	22	25	24	19	22	21	26	26	26	21	26	26	26
<i>of which:</i>																							
Sugars, including table sugar, preserves and sweet spreads	7	8	8	19	24	7	8	8	8	16	19	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	17	21	21
Sugar confectionery	7	5	6	1	1	7	5	6	2	2	1	5	5	5	2	1	5	7	5	5	2	2	1
Chocolate confectionery	7	7	7	7	3	8	9	8	7	7	5	7	5	7	7	8	7	7	8	8	7	7	4
Non-alcoholic beverages	32	42	38	26	14	28	38	34	24	18	27	30	25	27	40	25	16	16	40	25	16	16	16
<i>of which:</i>																							
Fruit juice	15	10	12	8	8	12	10	11	8	8	14	13	8	14	10	8	8	13	10	10	8	8	8
Soft drinks, not low calorie	16	31	24	16	6	15	27	22	15	9	10	16	9	10	29	16	8	16	29	16	16	8	8
Soft drinks, low calorie	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Tea, coffee and water	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Alcoholic beverages	0	2	1	14	10	0	2	1	6	3	0	0	3	0	2	10	6	0	2	2	10	6	6
<i>of which:</i>																							
Wine	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	1
Beer, lager, cider and perry	0	2	1	13	8	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	2	8	4	0	2	2	8	4	4
Miscellaneous ^d	3	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	6	9	5	4	9	5	4	5	7	4	4	4	5	7	7
Average daily non-milk extrinsic sugars (NMES) intake g	63.0	84.0	74.6	68.4	58.5	58.5	63.9	61.5	49.2	46.2	36.1	60.8	58.8	51.6	58.8	51.6	51.6	60.8	74.2	58.8	51.6	51.6	51.6
Bases (unweighted)	665	744	1,409	1,126	317	612	753	1,365	1,571	436	604	1,277	2,697	753	2,697	753	753	1,277	1,497	2,697	2,697	753	753

a Food groups that contribute <0.5% to intake across all age/sex groups are excluded from the table. All other food groups are included

b Breakfast cereals with NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes Muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

c Breakfast cereals with NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

d In addition to dry weight beverages; soup, manufactured/retail and homemade; savoury sauces, pickles, gravies and condiments; and commercial toddler foods. Miscellaneous also includes nutrition powders and drinks

Table 3.18: Percentage contribution of food groups to average daily non-starch polysaccharide (NSP) intake by sex and age

Food group ^a	National Diet and Nutrition Survey Years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)														
	Sex and age group (years)													Total	
	Boys		Total boys		Men		Girls		Total girls		Women		Total		
4-10 %	11-18 %	43 %	43 %	19-64 %	65+ %	4-10 %	11-18 %	41 %	41 %	19-64 %	65+ %	1.5-3 %	42 %	42 %	39 %
Cereals and cereal products	43	43	43	40	40	40	42	41	41	37	38	41	42	42	39
<i>of which:</i>															
Pasta, rice, pizza and other miscellaneous cereals	8	11	10	8	8	3	8	11	10	7	3	7	8	11	8
White bread	9	11	10	10	10	9	9	10	9	8	6	7	9	11	9
Wholemeal bread	4	3	4	6	6	7	3	3	3	5	6	4	3	3	5
Brown, granary and wheatgerm bread	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	4
Other breads ^b	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
High fibre breakfast cereals ^c	8	5	6	5	5	8	7	5	5	6	8	10	7	5	8
Other breakfast cereals ^d	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1
Biscuits	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	3
Buns, cakes, pastries and fruit pies	3	2	3	2	2	4	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	4
Puddings	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Milk and milk products	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
Eggs and egg dishes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fat spreads	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meat and meat products	8	12	10	12	12	9	8	11	9	10	7	7	8	11	8
Fish and fish dishes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Vegetables and potatoes	27	28	28	31	31	32	27	30	28	32	33	24	27	29	32
<i>of which:</i>															
Salad and other raw vegetables	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	4	4	1	2	2	4
Vegetables (not raw) including vegetable dishes	14	13	13	15	15	16	13	12	13	16	18	14	14	12	17
Chips, fried and roast potatoes and potato products	8	10	9	8	8	6	7	11	9	6	4	5	7	10	7

Table continues

Table 3.18: continued

National Diet and Nutrition Survey Years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)																					
Food group ^a	Sex and age group (years)																				
	Boys			Total boys			Men			Girls			Total girls			Women			Total		
	4-10 %	11-18 %	19-64 %	65+ %	4-10 %	11-18 %	19-64 %	65+ %	4-10 %	11-18 %	19-64 %	65+ %	4-10 %	11-18 %	19-64 %	65+ %	4-10 %	11-18 %	19-64 %	65+ %	
Other potatoes; potato salads and dishes	4	4	4	6	4	4	5	6	4	5	4	5	7	4	4	5	4	4	5	7	
Savoury snacks	4	4	4	1	4	4	2	1	4	4	4	2	1	4	4	2	4	4	2	1	
Nuts and seeds	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	
Fruit	12	6	8	11	13	8	8	11	13	8	10	10	14	16	7	9	13	7	9	12	
Sugar, preserves and confectionery	1	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	
Non-alcoholic beverages	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	
Alcoholic beverages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Miscellaneous ^e	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	4	3	2	3	2	2	3	4	
Average daily non-starch polysaccharide (NSP) intake g	11.5	12.8	12.2	14.7	10.7	10.7	14.9	14.9	10.7	10.7	10.7	12.8	13.1	8.2	11.1	13.7	11.1	11.8	13.7	13.9	
Bases (unweighted)	665	744	1,409	1,126	612	753	317	317	612	753	1,365	1,571	436	604	1,277	2,697	1,497	1,497	2,697	753	

a Food groups that contribute <0.5% to intake across all age/sex groups are excluded from the table. All other food groups are included

b Breads made with non-wheat flour; Includes rye bread, gluten free, oatmeal bread, besan flour chappatis, soya and linseed bread

c Breakfast cereals with NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes Muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

d Breakfast cereals with NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

e In addition to dry weight beverages; soup, manufactured/retail and homemade; savoury sauces, pickles, gravies and condiments; and commercial toddler foods. Miscellaneous also includes nutrition powders and drinks

Table 3.19a: Top 20 contributors to total carbohydrate intake: children aged 1½-3 years

7.5 – 3 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	FRUIT	16.1	10.6
2	MILK AND CREAM	15.6	10.2
3	WHITE BREAD	13.4	8.8
4	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	8.2	5.4
5	BISCUITS	7.8	5.1
6	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	6.8	4.4
7	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	5.8	3.8
8	SOFT DRINKS	5.6	3.7
9	FRUIT JUICE	5.3	3.5
10	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	5.3	3.5
11	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	5.1	3.4
12	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	4.6	3.1
13	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	4.3	2.8
14	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	4.2	2.8
15	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	3.5	2.3
16	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	3.3	2.2
17	FROMAGE FRAIS AND DAIRY DESSERTS	3.3	2.2
18	RICE AND RICE BASED DISHES (INCLUDES RISOTTO, FRIED RICE)	3.2	2.1
19	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	3.1	2.1
20	YOGURT	3.1	2.0

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

Table 3.19b: Top 20 contributors to total carbohydrate intake: children aged 4-10 years

4 – 10 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	WHITE BREAD	23.0	10.8
2	FRUIT	14.2	6.7
3	SOFT DRINKS	11.2	5.3
4	BISCUITS	10.9	5.1
5	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	10.7	5.0
6	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	10.4	4.9
7	MILK AND CREAM	10.2	4.8
8	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	9.2	4.3
9	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	9.0	4.2
10	FRUIT JUICE	8.8	4.1
11	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	8.7	4.1
12	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	7.2	3.4
13	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	6.9	3.2
14	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	6.3	2.9
15	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	5.9	2.8
16	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	5.8	2.7
17	SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	5.5	2.6
18	PIZZA	5.1	2.4
19	RICE AND RICE BASED DISHES (INCLUDING RISOTTO AND FRIED RICE)	4.7	2.2
20	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	4.3	2.0

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

Table 3.19c: Top 20 contributors to total carbohydrate intake: children 11-18 years

11 – 18 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1–4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	WHITE BREAD	30.4	12.7
2	SOFT DRINKS	25.1	10.4
3	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	15.8	6.6
4	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	11.7	4.9
5	BISCUITS	10.8	4.5
6	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	9.3	3.9
7	MILK AND CREAM	8.6	3.6
8	PIZZA	8.4	3.5
9	BUNS, CAKES & PASTRIES	8.1	3.4
10	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	8.0	3.3
11	FRUIT JUICE	8.0	3.3
12	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	8.0	3.3
13	FRUIT	7.9	3.3
14	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	7.3	3.0
15	RICE AND RICE BASED DISHES (INCLUDING RISOTTO, FRIED RICE)	7.1	3.0
16	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	7.1	3.0
17	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	6.4	2.7
18	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	5.5	2.3
19	SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	4.7	2.0
20	TABLE SUGAR	4.7	1.9

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

Table 3.19d: Top 20 contributors to total carbohydrate intake: adults 19-64 years

Adults 19-64 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 - 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	WHITE BREAD	26.7	11.8
2	FRUIT	13.2	5.9
3	SOFT DRINKS	12.7	5.7
4	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	11.7	5.2
5	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	11.0	4.9
6	BOILED MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	9.9	4.4
7	RICE AND RICE BASED DISHES (INCLUDING RISOTTO, FRIED RICE)	9.2	4.1
8	TABLE SUGAR	9.1	4.0
9	BISCUITS	8.7	3.9
10	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	8.7	3.9
11	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	8.1	3.6
12	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	7.8	3.5
13	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	7.6	3.4
14	MILK AND CREAM	7.2	3.2
15	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	7.1	3.1
16	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	5.6	2.5
17	FRUIT JUICE	5.0	2.2
18	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	5.0	2.2
19	BEERS AND LAGERS	4.6	2.0
20	OTHER CEREALS ^c	4.5	2.0

^a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

^b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

^c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

Table 3.19e: Top 20 contributors to total carbohydrate intake : people aged 65 years and over

65+ years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	WHITE BREAD	21.5	10.4
2	FRUIT	18.2	8.8
3	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	12.8	6.2
4	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	12.1	5.8
5	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	10.3	5.0
6	TABLE SUGAR	9.8	4.7
7	MILK AND CREAM	9.3	4.5
8	BISCUITS	9.0	4.3
9	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	9.0	4.3
10	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	8.8	4.2
11	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	8.7	4.2
12	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	7.3	3.5
13	SOFT DRINKS	5.0	2.4
14	CEREAL BASED PUDDINGS INCLUDING SPONGE AND RICE PUDDING	5.0	2.4
15	FRUIT JUICE	4.6	2.2
16	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	4.5	2.2
17	OTHER CEREALS ^c	4.3	2.1
18	JAM AND OTHER PRESERVES	4.0	1.9
19	YOGURT	3.9	1.9
20	RICE AND RICE BASED DISHES (INCLUDING RISOTTO, FRIED RICE)	3.4	1.6

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

Table 3.20a: Top 20 contributors to total sugar intake: children aged 1½-3 years

1.5 – 3 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	FRUIT	15.2	20.2
2	MILK AND CREAM	14.9	19.7
3	SOFT DRINKS	5.6	7.4
4	FRUIT JUICE	5.3	7.0
5	FROMAGE FRAIS AND DAIRY DESSERTS	3.2	4.2
6	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	3.0	4.0
7	BISCUITS	2.9	3.9
8	YOGURT	2.9	3.8
9	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	2.6	3.4
10	SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	2.2	2.9
11	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	2.1	2.9
12	ICE CREAM	1.9	2.5
13	INFANT FORMULA	1.8	2.4
14	CEREAL-BASED PUDDINGS INCLUDING SPONGE AND RICE PUDDING	1.6	2.1
15	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	1.3	1.8
16	JAM AND OTHER PRESERVES	1.3	1.7
17	TABLE SUGAR	1.3	1.7
18	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	1.2	1.5
19	WHITE BREAD	0.9	1.1
20	POWDERED BEVERAGES ^c	0.7	1.0

^a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

^b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

^c Powdered beverages: Includes drinking chocolate, cocoa, Ovaltine, Horlicks, malted drinks, milk shake powder

Table 3.20b: Top 20 contributors to total sugar intake: children aged 4-10 years

4 – 10 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1–4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	FRUIT	13.5	13.9
2	SOFT DRINKS	11.2	11.5
3	MILK AND CREAM	10.2	10.4
4	FRUIT JUICE	8.8	9.0
5	BUNS, CAKES & PASTRIES	5.6	5.7
6	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	5.4	5.5
7	SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	5.2	5.3
8	BISCUITS	4.8	4.9
9	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	3.4	3.5
10	ICE CREAM	3.1	3.2
11	YOGURT	3.0	3.1
12	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	2.9	3.0
13	TABLE SUGAR	2.4	2.5
14	FROMAGE FRAIS AND DAIRY DESSERTS	2.4	2.4
15	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	1.9	1.9
16	CEREAL BASED PUDDINGS INCLUDING SPONGE AND RICE PUDDING	1.7	1.8
17	JAM AND OTHER PRESERVES	1.7	1.7
18	POWDERED BEVERAGES ^c	1.6	1.6
19	WHITE BREAD	1.5	1.5
20	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	1.2	1.2

^a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

^b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

^c Powdered beverages: Includes drinking chocolate, cocoa, Ovaltine, Horlicks, malted drinks, milk shake powder

Table 3.20c: Top 20 contributors to total sugar intake: children aged 11-18 years

11 – 18 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4-combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	SOFT DRINKS	25.0	24.0
2	MILK AND CREAM	8.5	8.2
3	FRUIT JUICE	8.0	7.7
4	FRUIT	7.6	7.3
5	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	7.3	7.0
6	BISCUITS	5.1	4.9
7	TABLE SUGAR	4.7	4.5
8	SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	4.5	4.3
9	BUNS, CAKES & PASTRIES	4.2	4.0
10	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	3.6	3.5
11	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	3.0	2.9
12	ICE CREAM	2.1	2.0
13	YOGURT	1.9	1.8
14	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	1.9	1.8
15	WHITE BREAD	1.9	1.8
16	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	1.4	1.4
17	CEREAL BASED PUDDINGS INCLUDING SPONGE AND RICE PUDDING	1.4	1.3
18	POWDERED BEVERAGES ^c	1.2	1.1
19	PIZZA	0.9	0.9
20	JAM AND OTHER PRESERVES	0.8	0.8

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

c Powdered beverages: Includes drinking chocolate, cocoa, Ovaltine, Horlicks, malted drinks, milk shake powder

Table 3.20d: Top 20 contributors to total sugar intake: adults aged 19-64 years

Adults 19-64 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 - 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	SOFT DRINKS	12.7	13.2
2	FRUIT	12.6	13.1
3	TABLE SUGAR	9.1	9.5
4	MILK AND CREAM	7.2	7.5
5	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	5.9	6.2
6	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	5.1	5.3
7	FRUIT JUICE	5.0	5.2
8	BEERS AND LAGERS	4.6	4.7
9	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	3.7	3.9
10	BISCUITS	3.4	3.5
11	YOGURT	2.8	2.9
12	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	2.3	2.4
13	JAM AND OTHER PRESERVES	2.1	2.2
14	WHITE BREAD	1.7	1.7
15	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	1.6	1.7
16	CEREAL BASED PUDDINGS INCLUDING SPONGE AND RICE PUDDING	1.4	1.4
17	ICE CREAM	1.3	1.4
18	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	1.3	1.4
19	SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	1.2	1.2
20	POWDERED BEVERAGES ^c	0.9	0.9

^a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

^b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

^c Powdered beverages: Includes drinking chocolate, cocoa, Ovaltine, Horlicks, malted drinks, milk shake powder

Table 3.20e: Top 20 contributors to total sugar intake: people aged 65 years and over

65+ years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	FRUIT	17.5	18.5
2	TABLE SUGAR	9.8	10.3
3	MILK AND CREAM	9.2	9.8
4	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	5.9	6.2
5	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	5.6	6.0
6	SOFT DRINKS	5.0	5.3
7	FRUIT JUICE	4.6	4.9
8	JAM AND OTHER PRESERVES	4.0	4.2
9	YOGURT	3.7	3.9
10	CEREAL BASED PUDDINGS INCLUDING SPONGE AND RICE PUDDING	3.3	3.5
11	BISCUITS	2.8	2.9
12	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	2.5	2.7
13	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS	2.2	2.3
14	BEERS AND LAGERS	2.1	2.3
15	ICE CREAM	1.8	1.9
16	POWDERED BEVERAGES ^a	1.8	1.9
17	WHITE BREAD	1.4	1.5
18	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	1.4	1.4
19	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE)	0.9	0.9
20	SUGAR CONFECTIONERY	0.7	0.8

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

c Powdered beverages: Includes drinking chocolate, cocoa, Ovaltine, Horlicks, malted drinks, milk shake powder

Table 3.21a: Top 20 contributors to starch intake: children aged 1½-3 years

1.5 – 3 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	WHITE BREAD	12.5	16.4
2	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	6.9	9.0
3	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	6.1	8.0
4	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	5.6	7.4
5	BISCUITS	4.9	6.4
6	BROWN, GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	4.7	6.1
7	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	4.1	5.4
8	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	3.5	4.6
9	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	3.2	4.2
10	RICE AND RICE BASED DISHES (INCLUDING RISOTTO, FRIED RICE)	3.2	4.2
11	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	3.2	4.1
12	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	2.7	3.5
13	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	2.0	2.7
14	OTHER CEREALS ^c	1.8	2.3
15	PIZZA	1.6	2.1
16	WHITE FISH COATED OR FRIED	1.4	1.8
17	SAUSAGES AND SAUSAGE BASED DISHES	1.0	1.3
18	COATED CHICKEN AND TURKEY PRODUCTS	1.0	1.2
19	MEAT PIES AND PASTRIES	0.9	1.2
20	FRUIT	0.8	1.1

^a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

^b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

^c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

Table 3.21b: Top 20 contributors to starch intake: children aged 4-10 years

4 – 10 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-2 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	WHITE BREAD	21.5	18.7
2	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	10.4	9.0
3	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	8.2	7.1
4	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	7.3	6.3
5	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	6.3	5.5
6	BISCUITS	6.2	5.4
7	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	6.1	5.3
8	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	6.0	5.2
9	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	5.6	4.9
10	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	4.8	4.2
11	RICE AND RICE BASED DISHES (INCLUDING RISOTTO, FRIED RICE)	4.6	4.0
12	PIZZA	4.6	4.0
13	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	4.0	3.5
14	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	3.8	3.3
15	OTHER CEREALS ^c	2.5	2.1
16	COATED CHICKEN AND TURKEY PRODUCTS	1.5	1.3
17	WHITE FISH COATED OR FRIED	1.5	1.3
18	MEAT PIES AND PASTRIES	1.4	1.2
19	SAUSAGES AND SAUSAGE BASED DISHES	1.3	1.2
20	CEREAL BASED PUDDINGS	1.0	0.9

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

Table 3.21c: Top 20 contributors to starch intake: children aged 11-18 years

11 – 18 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1–4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	WHITE BREAD	28.6	21.0
2	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	15.3	11.2
3	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	11.1	8.1
4	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	7.7	5.7
5	PIZZA	7.5	5.5
6	RICE AND RICE BASED DISHES (INCLUDING RISOTTO, FRIED RICE)	7.1	5.2
7	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	7.0	5.1
8	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	6.3	4.6
9	BISCUITS	5.7	4.2
10	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	5.0	3.7
11	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	5.0	3.7
12	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	3.9	2.9
13	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	3.5	2.6
14	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	3.5	2.6
15	OTHER CEREALS ^c	3.0	2.2
16	COATED CHICKEN AND TURKEY PRODUCTS	2.3	1.7
17	MEAT PIES AND PASTRIES	2.2	1.6
18	BURGERS AND KEBABS PURCHASED	1.4	1.1
19	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	1.4	1.0
20	SALSADES AND SAUSAGE BASED DISHES	1.3	0.9

^a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

^b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

^c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

Table 3.21d: Top 20 contributors to starch intake: adults aged 19-64 years

Adults 19 – 64 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	WHITE BREAD	25.0	19.3
2	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	11.3	8.7
3	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	9.4	7.3
4	RICE AND RICE BASED DISHES (INCLUDING RISOTTO, FRIED RICE)	9.2	7.1
5	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	8.3	6.4
6	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	7.6	5.9
7	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	6.6	5.1
8	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	6.0	4.6
9	BISCUITS	5.3	4.1
10	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	5.0	3.9
11	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	4.3	3.3
12	OTHER CEREALS ^c	4.2	3.2
13	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	4.1	3.2
14	PIZZA	3.8	2.9
15	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	3.6	2.8
16	MEAT PIES AND PASTRIES	2.2	1.7
17	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	1.6	1.2
18	WHITE FISH COATED OR FRIED	1.3	1.0
19	OTHER BREAD ^d	1.2	0.9
20	COATED CHICKEN AND TURKEY PRODUCTS	1.1	0.8

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

d Other bread: Bread made with non-wheat flour. Includes rye bread, gluten free, oatmeal bread, besan flour chappatis, soya and linseed bread

Table 3.21e: Top 20 contributors to starch intake: people aged 65 years and over

65+ years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	WHITE BREAD	20.1	17.9
2	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	12.2	10.9
3	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	8.5	7.6
4	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	8.3	7.4
5	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	8.2	7.3
6	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	6.8	6.0
7	BISCUITS	6.2	5.5
8	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	6.2	5.5
9	OTHER CEREALS ^c	4.1	3.6
10	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	3.6	3.3
11	RICE AND RICE BASED DISHES (INCLUDING RISOTTO, FRIED RICE)	3.3	2.9
12	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	3.1	2.7
13	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	2.9	2.6
14	MEAT PIES AND PASTRIES	2.2	2.0
15	CEREAL BASED PUDDINGS INCLUDING SPONGE AND RICE PUDDING	1.7	1.5
16	WHITE FISH COATED OR FRIED	1.6	1.4
17	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	1.5	1.4
18	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	1.3	1.2
19	SOUP	1.3	1.1
20	OTHER BREAD ^d	0.9	0.8

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

d Other bread: Bread made with non-wheat flour. Includes rye bread, gluten free, oatmeal bread, besan flour chappatis, soya and linseed bread

Table 3.22a: Top 20 contributors to NSP intake: children aged 1½-3 years

7.5 – 3 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	1.5	18.5
2	FRUIT	1.4	16.9
3	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	0.8	9.5
4	WHITE BREAD	0.5	6.5
5	BROWN, GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	0.4	5.2
6	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	0.4	5.2
7	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	0.4	4.7
8	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	0.4	4.7
9	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	0.3	3.9
10	BISCUITS	0.3	3.3
11	SAUSAGES AND SAUSAGE BASED DISHES	0.2	2.3
12	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	0.2	1.9
13	MILK AND CREAM	0.2	1.8
14	INFANT FORMULA	0.1	1.7
15	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	0.1	1.5
16	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	0.1	1.2
17	PIZZA	0.1	1.2
18	OTHER CEREALS ^c	0.1	1.2
19	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	0.1	1.1
20	COMMERCIAL TODDLERS FOODS ^d	0.1	1.0

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

d Commercial toddlers foods: includes instant and ready to eat foods specifically manufactured for young children

Table 3.22b: Top 20 contributors to NSP intake: children aged 4-10 years

4 – 10 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	2.0	18.0
2	FRUIT	1.5	13.2
3	WHITE BREAD	0.9	8.2
4	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	0.8	7.4
5	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	0.8	7.1
6	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	0.6	5.3
7	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	0.5	4.2
8	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	0.5	4.1
9	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	0.4	4.0
10	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	0.4	3.5
11	BISCUITS	0.4	3.2
12	BUNS, CAKES & PASTRIES	0.3	2.6
13	PIZZA	0.3	2.5
14	SAUSAGES AND SAUSAGE BASED DISHES	0.3	2.3
15	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	0.2	1.8
16	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	0.2	1.5
17	OTHER CEREALS ^c	0.1	1.3
18	MEAT PIES AND PASTRIES	0.1	0.9
19	WHITE FISH COATED OR FRIED	0.1	0.7
20	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	0.1	0.7

^a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

^b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

^c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

Table 3.22c: Top 20 contributors to NSP intake: children aged 11-18 years

11 – 18 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	2.1	17.5
2	WHITE BREAD	1.2	10.3
3	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	1.2	9.9
4	FRUIT	0.8	6.9
5	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	0.6	4.9
6	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	0.6	4.9
7	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	0.6	4.9
8	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	0.5	4.4
9	PIZZA	0.5	4.0
10	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	0.5	3.9
11	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	0.4	3.5
12	BISCUITS	0.4	3.2
13	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	0.3	2.4
14	SAUSAGES AND SAUSAGE BASED DISHES	0.2	2.1
15	BUNS, CAKES & PASTRIES	0.2	2.1
16	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	0.2	1.8
17	OTHER CEREALS ^c	0.2	1.3
18	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	0.1	1.2
19	MEAT PIES AND PASTRIES	0.1	1.1
20	BURGERS AND KEBABS PURCHASED	0.1	1.0

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

Table 3.22d: Top 20 contributors to NSP intake: adults aged 19-64 years

Adults 19 – 64 years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	3.3	23.8
2	FRUIT	1.4	10.0
3	WHITE BREAD	1.1	7.8
4	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	0.9	6.4
5	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	0.9	6.4
6	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	0.8	5.7
7	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	0.8	5.7
8	BROWN GRANARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	0.6	4.1
9	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	0.5	3.4
10	BISCUITS	0.4	2.8
11	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	0.3	2.4
12	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	0.3	2.2
13	OTHER CEREALS ^c	0.3	1.9
14	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	0.2	1.8
15	PIZZA	0.2	1.8
16	SAUSAGES AND SAUSAGE BASED DISHES	0.2	1.5
17	NUTS AND SEEDS	0.2	1.2
18	CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONERY	0.1	1.0
19	RICE AND RICE BASED DISHES (INCLUDING RISOTTO, FRIED RICE)	0.1	0.9
20	OTHER BREAKFAST CEREALS (NOT HIGH FIBRE) ^b	0.1	0.9

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

Table 3.22e: Top 20 contributors to NSP intake: people aged 65 years and over

65+ years		National Diet and Nutrition Survey years 1-4 combined (2008/09 – 2011/12)	
Rank	NDNS Subsidiary food group	Contribution to intake (g/day)	Contribution to intake (%)
1	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE BASED DISHES	3.3	24.1
2	FRUIT	1.9	13.9
3	HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST CEREALS ^a	1.2	8.8
4	WHOLEMEAL BREAD	1.0	7.1
5	BOILED, MASHED AND BAKED POTATOES AND DISHES	1.0	7.1
6	WHITE BREAD	0.9	6.2
7	CHIPS, FRIED AND ROAST POTATOES AND POTATO PRODUCTS	0.6	4.7
8	BROWN GRAINARY AND WHEATGERM BREAD	0.6	4.1
9	BISCUITS	0.4	2.9
10	BUNS, CAKES AND PASTRIES	0.4	2.9
11	OTHER CEREALS ^c	0.3	1.9
12	SAVOURY SAUCES PICKLES GRAVIES & CONDIMENTS	0.2	1.3
13	PASTA AND PASTA BASED DISHES	0.2	1.3
14	SOUP	0.2	1.3
15	NUTS AND SEEDS	0.1	1.0
16	SAUSAGES AND SAUSAGE BASED DISHES	0.1	1.0
17	CEREAL BASED PUDDINGS INCLUDING SPONGE AND RICE PUDDING	0.1	0.9
18	MEAT PIES AND PASTRIES	0.1	0.8
19	OTHER BREAD ^d	0.1	0.8
20	CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS	0.1	0.8

a High fibre breakfast cereals: NSP content of 4g/100g or more. Includes muesli, shredded wheat, porridge

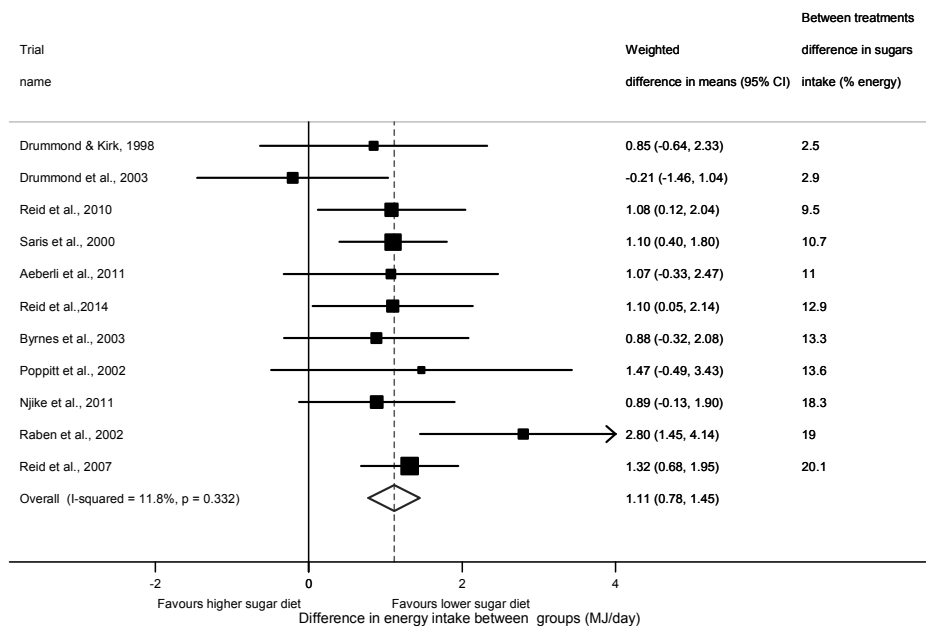
b Other breakfast cereals, not high fibre: NSP content of less than 4g/100g. Includes cornflakes, sugar puffs

c Other cereals: Includes flour (not rice flour), cous cous, bran, oats, semolina, papadums, dumplings, Yorkshire pudding

d Other bread: Bread made with non-wheat flour. Includes rye bread, gluten free, oatmeal bread, besan flour chappatis, soya and linseed bread

Meta-analysis and meta-regression of trials that presented evidence on diets differing in the proportion of sugars in relation to total dietary energy intake

Figure A9.1: Randomised controlled trials investigating the effect of higher versus lower sugars consumption on energy intake using difference in end of intervention total dietary energy intakes, except for two trials where change from baseline values were reported (Saris *et al.*, 2000) or computed (Drummond *et al.*, 2003)



Results of meta-analysis for lower sugars diet vs. higher sugars diet and total dietary energy intake

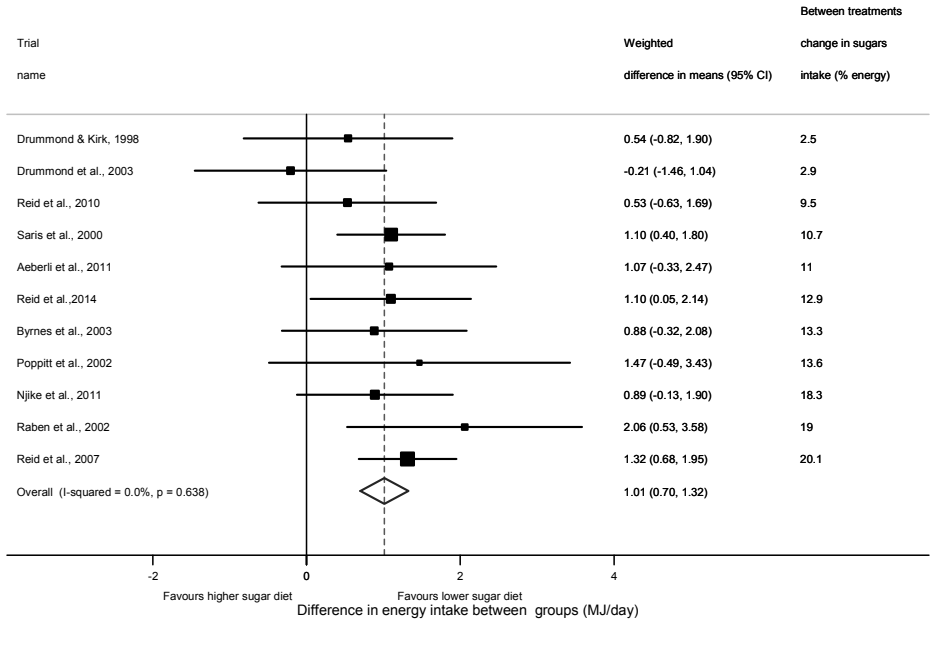
Model	Pooled risk ratio estimate ¹		
	No. ²	MJ/day (95%CI)	Z (p-value)
Random effect	11	1.11 (0.78-1.45)	6.50 (p<0.001)

¹ I² = 11.76 %; p for test of heterogeneity = 0.332

² No. of mean difference estimates included in pooled analysis.

A9.1 The meta-analysis was performed using the outcome data with variance data (mean difference in total dietary energy intake) as reported in each trial, with the exception of Drummond *et al.*, 2003, which was analysed using change from baseline value comparisons (see Additional analyses in Annex 1 for a meta-regression analysis using the outcome data from this meta-analysis). The end of intervention values in the Drummond *et al.* trial gave a misleading interpretation of the trial as the constant sugars group has higher energy intake values at baseline and throughout the trial as compared with the reduced sugars group, but change from baseline data showed less of a decrease in energy intake in the reduced sugars intake group as compared to the constant sugars group. The necessary variance data for the change from baseline values were not given in the paper and the adjusted difference in means using the ANCOVA method was also not given, so a correlation coefficient had to be derived to enable computation of the variance data as recommended in the Cochrane Handbook. No other trials in the meta-analysis contained the necessary information to enable this, so the coefficient of variance was computed using the energy intake data in the Howard *et al.*, 2006 paper.

Figure A9.2: Randomised controlled trials investigating the effect of higher versus lower sugars consumption on energy intake using predominantly difference in change from baseline total dietary energy intakes



Results of meta-analysis for lower sugars diet vs. higher sugars diet and total dietary energy intake

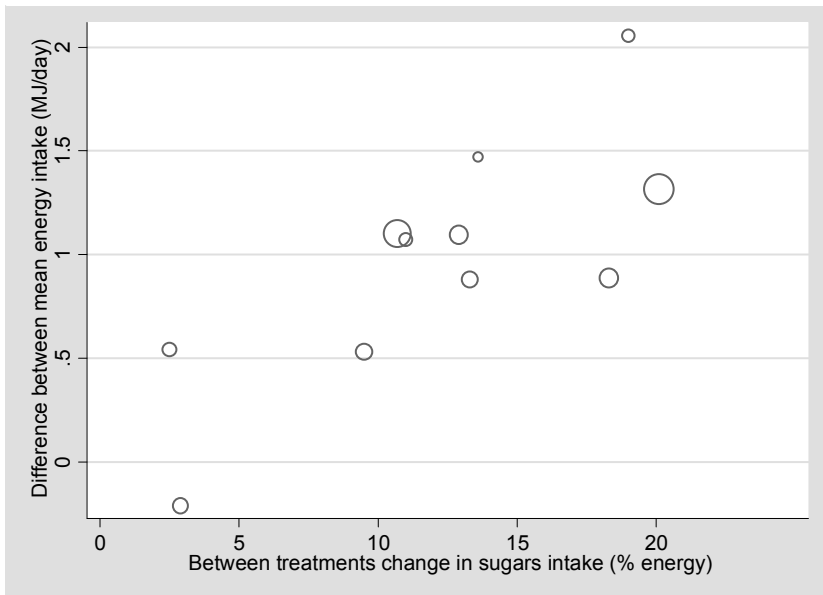
Model	Pooled risk ratio estimate ¹		
	No. ²	MJ/day (95%CI)	Z (p-value)
Random effect	11	1.01 (0.70-1.32)	6.50 (p<0.001)

¹ I² = 0 %; p for test of heterogeneity = 0.638

² No. of mean difference estimates included in pooled analysis.

A9.2 Only one trial reported change from baseline variance data for total dietary energy intake (Saris *et al.*, 2000). For six trials (Drummond & Kirk, 1998; Raben *et al.*, 2002; Drummond *et al.*, 2003; Reid *et al.*, 2007; Reid *et al.*, 2010; Reid *et al.*, 2014) change from baseline variance data for total dietary energy intake was imputed using a correlation coefficient derived from another study (Howard *et al.*, 2006). It was not possible to impute change from baseline total dietary energy intakes for three trials, so the difference in end of intervention total dietary energy intakes was used (Poppitt *et al.*, 2002; Brynes *et al.*, 2003; Njike *et al.*, 2011). One trial had a crossover design so the baseline measures were the same for intervention and control groups meaning the difference in change from baseline and end of intervention total dietary energy intakes were the same (Aeberli *et al.*, 2011).

Figure A9.3: Meta-regression bubble plot and analysis of trials investigating the effect of sugars consumption on energy intake using predominantly change from baseline total dietary energy and percentage energy from sugars intakes



Meta-regression	Number of obs =	11
REML estimate of between-study variance	tau2 =	0
% residual variation due to heterogeneity	I-squared_res =	0.00%
Proportion of between-study variance explained	Adj R-squared =	.%
with Knapp-Hartung modification		

md	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
sugars	.0602157	.0288295	2.09	0.066	-.0050012 .1254326
_cons	.1982157	.4204173	0.47	0.649	-.7528343 1.149266

- A9.3 The difference in sugars intake between control and intervention groups, as percentage total dietary energy, has been calculated from change from baseline values where possible (see Table A9.1). Two trials do not report sugars intake, but report the amount of sugars subjects were supplemented with and this is assumed to represent the difference in intakes between the control and intervention groups (Reid *et al.*, 2007; Njike *et al.*, 2011). One trial did not report baseline data, so the difference in end of intervention sugars intakes was used (Brynes *et al.*, 2003).
- A9.4 The meta-regression analysis shows no significant linear dose-response relationship in the data. The regression coefficient obtained from a meta-regression indicates a 60kj (95%CI -0.005,125kj; p=0.066) change in total dietary energy intake per one percentage change in energy intake from sugars.

Table A9.1: Description of trial results and change from baseline data

Trial	Dietary intervention	Mean change in EI from sugars	Mean EI change from baseline (MJ/d)	Results
Drummond & Kirk 1998	Low fat and sugar	-1.8% NMES -0.5% total sugars	-1.31	EI decreases in both groups, less so in increased sugars intake group
	Low fat	+0.7% NMES +2.5% total sugars	-0.77	
Saris <i>et al.</i> , 2000	Low-fat high complex CHO	-3.5% simple CHO	-1.8	EI decreases in both groups, less so in increased simple CHO intake group
	Low-fat high simple CHO	+7.2% simple CHO	-0.7	
Poppitt <i>et al.</i> , 2002	Low-fat, high-complex-CHO diet	-1.3% simple CHO	+0.74	EI increases in simple CHO group, but not complex CHO group
	Low-fat, high-simple-CHO diet	+12.3% simple CHO	+1.34	
Raben <i>et al.</i> , 2002	Non-caloric sweetener	-3% sucrose	-0.44	EI increases in the sucrose group, but not in the sweetener group
	Sucrose	+16% sucrose	+1.61	
Brynes <i>et al.</i> , 2003	High-GI diet	NR estimate 0	NR estimate 0	EI appears to increase in sucrose group (and high fat group) but not the high GI group (no baseline data)
	High sucrose diet	NR estimate at +13.3% sucrose	NR estimate +0.88	
Drummond <i>et al.</i> , 2003	Low fat and sugar	-2.4% NMES	-0.10	Small EI decreases in both groups, less so in the decreased sugars intake group
	Low fat	+0.5% NMES	-0.31	

Table continues

Table A9.1: *continued*

Trial	Dietary intervention	Mean change in EI from sugars	Mean EI change from baseline (MJ/d)	Results
Mazlan <i>et al.</i> , 2006	No snack	NR estimate 0	NR estimate 0	EI increases in a dose-dependent fashion in the sucrose snack group relative to the no snack group (no baseline data)
	1.5MJ high sucrose (65% energy) snack	NR estimate +7.8% sucrose	NR estimate +1.05	
	3.0MJ high sucrose (65% energy) snack	NR estimate +14.4% sucrose	NR estimate +2.10	
Reid <i>et al.</i> , 2007	Aspartame	NR estimate 0	-0.39	EI increases in the sucrose group, but not in the sweetener group
	Sucrose	+20.1% sucrose	+0.79	
Volp <i>et al.</i> , 2008	High fat diet	-2.3% sucrose**	-1.21 **	EI decreases in both groups, less so in the increased sugars intake group
	High sucrose diet*	+8.8% sucrose **	-0.32 **	
Reid <i>et al.</i> , 2010	Aspartame	-0.5 % sucrose	-0.67	EI does not change in the sucrose group, but decreases in the sweetener group
	Sucrose	+8.5 % sucrose	-0.14	
Aeberli <i>et al.</i> , 2011	Low fructose SSB	-1.9% sucrose	+0.05	EI increases in the sucrose group, but not in the control group
	Sucrose-SSB	+11.1% sucrose	+1.12	
Njike <i>et al.</i> , 2011	Sugar-free cocoa	NR estimate 0	NR estimate 0	EI appears to increase in sucrose group but not the sucrose-free group relative to the control (no baseline data)
	Sugar-sweetened cocoa	NR estimate at +17.4% sucrose	NR estimate +0.89	
Reid <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Aspartame	-0.5 % sucrose	-0.92	EI does not change in the sucrose group, but decreases in the sweetener group
	Sucrose	+12.1% sucrose	+0.21	

NR, not reported; EI, energy intake; * dietary fibre also increases in the high sucrose group relative to the high fat group, as well as non-significant differences in macronutrient composition; ** computed from median values.

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