Key Nutrients as You Age and Their Food Sources

Nutrient	How much per day:	Food sources include:
Vitamin B12	Adults: 2.4 mcg (micrograms)	 Animal foods such as meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy products Fortified foods, including some breakfast cereals and non-dairy "milks"
Folate/Folic Acid	Adults: 400 mcg	 Fortified breakfast cereals Enriched bread, flour (including corn masa flour), pasta Beef liver Vegetables including asparagus, brussels sprouts, spinach, and mustard greens Peanuts Black-eyed peas, kidney beans
Calcium	Adults 50 & younger: 1,000 mg (milligrams) Adult men 51-70: 1,000 mg Adult women 51-70: 1,200 mg Adults 71 & older: 1,200 mg	 Dairy products Fortified beverages including some juices and non-dairy "milks" Fortified products such as tofu and breakfast cereals Canned sardines and salmon with bones Some vegetables including kale, broccoli, and bok choy
Vitamin D	Adults up to age 70: 15 mcg (600 IU (International Units)) Adults 71 and older: 20 mcg (800 IU)	 Fortified foods, including milk, many plant-based "milks", and breakfast cereals Fatty fish such as salmon and tuna
Magnesium	Men: 400-420 mg Women: 310-320 mg	 Green leafy vegetables Whole grains Nuts and seeds Milk, yogurt Legumes Fortified foods

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Nutrient	How much per day:	Food sources include:
Fiber	Adult men over 50: 28 grams Adult women over 50: 22 grams	 Beans and peas Nuts Whole grains Fruits Vegetables
Potassium	Adult men: 3,400 mg Adult women: 2,600 mg	 Fruits Beans and legumes Milk and yogurt Fish, meat, and poultry
Omega-3 Fats	There are not official recommended amounts for most of the omega-3 fatty acids	 Flaxseed Walnuts Some plant-based oils: flaxseed oil, soybean oil, canola oil Chia seeds Fortified foods Fish such as salmon, tuna, and sardines

Vitamin B12 - Vitamin B12 is important for the health of the nervous system and red blood cell formation.

Folate – Folate (vitamin B-9) is important in red blood cell formation and healthy cell growth and function.

Calcium - Calcium is a mineral involved in bone and muscle health.

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Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin that regulates the absorption of calcium and phosphorus and facilitates normal immune system function.

Magnesium – Magnesium is a mineral that helps with muscle and nerve function, regulates blood pressure, and supports the immune system.

Fiber—Dietary fiber is a carbohydrate that helps the body with digestion, makes you feel full, and prevents constipation.

Potassium – This mineral helps the body regulate fluid, send nerve signals, and regulate muscle contractions.

Omega-3 Fats - Omega-3 fatty acids are "healthy fats" that may support your heart health.

(Sources: National Institute on Aging; National Institutes of Health, Office of Dietary Supplements; National Osteoporosis Foundation; U.S. Department of Agriculture; WebMD)

Complied by Community Vitality & Health Extension Educator Vicki Hayman

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