Some sugars are naturally in fruits, vegetables, milk & grains. Other sugars — the kind added to foods, drinks and condiments during processing — may increase heart disease risk. A typical 12-ounce can of regular soda has 130 calories and 8 teaspoons of sugar. Added sugar also sneaks into seemingly “better for you” beverages, such as sports drinks, fruit drinks and flavored milks. A D D E D  S U G A R  S O U R C E S

FIND IT

Read food labels. Syrup, molasses, cane juice and fruit juice concentrate mean added sugar as well as most ingredients ending with the letters “ose” (like fructose & dextrose).

Enjoy fruit for dessert most days and limit traditional desserts to special occasions. Cut back on the amount of sugar you add to things you eat or drink often. Buy 100% juice with no added sugars.

REPLACE IT

Drink sparkling water, unsweetened tea or sugar-free beverages.

Enhance foods with spices — try cinnamon, nutmeg or ginger. Add fresh or dried fruit to cereal and oatmeal.

American Heart Association recommends limiting added sugars to no more than 100 calories a day (6 teaspoons) for most women & no more than 150 calories a day (9 teaspoons) for most men.

Eating and drinking a lot of added sugar is one probable cause of the obesity epidemic in the U.S. It’s also linked to increased risks for high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and inflammation in the body.

FOR MORE TIPS ON HEALTHY EATING, COOKING AND RECIPES: HEART.ORG/SIMPLECOOKING ©2014 American Heart Association. 4/3DS7892