

Erratum

This erratum contains updated information regarding two issues in the 2006/2007 Annual Report, *Promoting Healthy Lifestyles: Policy, Program and Personal Recommendations for Reducing Cancer Risk*.

1) On page 10, Table 1 – American Cancer Society (ACS) Guidelines on Nutrition and Physical Activity for Cancer Prevention, a bullet point was inadvertently omitted under number 3, Consume a Healthy Diet, with an Emphasis on Plant Sources. It should be the second bullet point in the list and should read:

- Eat five or more servings of a variety of vegetables and fruits each day.

Readers wishing to review the guidelines in full should consult: Kushi, LH, Byers T, Doyle C, Bandera EV, et al. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* 2006;56:254-281.

2) Since publication of this report, the Panel has received comments regarding the estimated number of premature deaths that can be attributed to obesity and the magnitude of obesity's contribution to premature death relative to other contributing factors (Page 9, third paragraph). In large measure, these comments have reflected a lack of consensus in the field about eliminating data about groups of people, for example smokers or those with chronic disease, to obviate potential confounding factors and biases. Currently, no population-based data exist to support ranking causes of death such as obesity versus smoking.

Another issue to be taken into account when reading the literature on this topic is a lack of clarity in terminology; for example, terms such as “premature deaths,” “excess deaths,” and “preventable deaths” are sometimes used interchangeably but without consistent or clearly stated definition. Similarly, “contributing factor,” “underlying causes,” “death attributable to,” and “death associated with” are used without clear definition to characterize the impact of various lifestyle factors on mortality. This problem complicates comparisons of estimates produced by different researchers. Uniform definitions for terms such as these would be useful in developing and comparing estimates of the impact of lifestyle factors.

The Panel acknowledges the complexities involved in calculating the impact of lifestyle factors on health and anticipates that continuing efforts to quantify the magnitude of obesity's contribution to causes of death (e.g., heart disease, cancer) will refine these estimates. Doing so will be important in charting the health effects of the nation's escalating obesity problem, including its impact on mortality as well as on morbidity.