



Published in final edited form as:

Diabetes Res Clin Pract. 2023 October ; 204: 110906. doi:10.1016/j.diabres.2023.110906.

Dietary patterns, socioeconomic disparities, and risk of type 2 diabetes in the Sister Study

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Abstract

Aims: We investigated the role of socioeconomic disparities in the association between diet and risk of type 2 diabetes (T2D).

Methods: We used prospective data from 40,243 Sister Study participants aged 35 to 74 years who were enrolled in 2003–2009. Scores for healthy eating indices (alternate Mediterranean diet, Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension, alternative Healthy Eating Index, and Healthy Eating Index 2015 (HEI-2015)) were calculated using data from a 110-item food frequency questionnaire completed at enrollment. Incident T2D was defined based on self-reported physician's diagnosis

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Author Contributions. All authors contributed to the study conception and design. B.C., S.E.S., D.P.S., and Y.M.P researched data, contributed to discussion, and wrote, reviewed, and edited the manuscript. A.T.M and J.M.P.W reviewed and edited the manuscript. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

Ethics Approval. The Sister Study is overseen by the National Institutes of Health Institutional Review Board.

Consent to Participate. All participants provided written informed consent.

Data and Resource Availability. The data sets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are not publicly available due to privacy concerns. However, requests for data, including the data used in this analysis, may be made following procedures described on the Sister Study website (www.sisterstudy.niehs.nih.gov) under the tab "For Researchers."

Competing Interests. The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

Declarations of Interest: The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

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or use of anti-diabetic medications. Multivariable-adjusted hazard ratios (aHRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were estimated using Cox proportional hazards models.

Results: We observed inverse associations between all four dietary indices and incident T2D after multivariable adjustment. These associations were most pronounced among women with higher educational attainment, higher income, and lower area deprivation index (ADI) (e.g., for the HEI-2015: low ADI, aHR_{Q4vsQ1}: 0.44, 95% CI: 0.35, 0.56 vs high ADI, aHR_{Q4vsQ1}: 0.75, 95% CI: 0.63, 0.90; $P_{\text{interaction}}$: 0.0007).

Conclusions: Weaker associations among women with lower socioeconomic status and higher neighborhood deprivation suggests that other factors play a larger role in T2D incidence than diet quality among individuals with low SES.

Keywords

type 2 diabetes; dietary patterns; disparities; socioeconomic status; nutrition

INTRODUCTION

An estimated 32 million adults in the United States are living with diabetes [1]. By 2045, it is estimated that the prevalence of diabetes will increase by 16% [2]. Type 2 diabetes (T2D) accounts for 90% of diabetes cases and is associated with increased risk of neuropathy, nephropathy, and macrovascular complications [3].

Diet is a modifiable risk factor for T2D, and dietary patterns are commonly used to characterize overall diet quality in studies investigating the relationship between diet and T2D risk. Most evidence suggests that the alternate Mediterranean diet (aMED), Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH), and alternative Healthy Eating Index (aHEI) are associated with reduced risk of T2D [4–10]. However, evidence for the association between the Healthy Eating Index (HEI) and T2D risk is inconsistent [4–5,7–9,11]. In addition to diet, individual sociodemographic factors, such as income and education, are associated with T2D [12]. The incidence and prevalence of T2D are disproportionately higher among minoritized racial and ethnic groups and individuals with low socioeconomic status (SES) [12–13]. In addition, findings from several studies suggest that low neighborhood SES is associated with increased risk of T2D [14–15].

Though SES and diet quality have been extensively studied for their influence on the risk of T2D, few studies have investigated whether the association between diet quality and incident T2D risk differs by SES. In one previous study, this association was assessed using a single measure of diet quality (Lifelines Diet Score) across levels of educational attainment, the sole indicator of SES [16]. To our knowledge, no studies have examined whether neighborhood-level SES indicators, such as the area deprivation index (ADI), modify the relationship between dietary patterns and incident T2D. A deeper understanding of the interactions between diet and SES and their multifaceted roles in T2D risk could have implications for public health policy and T2D prevention. The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship of established dietary indices (aMED, DASH, aHEI, and

HEI-2015) with incident T2D and investigate whether this relationship is modified by individual and neighborhood SES indicators.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Population

Data were obtained from the Sister Study, a prospective cohort study designed to identify environmental and genetic factors for breast cancer [17]. The Sister Study consists of 50,884 self-identified women in the United States, including Puerto Rico, enrolled between 2003 and 2009. Women were eligible for enrollment if they were aged 35–74 years and had a sister who had been diagnosed with breast cancer but had no personal history of a breast cancer diagnosis themselves.

At baseline, data on demographic, medical, lifestyle, and reproductive factors were collected using computer-assisted telephone interviews and self-completed questionnaires. Anthropometric measurements and biological samples were collected during a home exam. Participants provided annual health updates and completed detailed follow-up questionnaires every 2–3 years. Response rates have been around 90% throughout follow-up [17]. The Sister Study is overseen by the National Institutes of Health Institutional Review Board. All participants provided written informed consent.

Dietary Assessment

Diet was assessed at baseline using a modified 1998 Block 110-item food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) previously validated in women [18–19]. Participants reported average dietary intake in the past 12 months of each listed food and beverage item, including frequency of intake (9 possible frequencies ranging from “never” to “every day”) and portion size (3 or 4 quantity choices per food item or group of similar food items). Nutrient intake was estimated using the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrient Database for Dietary Studies (FNDDS) for U.S. women [20].

The Healthy Eating Index (HEI), originally developed to examine the extent to which diet aligns with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, is updated every five years with dietary recommendations for Americans [21]. HEI-2015 reflects the guidelines for 2015–2020. We used the previously developed aMED, modified and adapted from the Mediterranean diet (MED) characterized by high intake of plant-based foods, olive oil, and minimal consumption of saturated and trans fats, meats, and dairy products [22–23]. aMED scores were operationalized using the method developed by Fung et al [23]. The DASH diet is characterized by higher intake of fruits, vegetables, legumes, and nuts and minimal intake of sugary foods, sodium, and animal products [24]. aHEI is based on foods and nutrients that predict chronic disease risk [8]. Additional details of these dietary patterns, including how the scores are calculated, are provided in Supplementary Tables 1a and 1b.

Area Deprivation Index

ADI was used to characterize neighborhood deprivation of residence at enrollment. Seventeen weighted US census indicators of educational attainment, income, employment,

and housing (e.g., unemployment rate and median home value) were obtained from the U.S. Census and the American Community Survey and used to construct the 2000 ADI [25–26]. Each neighborhood received a percentile ranking, with higher percentage of ADI corresponding to greater neighborhood deprivation. Census block-group identification codes were used to link each participants' enrollment residential address and the ADI. Participants were categorized into three groups based on ADI tertiles within the study sample.

Identification of T2D

Annual follow-up questionnaires were used to ascertain incident T2D. Follow-up was through September 2019 (data release 9.1, median 11.6 years of follow-up). Participants were asked, “Has a doctor or other healthcare provider ever told you that you had diabetes?” Women who responded “Yes” or who self-reported use of oral anti-diabetic medication or insulin use were assumed to have incident T2D. To identify incident T2D, women were excluded at baseline if they had likely type 1 diabetes (n=141), a prior history of secondary diabetes (n=24), or prevalent T2D (n=3,836). Women were classified as type 1 diabetes if they: 1) self-reported T1D, 2) were diagnosed with diabetes prior to 20 years old, or 3) received a diabetes diagnosis between the ages of 20 and 34 and began taking insulin less than 12 months following diagnosis [27]. Women with diabetes were classified as having secondary diabetes if they also had hemochromatosis, hepatitis, drug-induced diabetes, liver cirrhosis, hyperthyroidism, polycystic ovary syndrome, or gestational diabetes within 12 months prior to T2D diagnosis [28]. Women taking anti-diabetic medication at enrollment or within the past 12 months or who self-reported being told by a physician or healthcare provider they had non-pregnancy related T2D at baseline were assumed to have prevalent T2D.

Covariate Assessment

Covariates were assessed through questionnaires at baseline. Details on the categorization of covariates are provided in Table 1 and Supplementary Material.

Statistical Analysis

In addition to exclusions described above, women with a missing date of T2D diagnosis (n=574) were excluded. Person-time within the first 12 months of follow-up (n=461) was excluded to reduce bias related to undetected T2D present at baseline. Additionally, women with missing dietary data (n=1,335), missing covariate data (n=4,106), except for vitamin/supplement use and family history of T2D, or BMI less than 15 kg/m² or greater than 50 kg/m² (n=164) were excluded. Implausible energy intake (<500 or >5000 kcals/day) was considered as an exclusion criterion, but after applying previous exclusion criteria, no observations in the study sample had implausible energy intake. The final study sample consisted of 40,243 women.

Frequencies and proportions are reported for categorical variables and means and standard deviations are reported for continuous variables. Based on Schoenfeld residuals, the Cox proportional hazards assumption was satisfied. Multivariable-adjusted hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% CIs were estimated using Cox proportional hazards models with age as the primary time scale. Dietary patterns were expressed in quartiles based on the distribution in the

study sample and as continuous measures. Statistical models were adjusted for baseline measures of total energy intake, race and ethnicity, educational attainment, household income, smoking status, vitamin/supplement use in the past 12 months, ever use of hormone contraceptives, hormone therapy, family history of T2D, quintiles of total MET-hours of physical activity per week, and ADI. DASH and HEI-2015 models were additionally adjusted for alcohol consumption. aMED and aHEI contain alcohol as a component of the score, and thus, alcohol was not included in the multivariable models for these dietary patterns. Body mass index (BMI), hypertension, and hypercholesterolemia are potential mediators of the association between dietary patterns and risk of T2D and thus, were not included in the multivariable-adjusted models. However, as part of sensitivity analysis these covariates were added to the regression models. Linear tests for trend were calculated by modeling the quartiles of dietary indices as ordinal. A two-sided p value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant in the main effect models.

Effect modification by individual sociodemographic characteristics (race and ethnicity, education, and income) and by neighborhood-level ADI was assessed by stratification. Joint associations of ADI and HEI-2015 were examined using a common referent group (low ADI and high HEI-2015) and comparing all other combinations to the common referent group. The relative excess risk due to interaction (RERI) was calculated to assess interaction on the additive scale [29–30]. Interaction p-values were determined by including an interaction term in the adjusted models. P values less than 0.10 were considered statistically significant in interaction models. All statistical analyses were conducted using SAS 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

RESULTS

Table 1 shows characteristics of Sister Study participants at baseline by HEI-2015 quartiles. We focus on HEI-2015 because it was the only dietary pattern in which the interaction with all three SES variables (education, income, and ADI) were statistically significant. Descriptive statistics by quartiles of the other three dietary patterns are provided in Supplementary Tables 2-4. Women in the highest quartile of HEI-2015 were more likely to be older, have lower BMI, be non-Hispanic White (NHW), have a college degree, be never smokers, be postmenopausal, and be less sedentary compared to women in the lowest quartile. Descriptive characteristics were similarly distributed across quartiles of the other dietary patterns (Supplementary Tables 2-4). Women living in the most deprived neighborhoods tended to have higher BMI, lower educational attainment, lower income, and be smokers of 20 pack-years as compared to those in less deprived areas (Supplementary Table 5). Median HEI-2015 scores were highest among women with at least a college degree, an income greater than \$100,000, and the lowest neighborhood deprivation (Supplementary Table 6).

During 408,756 person-years of follow up, 2,486 women developed T2D. HRs and 95% CIs for the association between incident T2D and dietary pattern scores are presented in Table 2. Women in the highest HEI-2015, aMED, DASH, and aHEI quartiles had a 37%, 34%, 43%, and 42% reduction in the hazard of T2D, respectively, compared to women in the lowest quartiles (aHR_{HEI-2015}: 0.63, 95% CI: 0.55, 0.71; aHR_{aMED}: 0.66, 95% CI:

0.58, 0.75; aHR_{DASH}: 0.57, 95% CI: 0.51, 0.65; aHR_{aHEI}: 0.58, 95% CI: 0.51, 0.65), and there was evidence of decreasing trend in T2D risk with increasing dietary pattern scores (all $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.0001$). In addition, each one SD increase in all dietary indices was inversely associated with T2D risk. In a sensitivity analysis that included additional adjustment for BMI, hypertension, and high cholesterol (Supplementary Table 7), results were attenuated but generally consistent with those in Table 2. In the aMED model, there was no significant evidence of a linear trend.

Estimates for the associations between socioeconomic indicators and T2D risk are also shown in Table 2. Women living in areas with high neighborhood deprivation had a higher risk of T2D compared to women with low neighborhood deprivation (HR: 1.31, 95% CI: 1.18, 1.46). Comparing those in the highest to lowest education category, the risk of T2D was lower among women with at least a college degree (HR: 0.87, 95% CI: 0.77, 0.98). Compared to women with income <\$50,000/year, the risk of T2D was reduced among women reporting income of \$100,000/year (HR: 0.67, 95% CI: 0.60, 0.76). Following adjustment for BMI, hypertension, and high cholesterol (Supplementary Table 7), the association between ADI and T2D risk was attenuated, educational attainment was no longer associated with T2D risk, and the HR in the household income model was slightly attenuated.

Associations between dietary patterns and T2D stratified by race and ethnicity, education, income, and ADI are shown in Table 3. In models stratified by race and ethnicity comparing the highest quartile to the lowest quartile of dietary pattern scores, associations with T2D were similar for NHW, non-Hispanic Black (NHB), and other race and ethnicity groups except for the HEI-2015 where the association was null among NHB women. The inverse relationship between HEI-2015 and T2D risk was strongest for women with at least a college degree (aHR_{Q4vsQ1}: 0.56, 95% CI: 0.46, 0.66). Comparing the highest to lowest HEI-2015 quartile, risk estimates were attenuated among women with a household income of less than \$50,000/year. Within strata of ADI, comparing the highest quartile of HEI-2015 to the lowest, the risk of T2D was lowest among women with low neighborhood deprivation (low ADI aHR_{Q4vsQ1}: 0.44, 95% CI: 0.35, 0.56; high ADI aHR_{Q4vsQ1}: 0.75, 95% CI: 0.63, 0.90; $p_{\text{interaction}}$: 0.0007). Similar stratified risk estimates were observed in aMED, DASH, and aHEI models. In contrast to the other dietary patterns, there was evidence of statistical interaction between aMED and race and ethnicity ($p_{\text{interaction}}$: 0.02), with a stronger association observed among women who were neither NHW nor NHB.

The joint associations of HEI-2015 and ADI with the highest HEI-2015 quartile and lowest ADI tertile as the common referent are presented in Figure 1. Among women with high neighborhood deprivation (ADI > 39) in the lowest HEI-2015 quartile, the risk of T2D increased by 2-fold (HR: 2.06, 95% CI: 1.67, 2.56). Similar risk estimates were observed among women with moderate (ADI 18–39) and low (ADI ≤ 17) neighborhood deprivation in the lowest HEI-2015 quartile. Among women with high neighborhood deprivation who were in the highest category of diet quality, the increased risk of T2D was attenuated (HR: 1.55, 95% CI: 1.23, 1.95). Among women with high neighborhood deprivation (ADI > 39) in HEI-2015 quartile 1, RERI was -0.66, indicating negative interaction on the additive scale (RERI: -0.66, 95% CI: -1.18, -0.14) (Supplementary Table 8).

Compared to women who were included in the analyses, those who were excluded tended to be older, with higher BMI and ADI, and lower physical activity levels (Supplementary Table 9). A higher proportion of excluded participants were NHB or Other race and ethnicity, lower income, former or never drinkers, postmenopausal, and had high cholesterol, hypertension, and a family history of T2D.

DISCUSSION

In this prospective cohort study of women with a family history of breast cancer, higher scores on four dietary indices representing a better-quality diet were inversely associated with incident T2D. Inverse associations were highest in magnitude among women with higher individual SES and lower neighborhood deprivation, whereas the associations were less pronounced among those with lower individual SES and higher neighborhood deprivation.

Studies investigating the relationship between HEI and incident T2D have produced inconsistent results. Most studies have reported null findings, while other studies, including ours, observed significant inverse associations [4–5,7–9,11]. HEI assesses conformity to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and is updated every 5 years [21]. Since studies using HEIs of the same year have produced inconsistent results, these different results are unlikely to be attributed to variation in the years of HEI updates. For example, while our study reported a significant inverse association between HEI-2015 and incident T2D, a recent study reported no association [11]. A potential explanation for the heterogeneity in findings is differences in study population characteristics, as there was some heterogeneity in ethnicity and sex assigned at birth across studies.

Similar to our findings, previous evidence suggests that aMED is inversely associated with T2D incidence [4–6]. The observed inverse relationship between DASH and incident T2D in the present study is consistent with findings from the Health Professional's Follow Up Study (HPFS) and Women's Health Initiative (WHI) [4–5]. However, in the Insulin Resistance Atherosclerosis Study, DASH was inversely associated with T2D only among White participants and not among Black or Hispanic participants. In the InterAct Consortium conducted in Europe, higher DASH scores were not statistically significantly associated with risk of T2D [31–32]. Consistent with our findings, significant inverse associations between aHEI and T2D were observed in several studies, including the HPFS, Nurses' Health Study, and WHI [4–5,8]. However, some studies have observed no association between aHEI and T2D risk [11, 32].

In line with our findings, previous studies have reported associations between SES indicators and T2D risk [12–15]. Clustering of adverse health behaviors that are risk factors for T2D, such as smoking, physical inactivity, and obesity, is more likely to be reported among those with low SES than those with high SES [33–35]. In addition, individuals with higher educational attainment and income tend to consume higher quality, nutrient-dense diets than those with lower income and educational attainment [36–37].

We found evidence of interaction between HEI-2015 and ADI on both additive and multiplicative scales. In stratified models, the inverse associations between dietary pattern scores and T2D were attenuated among those with lower SES and higher neighborhood deprivation. A previous study in a Dutch population corroborates these findings where associations between diet quality and incident T2D were weakest for individuals with the lowest educational attainment [16]. Similarly, a recent study found that the DASH dietary pattern was not associated with risk of heart failure among low-income individuals but was inversely associated among higher-income participants [38]. Though neighborhood SES indicators have been associated with T2D risk, this study is the first to examine whether the association between healthy dietary indices and T2D risk varies by ADI [14–15]. ADI represents a combination of neighborhood factors, including income, employment, safety, access, and availability of resources that influence T2D risk. Due to the combination of risk factors associated with high neighborhood deprivation, it is possible that the benefits of adhering to healthy eating patterns do not outweigh the health costs of living in areas with high deprivation [16, 38].

Inverse associations between dietary indices and risk of T2D were fairly consistent across different racial and ethnic groups, except that the HEI-2015 was not associated with T2D among NHB. We found a significant inverse association between aMED and incident T2D risk across all racial and ethnic groups, but this association was most pronounced among women who were neither NHW nor NHB. In contrast, O'Connor et al. observed the inverse relationship between aMED and incident T2D was strongest among NHB women in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities study [6]. However, other studies have reported no association between healthy dietary indices (e.g., aMED, DASH, aHEI, and HEI-2010) and incident T2D among NHB women [7] or a combined race and ethnicity category of NHB and Hispanic women [31]. Future studies in diverse populations are needed to confirm these findings.

This study had several strengths. The prospective study design minimized the potential for reverse causality. Given the large sample size, we had the statistical power to detect differences in the association between dietary indices and incident T2D within strata of potential effect modifiers. Due to the comprehensive data collection methods in the Sister Study, we were able to adjust for multiple confounders. Additionally, the attrition rate in the Sister Study is low. Despite these strengths, dietary data were only collected at baseline, and we were unable to capture changes in dietary habits over time. Diabetes status was based on self-report, which left our study susceptible to misclassification bias. However, self-reported T2D has relatively high negative (> 90%) and positive (~ 80%) predictive values among women in the US [39]. In addition, evaluation of hemoglobin A1C levels in a subset of our population suggested that undetected T2D was limited [40].

In conclusion, higher diet quality, as assessed by four dietary indices was associated with reduced risk of T2D, and associations were strongest among women with higher income/lower neighborhood deprivation. Attenuated associations among participants with lower individual SES and higher neighborhood deprivation suggest that other risk factors play a larger role in T2D incidence than diet quality among individuals with low SES. Future

studies are needed to confirm the potential socioeconomic disparities in the relationship between alignment with healthy eating patterns and T2D risk.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funding:

BC is supported by grant number T32-GM081740 from NIH-NIGMS. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the NIGMS or NIH. This work was supported, in part, by the Intramural Research Program of the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences [Z01-ES044005]. This work was also partially supported by a grant from the Arkansas Breast Cancer Research Program.

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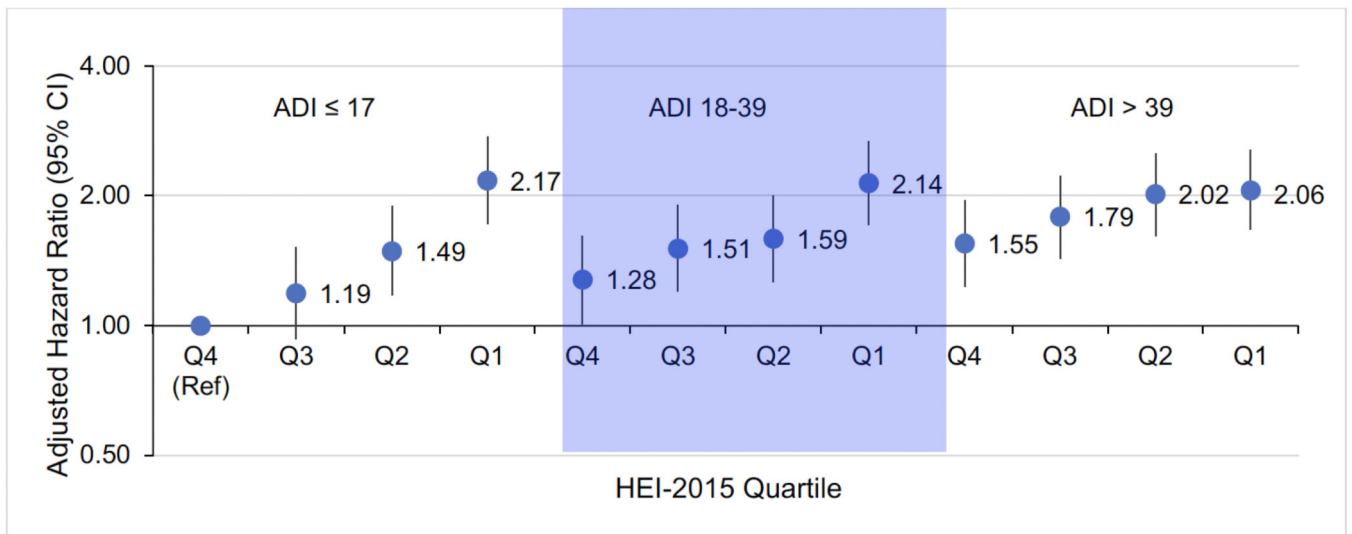


Figure 1.

Plot of the joint associations of HEI-2015 and ADI with type 2 diabetes incidence.

HEI-2015 quartile ranges: Q1: 65.75568, Q2: 65.75569–72.8042, Q3: 72.8043–79.0720,

Q4: > 79.0720

Table 1.

Characteristics of Sister Study participants at baseline by HEI-2015 quartiles

Characteristics	Q1 (N=10059)		Q2 (N=10061)		Q3 (N=10061)		Q4 (N=10062)	
	Mean (SD)	N	Mean (SD)	N	Mean (SD)	N	Mean (SD)	N
Age at baseline, years	52.5 (8.7)		54.4 (8.8)		55.9 (8.7)		57.9 (8.6)	
BMI at baseline, kg/m ²	28.5 (6.2)		27.6 (5.7)		26.8 (5.3)		25.7 (4.9)	
Total energy intake, kcal/day	1664.7 (668.1)		1623.6 (616.1)		1622.5 (577.6)		1629.8 (525.3)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Race and Ethnicity*								
Non-Hispanic White	8585	85.4	8705	86.5	8820	87.7	9008	89.5
Non-Hispanic Black	804	8.0	809	8.0	738	7.3	598	5.9
Other	670	6.7	547	5.4	503	5.0	456	4.5
Educational Attainment								
High school diploma	2040	20.3	1428	14.2	1165	11.6	1086	10.8
Some college	3885	38.6	3397	33.8	3182	31.6	2797	27.8
College degree	4134	41.1	5236	52.0	5714	56.8	6179	61.4
Household Income								
<\$50,000	2684	26.7	2157	21.4	2073	20.6	2218	22.0
\$50,000-\$99,999	4301	42.8	4246	42.2	4133	41.1	4063	40.4
100,000	3074	30.6	3658	36.4	3855	38.3	3781	37.6
ADI								
17	2581	25.7	3243	32.2	3497	34.8	3754	37.3
18-39	3119	31.0	3235	32.1	3190	31.7	3258	32.4
> 39	4359	43.3	3583	35.6	3374	33.5	3050	30.3
Smoking Status								
Never	5209	51.8	5690	56.6	5845	58.1	6079	60.4
> 0 and < 10 pack-years	1973	19.6	2240	22.3	2325	23.1	2398	23.8
10 and < 20 pack-years	1051	10.5	948	9.4	895	8.9	777	7.7
20 pack-years	1826	18.2	1183	11.8	996	9.9	808	8.0

Characteristics	Q1 (N=10059)		Q2 (N=10061)		Q3 (N=10061)		Q4 (N=10062)	
	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)
Alcohol Consumption								
Never	310	3.1	294	2.9	305	3.0	357	3.6
Former	1661	16.5	1325	13.2	1157	11.5	1323	13.2
Current drinker, <1 drink/day	6770	67.3	6885	68.4	7005	69.6	6976	69.3
Current drinker, 1–1.9 drink/day	812	8.1	984	9.8	1047	10.4	941	9.4
Current drinker, 2 drink/day	506	5.0	573	5.7	547	5.4	465	4.6
Hormone Therapy Use								
None	6596	65.6	6079	60.4	5673	56.4	5082	50.5
Estrogen only	1780	17.7	1817	18.1	1945	19.3	2077	20.6
Progesterone or combination therapy	1683	16.7	2165	21.5	2443	24.3	2903	28.9
Hormonal Birth Control Use								
No	1185	11.8	1277	12.7	1336	13.3	1740	17.3
Yes	8874	88.2	8784	87.3	8725	86.7	8322	82.7
Menopausal Status								
Premenopausal	4590	45.6	3893	38.7	3274	32.5	2495	24.8
Postmenopausal	5469	54.4	6168	61.3	6787	67.5	7567	75.2
High Cholesterol								
No	8355	83.1	8260	82.1	8093	80.4	8011	79.6
Yes	1704	16.9	1801	17.9	1968	19.6	2051	20.4
Hypertension								
No hypertension	4704	46.8	4917	48.9	4886	48.6	5205	51.7
Pre-hypertensive	752	7.5	712	7.1	781	7.8	719	7.2
Hypertensive	4603	45.8	4432	44.0	4394	43.7	4138	41.1
Vitamin/Supplement Use								
None	1144	11.4	937	9.3	779	7.7	668	6.6
Few days/month or 1–3 days/week	1170	11.6	1271	12.6	1128	11.2	867	8.6
4–6 days per week	1116	11.1	1373	13.7	1489	14.8	1380	13.7
Everyday	3131	31.1	3939	39.2	4670	46.4	5656	56.2

Characteristics	Q1 (N=10059)		Q2 (N=10061)		Q3 (N=10061)		Q4 (N=10062)	
	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)
Missing	3498	34.8	2541	25.3	1995	19.8	1491	14.8
Family History of Type 2 Diabetes								
No	3789	37.7	4058	40.3	4032	40.1	4214	41.9
Yes	5336	53.1	5198	51.7	5248	52.2	5103	50.7
Missing	934	9.3	805	8.0	781	7.8	745	7.4
Quintiles of MET-hours of physical activity/week								
24	9022	89.7	8339	82.9	7827	77.8	7056	70.1
25–38	615	6.1	967	9.6	1194	11.9	1555	15.5
39–53	252	2.5	418	4.2	557	5.5	809	8.0
53–75	121	1.2	233	2.3	330	3.3	414	4.1
> 75	49	0.5	104	1.0	153	1.5	228	2.3

Abbreviations: HEL-2015, Healthy Eating Index 2015; BMI, body mass index; ADI, area deprivation index, type 2 diabetes; MET, metabolic equivalent

Quartile ranges: Q1: 65.75568, Q2: 65.75569–72.8042, Q3: 72.8043–79.0720, Q4: > 79.0720

* Women in the “Other” race and ethnicity category identified as non-Hispanic for ethnicity and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Native, or had no specified race

Hazard Ratios (HR) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the associations of dietary pattern scores and socioeconomic indicators with incident type 2 diabetes

Table 2:

Dietary Patterns					
	Cases/person-years	HR	95% CI	P _{trend}	
HEI-2015^a					<.0001
Q1	823/99743	1.00	Ref		
Q2	643/102040	0.84	0.75, 0.93		
Q3	553/102928	0.74	0.66, 0.82		
Q4	467/104044	0.63	0.55, 0.71		
Continuous	2486/408756	0.83	0.80, 0.87		
aMED^b					<.0001
Q1	617/86458	1.00	Ref		
Q2	899/133928	0.93	0.84, 1.03		
Q3	399/68607	0.80	0.70, 0.92		
Q4	571/119763	0.66	0.58, 0.75		
Continuous	2486/408756	0.84	0.80, 0.88		
DASH^a					<.0001
Q1	819/93290	1.00	Ref		
Q2	718/115123	0.76	0.69, 0.84		
Q3	469/90833	0.65	0.58, 0.73		
Q4	480/109509	0.57	0.51, 0.65		
Continuous	2486/408756	0.80	0.76, 0.83		
aHEI^b					<.0001
Q1	824/99386	1.00	Ref		
Q2	679/101546	0.87	0.79, 0.97		
Q3	571/103571	0.75	0.67, 0.83		
Q4	412/104253	0.58	0.51, 0.65		
Continuous	2486/408756	0.81	0.77, 0.84		

Dietary Patterns				
	Cases/person-years	HR	95% CI	P _{trend}
SES Indicators				
	Cases/person-years	HR	95% CI	
ADI^c				<.0001
17	587/135893	1.00	ref	
18-39	769/131237	1.15	1.03, 1.28	
> 39	1130/141626	1.31	1.18, 1.46	
Educational Attainment^c				0.002
High school diploma	434/55271	1.00	ref	
Some college	946/130949	1.03	0.91, 1.15	
College degree	1106/222536	0.87	0.77, 0.98	
Household Income^c				<.0001
<\$50,000	775/88477	1.00	ref	
\$50,000-\$99,999	1100/170631	0.88	0.80, 0.97	
100,000	611/149648	0.67	0.60, 0.76	

Abbreviations: ADI, area deprivation index; aHEI, alternative Healthy Eating Index; aMED, alternate Mediterranean Diet; DASH, Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension; HEI-2015, Healthy Eating Index 2015; SES, socioeconomic status

Quartile ranges:

HEI-2015: Q1: 65.75568, Q2: 65.75569–72.8042, Q3: 72.8043–79.0720, Q4: > 79.0720 aMED: Q1: 2, Q2: 3–4, Q3: 5, Q4: > 5

DASH: Q1: 20, Q2: 21–24, Q3: 25–27, Q4: > 27

aHEI: Q1: 52.07, Q2: 52.08–60.44, Q3: 60.45–68.81, Q4: > 68.81

^aAdjusted for race, income, education, menopausal status, smoking status, alcohol consumption, energy intake, physical activity, vitamin/supplement use, hormone therapy, hormonal contraceptive use, family history of type 2 diabetes, and ADI

^bAdjusted for all variables in ^a with the exception of alcohol consumption

^cAdjusted for all variables in ^a, and mutually adjusted for income, education, and ADI.

* Age is the primary time scale, and thus, not included as a covariate in the multivariable models.

Table 3. Associations between dietary pattern scores and incident type 2 diabetes stratified by race, education, income, and ADI

Quartiles of HEL-2015 ^a					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	P _{interaction}
Race and Ethnicity					0.24
Non-Hispanic White	1.00 (ref)	0.83 (0.74, 0.94)	0.71 (0.62, 0.81)	0.61 (0.53, 0.70)	
Non-Hispanic Black	1.00 (ref)	0.82 (0.63, 1.09)	0.76 (0.57, 1.02)	0.82 (0.59, 1.13)	
Other	1.00 (ref)	0.84 (0.58, 1.22)	0.93 (0.64, 1.35)	0.51 (0.32, 0.82)	
Educational Attainment					0.07
High school diploma	1.00 (ref)	0.80 (0.62, 1.03)	0.79 (0.60, 1.03)	0.77 (0.58, 1.02)	
Some college	1.00 (ref)	0.86 (0.73, 1.01)	0.78 (0.65, 0.93)	0.68 (0.55, 0.83)	
College degree	1.00 (ref)	0.83 (0.70, 0.98)	0.68 (0.58, 0.81)	0.56 (0.46, 0.66)	
Household Income					0.06
<\$50,000	1.00 (ref)	0.86 (0.71, 1.05)	0.94 (0.77, 1.14)	0.78 (0.63, 0.96)	
\$50,000-\$99,999	1.00 (ref)	0.87 (0.75, 1.02)	0.71 (0.60, 0.84)	0.57 (0.47, 0.69)	
100,000	1.00 (ref)	0.74 (0.60, 0.92)	0.57 (0.46, 0.72)	0.56 (0.44, 0.70)	
ADI					0.0007
17	1.00 (ref)	0.68 (0.55, 0.84)	0.53 (0.42, 0.67)	0.44 (0.35, 0.56)	
18-39	1.00 (ref)	0.75 (0.62, 0.91)	0.71 (0.58, 0.87)	0.61 (0.49, 0.76)	
> 39	1.00 (ref)	0.98 (0.84, 1.14)	0.87 (0.74, 1.02)	0.75 (0.63, 0.90)	
Quartiles of aMED ^b					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	P _{interaction}
Race and Ethnicity					0.02
Non-Hispanic White	1.00 (ref)	0.96 (0.85, 1.08)	0.76 (0.65, 0.88)	0.67 (0.57, 0.77)	
Non-Hispanic Black	1.00 (ref)	0.84 (0.64, 1.12)	0.87 (0.61, 1.23)	0.68 (0.49, 0.96)	
Other	1.00 (ref)	0.75 (0.51, 1.09)	1.02 (0.67, 1.54)	0.50 (0.31, 0.78)	
Educational Attainment					0.01
High school diploma	1.00 (ref)	1.01 (0.80, 1.27)	0.83 (0.60, 1.16)	0.93 (0.68, 1.25)	
Some college	1.00 (ref)	0.93 (0.79, 1.09)	0.80 (0.64, 0.98)	0.69 (0.56, 0.85)	

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Quartiles of HEI-2015 ^a					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	P _{interaction}
College degree	1.00 (ref)	0.88 (0.74, 1.05)	0.77 (0.63, 0.94)	0.57 (0.47, 0.69)	0.32
Household Income					
<\$50,000	1.00 (ref)	1.09 (0.91, 1.31)	0.97 (0.76, 1.24)	0.89 (0.71, 1.13)	
\$50,000-\$99,999	1.00 (ref)	0.86 (0.74, 1.01)	0.73 (0.60, 0.89)	0.59 (0.48, 0.71)	
100,000	1.00 (ref)	0.87 (0.70, 1.09)	0.74 (0.56, 0.96)	0.54 (0.42, 0.71)	0.02
ADI					
17	1.00 (ref)	0.79 (0.63, 0.99)	0.76 (0.58, 0.98)	0.42 (0.32, 0.55)	
18-39	1.00 (ref)	0.92(0.76, 1.12)	0.73 (0.57, 0.93)	0.74 (0.59, 0.94)	
> 39	1.00 (ref)	1.00 (0.86, 1.16)	0.85 (0.69, 1.03)	0.75 (0.62, 0.91)	
Quartiles of DASH ^b					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	P _{interaction}
Race and Ethnicity					0.44
Non-Hispanic White	1.00 (ref)	0.75 (0.67, 0.85)	0.64 (0.56, 0.73)	0.59 (0.52, 0.68)	
Non-Hispanic Black	1.00 (ref)	0.84 (0.65, 1.08)	0.75 (0.55, 1.03)	0.57 (0.39, 0.83)	
Other	1.00 (ref)	0.79 (0.56, 1.12)	0.75 (0.49, 1.15)	0.53 (0.33, 0.85)	
Educational Attainment					0.03
High school diploma	1.00 (ref)	0.87 (0.69, 1.09)	0.63 (0.47, 0.85)	0.70 (0.52, 0.94)	
Some college	1.00 (ref)	0.74 (0.63, 0.87)	0.70 (0.58, 0.85)	0.65 (0.53, 0.79)	
College degree	1.00 (ref)	0.74 (0.63, 0.87)	0.61 (0.51, 0.73)	0.50 (0.42, 0.60)	
Household Income					0.70
<\$50,000	1.00 (ref)	0.80 (0.66, 0.96)	0.77 (0.62, 0.95)	0.72 (0.58, 0.90)	
\$50,000-\$99,999	1.00 (ref)	0.78 (0.67, 0.90)	0.58 (0.49, 0.70)	0.51 (0.42, 0.61)	
100,000	1.00 (ref)	0.70 (0.57, 0.87)	0.64 (0.51, 0.81)	0.53 (0.42, 0.67)	
ADI					0.14
17	1.00 (ref)	0.65 (0.52, 0.82)	0.58 (0.45, 0.73)	0.47 (0.37, 0.59)	
18-39	1.00 (ref)	0.76 (0.63, 0.91)	0.61 (0.49, 0.75)	0.56 (0.45, 0.70)	
> 39	1.00 (ref)	0.81 (0.70, 0.94)	0.72 (0.60, 0.85)	0.64 (0.53, 0.77)	
Quartiles of aHEI ^b					

Quartiles of HEI-2015 ^a						
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	P _{interaction}	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	P _{interaction}	
Race and Ethnicity					0.54	
Non-Hispanic White	1.00 (ref)	0.85 (0.76, 0.96)	0.77 (0.68, 0.87)	0.59 (0.51, 0.68)		
Non-Hispanic Black	1.00 (ref)	0.96 (0.74, 1.25)	0.68 (0.49, 0.93)	0.62 (0.43, 0.90)		
Other	1.00 (ref)	0.99 (0.69, 1.43)	0.82 (0.56, 1.21)	0.55 (0.33, 0.92)		
Educational Attainment					0.17	
High school diploma	1.00 (ref)	0.93 (0.73, 1.17)	0.88 (0.68, 1.13)	0.69 (0.49, 0.97)		
Some college	1.00 (ref)	0.89 (0.76, 1.05)	0.75 (0.63, 0.90)	0.57 (0.46, 0.70)		
College degree	1.00 (ref)	0.81 (0.69, 0.96)	0.70 (0.59, 0.82)	0.55 (0.46, 0.65)		
Household Income					0.13	
<\$50,000	1.00 (ref)	0.85 (0.71, 1.03)	0.87 (0.71, 1.05)	0.73 (0.58, 0.92)		
\$50,000-\$99,999	1.00 (ref)	0.85 (0.72, 0.99)	0.70 (0.59, 0.82)	0.53 (0.44, 0.64)		
100,000	1.00 (ref)	0.96 (0.77, 1.19)	0.73 (0.58, 0.92)	0.53 (0.41, 0.68)		
ADI					0.37	
17	1.00 (ref)	0.78 (0.62, 0.98)	0.65 (0.52, 0.82)	0.48 (0.38, 0.61)		
18-39	1.00 (ref)	0.85 (0.71, 1.03)	0.78 (0.64, 0.94)	0.57 (0.46, 0.72)		
> 39	1.00 (ref)	0.91 (0.79, 1.06)	0.76 (0.65, 0.90)	0.64 (0.52, 0.78)		

Abbreviations: ADI, area deprivation index; aHEI, alternative Healthy Eating Index; aMED, alternate Mediterranean Diet; DASH, Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension; HEI-2015, Healthy Eating Index 2015

Quartile ranges:

HEI-2015: Q1: 65.75568, Q2: 65.75569-72.8042, Q3: 72.8043-79.0720, Q4: > 79.0720

aMED: Q1: 2, Q2: 3-4, Q3: 5, Q4: > 5

DASH: Q1: 20, Q2: 21-24, Q3: 25-27, Q4: > 27

aHEI: Q1: 52.07, Q2: 52.08-60.44, Q3: 60.45-68.81, Q4: > 68.81

^aAdjusted for menopausal status, smoking status, alcohol consumption, energy intake, physical activity, vitamin/supplement use, hormone therapy, hormonal contraceptive use, family history of type 2 diabetes, and mutually adjusted for race, income, education, and ADI

^bAdjusted for all variables in ^a with the exception of alcohol consumption