# HEALTHMATTERS



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First Lady Michelle Obama joins a group of elementary students to harvest fresh vegetables from the White House garden.

## Turn Your Habits to Healthy Eating

### Tips for the holiday season

For many of us more than half of annual weight gain occurs between Thanksgiving and New Year's. Some stud-

these few weeks. And it's no gather branches, berries and wonder if you count up the leaves to build a beautiful fall cookies, cakes and cups full of centerpiece for your table. eggnog we just can't say no to at holiday parties.

and filling ourselves with holi- samples of their favorite ies say the average American day cheer, we're also filling up dishes. time. Those empty calories add feet busy. People can often up fast. So before your belly starts shaking like a bowl full of jelly, check out these tips:

> Eat healthy first. At holiday parties where tempting foods are often served, eat something healthy beforehand so you're not Bake your favorite cookies or likely to overindulge. Interact away from the buffet where it's easy to graze mindlessly. Serve yourself and move to a different part of the room.

Eat breakfast. Studies show that if you skip breakfast, you end up consuming more calories throughout the day than of high-fiber cereal.

reach for tall, slender glasses. A Cornell University study showed adults who drank from tall, slender glasses drank about 19 percent less than those who drank from short, wide glasses.

Make your holidays more based. Go for a long walk before think!

puts on up to 5 to 7 pounds in your meals and have the family

Rid your home of leftovers by having festive gift contain-While we're chatting away ers for everyone to take home

with calories ... one nibble at a Keep your hands, mind and get bored during the holidays and turn to food. Plan on reading a novel, taking photos, playing a game, writing in a journal or participating in a fun run.

Practice portion control. pie, but make the cookies smaller than usual and cut the pie in smaller slices. Take one piece and walk away. Let's face it, some desserts should be avoided. One slice of pecan pie can be as much as 900 calories - ouch!

Cook smart when making those who start off with a bowl your delicious holiday recipes. Use a heart-healthy spread Watch your liquid calories and instead of butter, add dried fruit and reduce the amount of chocolate chips in cookies, cut your sugar amount by half or use a sugar substitute, or grill green beans instead of baking the usual casserole.

These little steps could save event-based and less food- you more calories than you

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