



# How Much Sugar is in Your Drink?

## Did You Know?

When drinking a standard 20 ounce bottle of cola, it is the equivalent of eating 16 sugar cubes or 16 teaspoons of sugar!

A child who drinks just a can of regular soda a day could add an extra 15 pounds in a year.

## What are Sugar Sweetened Beverages?

Sugar-sweetened beverages are drinks sweetened with sugar, high-fructose corn syrup, or other caloric sweeteners. They are a source of nutrition-less or "empty" calories and are suspected of greatly contributing to the current obesity epidemic. Additionally, some popular sweetened beverages contain caffeine that can have a negative impact on children's health.

## Sugar Content in Popular Beverages

Don't be fooled by the grams of sugar and calories listed on the standard beverage bottle label, which is for just *one* serving. Often times, in a 20 oz. bottle there are 2.5 servings. However, many children will drink the entire bottle rather than sticking with just one serving from the bottle. So, in reality they are consuming 2.5 times the amount of sugar and calories listed.

The beverage examples listed below are container sizes of sugar sweetened beverages commonly purchased at convenience stores and vending machines, which is the same as the amount served at many restaurants.



Sugar Sweetened Beverage	Common Size (fluid ounce)	Sugar (grams)	Total teaspoons Sugar	Calories
Regular Cola	20 oz. bottle	65	16	240
Citrus Soda	20 oz. bottle	77	19	290
Sweetened Iced Tea	20 oz. can	58	15	219
Sports Drinks	20 oz. bottle	35	9	130
Vitamin Waters	20 oz. bottle	33	8	125
Sweetened Lemonade	20 oz. bottle	67	17	260

Whenever possible, provide children with healthful beverage alternatives that are low in sugar, calories, and caffeine.