

Make a change for yourself... make a change for the better.

Ask yourself:

❑ **Am I active enough?**

To get the most out of exercise, be active 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week. Everyday activities such as brisk walking are effective and free. At least twice a week, try to do muscle strengthening exercises such as yoga, hand weights, sit-ups, or push-ups. Exercise will help you maintain a healthy weight, sleep better, reduce stress, and lower your risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. For more information, visit: www.doh.wa.gov/youandyourfamily/nutritionandphysicalactivity/ActiveLiving.aspx

❑ **Could I be eating better?**

Build your meals around fresh vegetables, fruits, and other foods high in calcium and fiber, such as leafy greens, whole grains, and low-fat or fat-free dairy products. Craving foods or beverages with a lot of fat, salt, sugar, or caffeine? Try to avoid too much of them and remember that those foods only make you feel good for a short time. Focus on healthier foods and you will not only feel better, you will reduce your risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. For more information, visit:

www.doh.wa.gov/youandyourfamily/nutritionandphysicalactivity/HealthyEating.aspx



❑ **Why should I take a daily multivitamin?**

Your body needs vitamins to function and you don't always get enough through meals. Two important ones for women are folic acid and vitamin D. Folic acid is a B vitamin that your body needs daily to make healthy new cells and to help prevent some major birth defects of the baby's brain and spine. Vitamin D helps your body build healthy bones. One way to get the recommended amount is to take a daily multivitamin. Make sure the label says 400 mcg or 100% next to folic acid and includes at least 600 IU of vitamin D3. For more information, visit: <https://ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/MVMS-Consumer>

❑ **How are my teeth?**

Oral health is an essential part of general health. Problems with teeth, gums, or other parts of the mouth can be related to other serious illnesses—like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Brush your teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and floss daily. To find a dentist, visit:

www.doh.wa.gov/youandyourfamily/oralhealth/FindingDentalCare.aspx

❑ **Does it run in the family?**

Some diseases—like diabetes, heart disease, osteoporosis, and cancer—may run in your family. Ask your family about their health. Keep a record of your family's health history and share it with your doctor. It's good to know now what your risks are and what you can do about them. Let your doctor know if you are adopted or do not know your family's health history. For more information on creating a family health history, visit <http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/genetics-and-health>

❑ **How often should I see my doctor?**

You should try to see your doctor every year or two for a check-up and to get the immunizations and tests you need, such as regular Pap and STD tests. Your doctor can help you stay healthy through prevention, screening, and treatment. Screening offers lifesaving opportunities to prevent health problems or catch them at an early stage, when they can be treated most easily. To learn more, visit:

www.womenshealth.gov/screening-tests-and-vaccines/index.html



❑ **Am I getting enough sleep?**

With your busy life, it is sometimes difficult to find the time to get enough sleep but you should be getting at least 7–9 hours of sleep every night. Not getting enough sleep may increase your risk of depression, obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. For tips on how to get a good night's rest, visit: www.cdc.gov/Sleep/index.html

❑ **Could my sadness actually be depression?**

Everybody feels sad sometimes, but sadness that goes on for more than 2 weeks can affect your relationships, your work, and your life. It may be a sign of depression. Talk to someone you trust if you feel sad. Your mental health is essential to your overall health. If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, call the 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline for help: **1-800-273-8255**

❑ **Are my relationships safe?**

Women who have trusting, honest, and respectful relationships are healthier. Relationships won't always be free of anger or hurt, but you should not feel scared, humiliated, or controlled. Think about your relationships. If you feel you are in an unsafe relationship of any kind, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline for help: **1-800-799-7233**

❑ **Am I protecting myself?**

If you are sexually active, take charge and prevent unintentional pregnancy, **STDs**, and **HIV**. Protect yourself and choose birth control that's right for you. If your birth control method fails, know your options, including emergency contraception. For more birth control information, visit: <http://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/birth-control-methods.html?from=AtoZ>. For STD information, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/std/prevention/default.htm>

❑ **How can I quit smoking?**

Quitting smoking isn't easy but it is one of the best things you can do for your health. E-cigarettes may not be safe or a proven way to help you quit. There are effective and free resources, such as the Washington State Quitline or a smart phone app. Secondhand smoke is also harmful; ask family and friends to smoke outside. To get help for you or a friend, call **1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669)** or visit www.quitline.com for confidential help to quit.

❑ **How much is too much to drink?**

Drinking too much alcohol can lead to serious injuries or health problems. Women should limit their use to no more than 3 drinks on any single day and no more than 7 drinks per week. One drink equals: 1 beer (12 oz), or 1 glass of wine (5 oz), or 1 shot of 80-proof hard liquor (1.5 oz) in a mixed drink. If you are concerned about your drinking, call the 24-hour Washington Recovery Help Line: **1-866-789-1511** or visit: <http://warecoveryhelpline.org>

❑ **Am I abusing drugs?**

Sometimes drug abuse is not obvious. You may have started a medication, like pain killers, and now you cannot stop. If you are misusing over-the-counter or prescription medications or using recreational (marijuana and alcohol) or illegal drugs, help is available for you. Call the 24-hour Washington Recovery Help Line: **1-866-789-1511** or visit: <http://warecoveryhelpline.org>

❑ **Is my home healthy?**

A healthy home is dry, clean, safe, aired-out, pest-free, toxic free, and well-maintained. Fix water leaks that cause mold and mildew, dust with a wet mop or rag to reduce house dust, and choose safer cleaning products. To get more tips for a healthy home and learn about household asthma triggers, lead in paint, mold, pests, and healthy drinking water, visit www.doh.wa.gov/healthyhomes

www.doh.wa.gov/youandyourfamily/WomensHealth.aspx