

Family Health Team

SUMMERVILLE

## **Bite into Bone Health** Essential Nutrients for Healthy Bones

# Calcium

Calcium is essential for building and maintaining strong bones. Our bones act as a calcium reservoir, so if we don't get enough calcium daily, our body takes it from the bones. This can lead to weakened bones, which increases the risk of fractures.

Healthy Bone

## Vitamin D

Vitamin D helps us absorb calcium into our body, which supports strong bones. It also enhances muscle function, which can improve balance and reduce the risk of falls and broken bones.

## Vitamin K

Vitamin K controls how calcium is used in the body, helping it bind effectively to bones. Not getting enough vitamin K can weaken bones over time, leading to a higher risk of osteoporosis and fractures.

### Magnesium

Over half of the magnesium in our body is stored in our bones. Magnesium helps our body use calcium and vitamin D, making it essential for maintaining strong bone health.

## Protein

Protein supports strong muscles and helps build the framework in our bones that holds calcium. Low protein intake can cause weak muscles and fragile bones, increasing the odds of falls and fractures.

Sources:

Osteoporosis

National Institutes of Health, Dietary Supplement Fact Sheets (2022) Osteoprosis Canada (2024) Public Health Agency of Canada, Chroic Diseases (2024)



# Food or Supplement?







Eating a variety of foods can help you get enough calcium, but if you don't get enough from diet, speak to your doctor about supplements. Keep in mind, while extra calcium from food is safe, excess from supplements might be harmful.

Vitamin D is produced when sunlight interacts with our skin, but in Canada, we

don't get enough sun. The best sources of vitamin D are food and supplements. Canadians over 50 should take vitamin D supplements to meet their daily needs.

Females: 19-50: 1000mg daily >51: 1200mg daily

Males: 19-70: 1000mg daily >70: 1200mg daily Rich Sources-

Milk Yogurt Almonds Salmon





Adults: ≤70: 600 IU (15 µg) daily > 70: 800 IU (20 µg) daily Rich Sources -







VITAMIN K

Females: ≥50: 90µg

Males: ≥50 120µg Vitamin K is found in various plant- and animal-based foods. You generally don't need supplements to meet your daily needs, however, if you can't get enough vitamin K from diet alone, consult your doctor about other options.

### Rich Sources -

Spinach
Kale
Broccoli
Egg



You can get enough magnesium from diet alone as it exists in various foods,

especially plant-based sources. However, if your dietary intake doesn't cover your

needs, consider talking to your doctor about possible supplements.





## MAGNESIUM

Females: ≥ 50: 320mg daily

Males: ≥50: 420mg daily

### Rich Sources -

Nuts Soy Milk Avocado Banana





Protein is available in animal and plant sources, but limited vegetarian options provide all the different kinds of protein building blocks your body needs. Make sure to include various protein foods in your diet to meet your body's needs.

#### Adults: 0.8g protein/ kg body weight (This is the minimum amount and it is suggested

amount and it is suggested that older adults consume 1-1.2 g protein/kg body weight)

### Rich Sources •

Chicken Fish White Beans Egg







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