



National Institute of Food and Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENT
FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY
YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY
FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

NIFA

NIFA Food and Nutrition Security Webinar Series
An Overview of USDA's ASCEND for Better Health Nutrition Hub at
Southern University
Tuesday, February 27th, 2024

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Meeting Logistics

- This webinar is being recorded
- Call 1-888-799-0125, Option 2 if you need Zoom support
- Use the Zoom Q&A Box for questions or comments
- Check out <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/nifa-nutrition-security-webinar-series> in a few weeks for today's recording, slides, along with a new LRFS topic page and fact sheet



USDA Actions on Advancing Food & Nutrition Security

Nutrition security means having consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being.





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A new USDA initiative to address diet-related chronic diseases



A **Virtual Center** to accelerate research on diet-related chronic diseases, including cancer, with an aim to translate research into impactful solutions that improve public health and well-being, especially among underserved populations.

www.nutrition.gov/topics/ascend-better-health

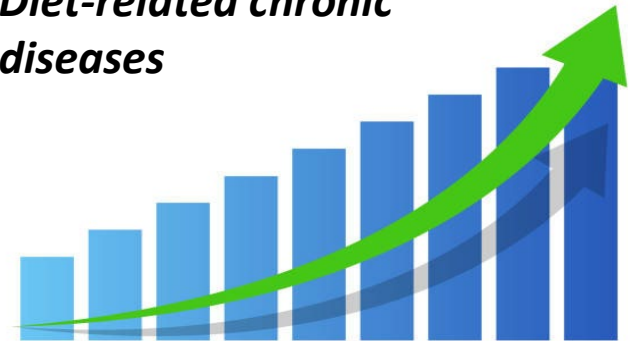
CANCER MOONSHOT
PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Challenges and
opportunities around
food and nutrition



WHITE HOUSE
CONFERENCE ON
**HUNGER,
NUTRITION,
& HEALTH**

*Diet-related chronic
diseases*



*Dietary
Guidelines
For Americans*

Make Every
Bite Count With
the *Dietary
Guidelines*

An effort to bring together the federal government, health care providers, researchers, patients, and the private and public sectors to prevent more than 4 million cancer deaths by 2047 and to improve the experience of people who are touched by cancer.



Five Priority Actions

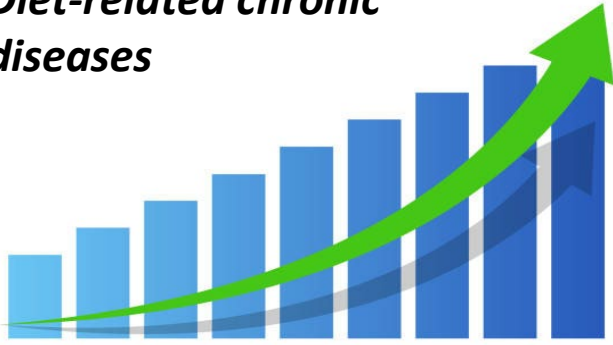
- **Expand Access to Cancer Screenings**
- **Understand and Prevent Toxic and Environmental Exposures**
- **Prevent More Cancers Before They Start**
- **Drive New Innovation and Deliver the Latest Progress**
- **Support and Centers for Patients & Caregivers**

30% of all cancers are diet-related and are preventable through healthy eating and lifestyle changes

For those challenged with cancer, the incidence of malnutrition is high

The Harmful Effects of Poor Nutrition

Diet-related chronic diseases

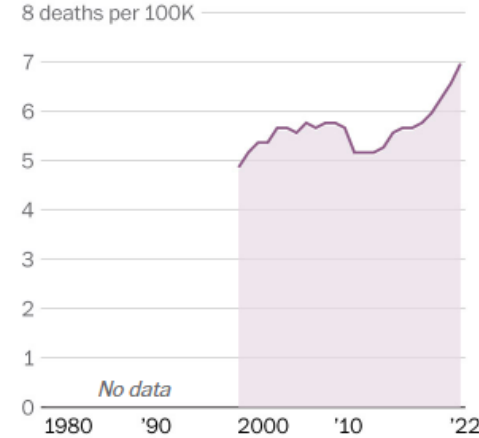


Death rates on the rise

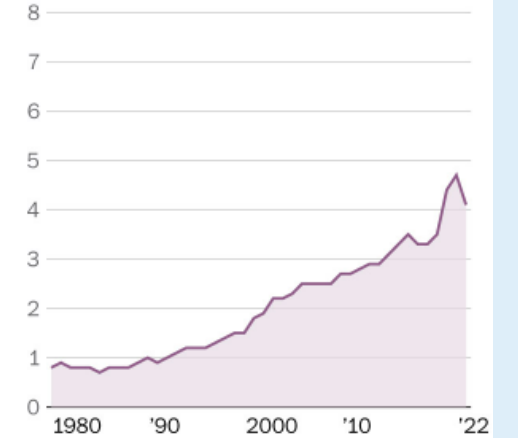
Despite advances in public health and medical treatments, several causes of death have been increasing for decades in adults 35-64.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

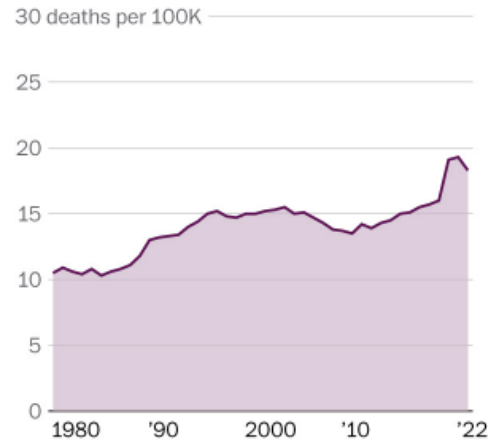
KIDNEY DISEASE



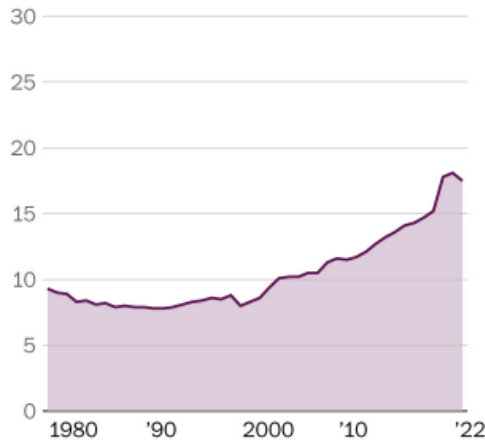
OBESITY



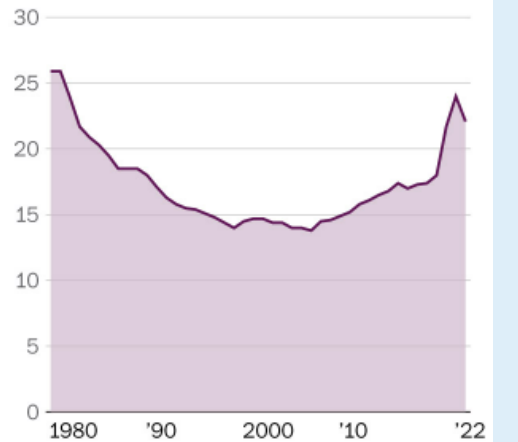
DIABETES



HYPERTENSION



LIVER DISEASE



A new USDA initiative to address diet-related chronic diseases



A Virtual Center focused on **Precision Nutrition** for underserved populations who are often at higher risk for food and nutrition insecurity and diet-related chronic diseases

Research



Data



Engagement

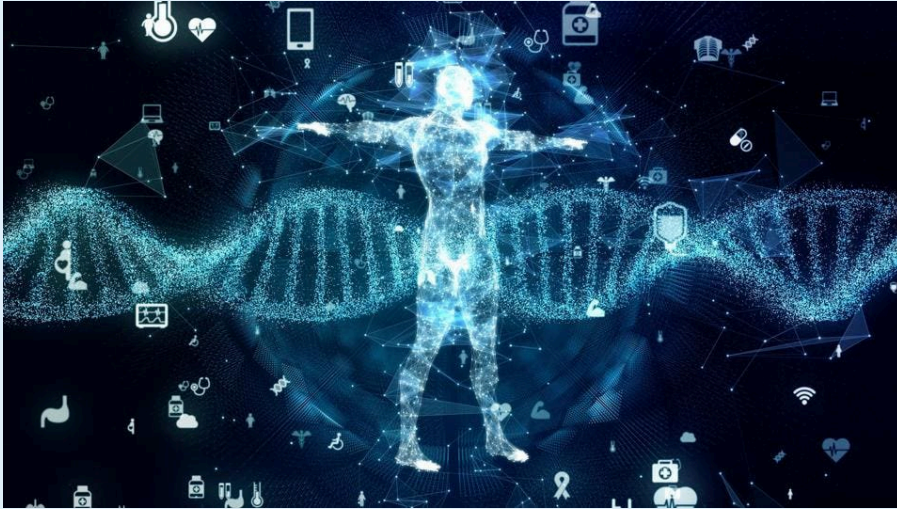


Federal partnerships outside of USDA REE will be critical to the success of ASCEND



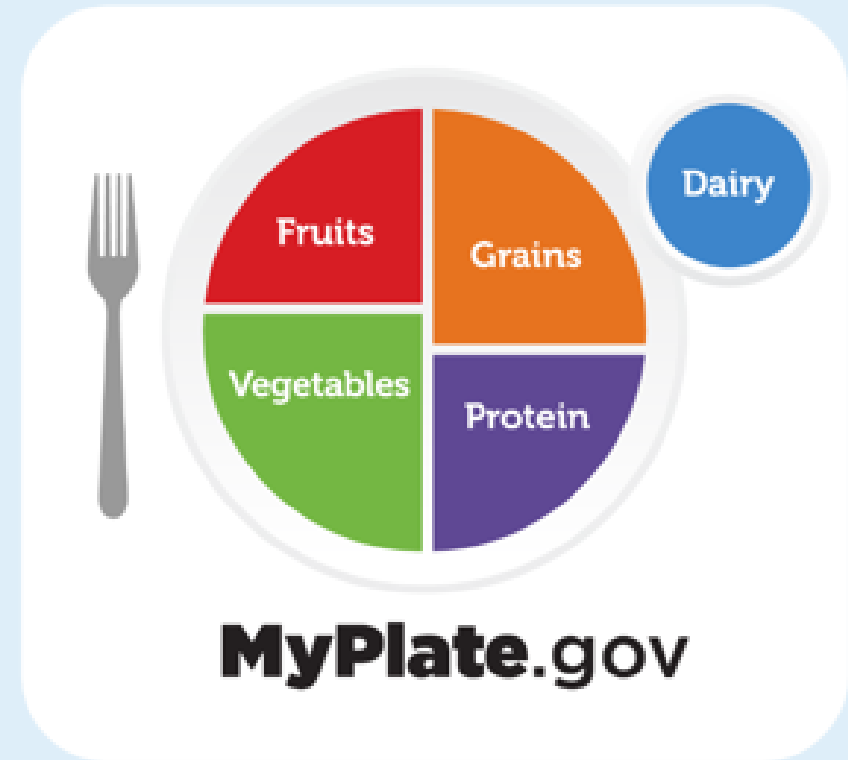
Food and Nutrition Service
Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
Department of Defense
Indian Health Service

Precision Nutrition Takes a Specific Population Approach



Precision nutrition is an emerging field that seeks to better tailor dietary recommendations and nutritional guidelines to different people's characteristics and circumstances in a way that improves health.

Precision Nutrition Research Will Help Refine Future Dietary Guidance



Community Listening Sessions – Perceived Challenges and Opportunities to Healthy Eating

Summary Report

 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



ASCEND FOR BETTER HEALTH

Agricultural Science Center of Excellence for
Nutrition and Diet (ASCEND) for Better Health

**BUILDING HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

A HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY REPORT



Challenges

- Cost
- Knowledge
- Initiative
- Accessibility/Availability
- Social Environment

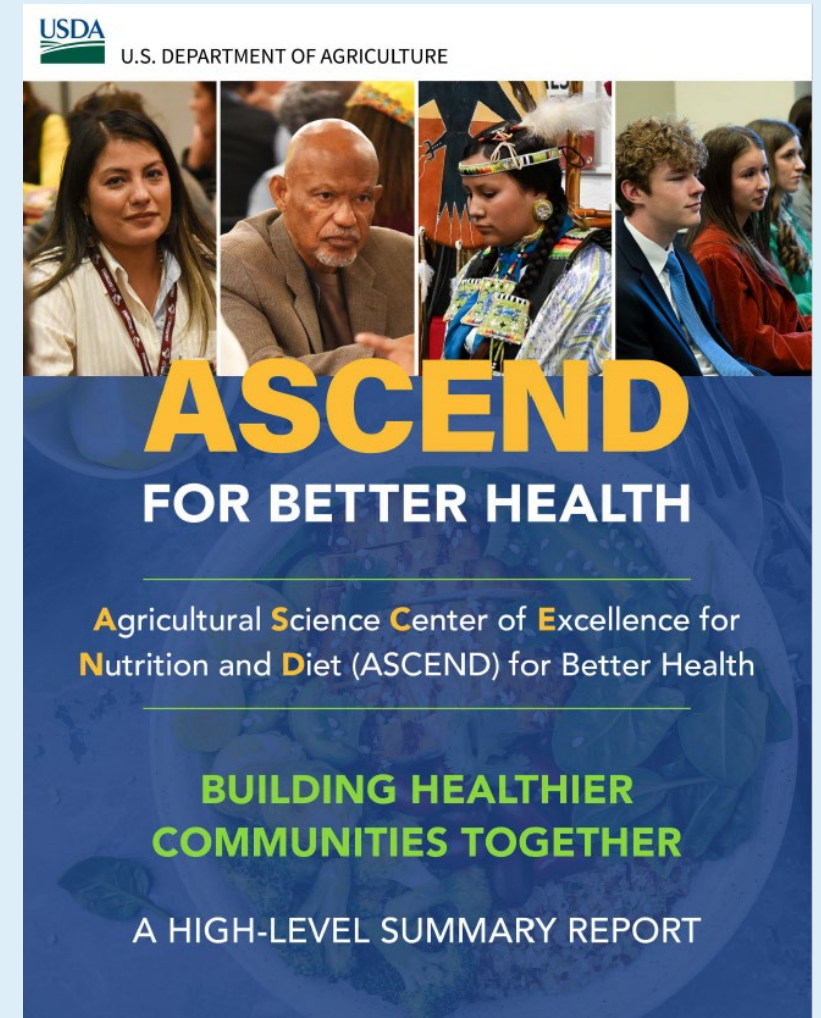
...to Healthy Eating

Opportunities

- Personal Wellness
- Education
- Motivation
- Accessibility/Availability
- Support System

www.nutrition.gov/topics/ascend-better-health

Summary Report



Our first Nutrition Hub was announced in September 2023 - @ Southern University



This will be the first of several **Nutrition Hubs** that will help to deliver healthy food messages and facilitate needed research to **fill knowledge gaps** in health and nutrition in underserved populations.





ASU



Southern University Agricultural
Research and Extension Center's

ASCEND PILOT NUTRITION HUB



INTRODUCTION



- African Americans (AAs) remain the least healthy ethnic group in the USA.
- Diet is a key contributor to disparities in many chronic diseases and conditions.
- AA communities have trusted 1890 institutions for more than a century.
- Therefore, 1890 institutions can play important roles in assisting AAs to combat diet-related disparities especially obesity and its related chronic diseases.



GOALS



RESEARCH

To enhance the research capacity at 1890 institutions focusing on food intake and nutritional/health outcomes.



TEACHING

To strengthen and advance innovative food and nutrition educational and instructional strategies for students at 1890 institutions.



EXTENSION

To provide training and education to underrepresented communities through multi-state food and innovative nutrition outreach programs.

NUTRITION HUB



NUTRITION HUB

The 1st Ever USDA Pilot ASCEND Nutrition Hub

The Nutrition Hub will integrate and coordinate the collective work of REE agencies to improve food and nutrition security and reduce the burden of diet-related chronic diseases, especially in underserved, at-risk communities.

Four main goals are proposed:

- 1) Build current and future workforce capacity for trans-disciplinary approaches between Research and Extension;
- 2) Develop collaborations and partnerships with organizations that serve the African American communities to better understand the real-world opportunities and challenges around food, nutrition, and diet-related health disparities;
- 3) Develop and disseminate science-based nutrition information and connect communities with food and nutrition security and economic vitality programs;
- 4) Foster research and training opportunities in human nutrition research, particularly in underserved and underrepresented communities.

NUTRITION HUB



NUTRITION HUB



THANK YOU!

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www.suagcenter.com



Upcoming Events

- NIFA Events Calendar for upcoming deadlines, meetings and webinars: nifa.usda.gov/events
- Upcoming Request for Applications (RFA) release calendar: nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar
- Current NIFA Funding Opportunities - AFRI RFA: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/FY23-AFRI-FAS-RFA-508_0.pdf

Grant Resources

- Funding Opportunities: nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities
- Competitive Grants Flowchart: nifa.usda.gov/competitive-grants
- NIFA Grant Resources: nifa.usda.gov/grant-training
- NIFA Policy Guide: nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide
- Indirect Costs: nifa.usda.gov/indirect-costs
- A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov:
apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/PKG00249520-instructions.pdf
- Information on Awarded Grants: cris.nifa.usda.gov