

## Survey of Children’s Hospitals Reveals Hazardous Hot Dogs The Physicians Committee 2017 Hospital Food Report

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The Physicians Committee’s 2017 Hospital Food Report reveals that 72 of 102 surveyed U.S. children’s hospitals continue to serve hot dogs, despite the World Health Organization declaring that processed meats, including hot dogs, are “carcinogenic to humans” and that there is [no amount safe for consumption](#). Hot dogs are also the [No. 1 choking risk for children](#).

A hospital was surveyed for the report if it was listed in U.S. News & World Report’s 78 Ranked Children’s Hospitals or Becker’s 25 Largest Children’s Hospitals. If a state did not have a hospital on either list, the largest children’s hospital in the state was included on the survey.

Parents whose children receive treatment in these hospitals have the expectation that the overall food environment is designed to help patients heal. According to a recent study published in [Preventing Chronic Disease](#), a journal of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Hospitals are ideal venues for modeling healthy eating—a healthful food environment reinforces clinical recommendations and complements hospitals’ missions to support community health.”

Hospitals that choose to ban processed meats—and instead offer plant-based options that help prevent cancer, heart disease, and diabetes—model healthy eating and better support the health of patients, staff, visitors, and the surrounding community.

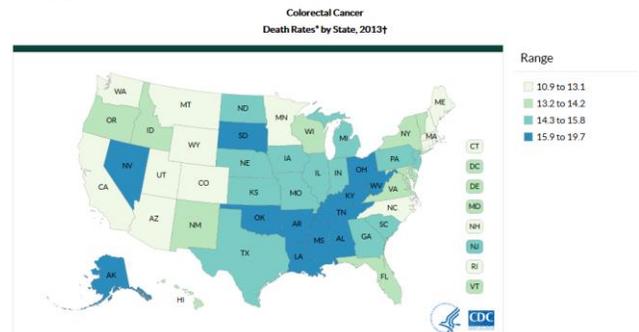
### Colon Cancer Corridor

The health risks of consuming hot dogs and other processed meats—such as pepperoni, bacon, sausage, and deli meats—are well-documented. Despite the evidence against processed meats, 72 of the 102 surveyed children’s hospitals feature hot dogs on patient menus. Hot dogs serve as an indicator of a disease-promoting food environment.

Eleven of the hospitals that serve hot dogs to patients are located in the “colon cancer corridor,” a cluster of nine states from Ohio in the north to Louisiana in the south with the highest [death rates from colorectal cancer](#), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The “colon cancer corridor” includes Ohio,

Deaths from Colorectal Cancer by State

Rates of dying from colorectal cancer also vary from state to state.



West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Children’s Hospital Located in Colon Cancer Corridor	Serves Hot Dogs?	State	State Colorectal Cancer Death Rates*
West Virginia University Children’s Hospital	No	West Virginia	19.70
Batson Children’s Hospital	No	Mississippi	18.60
Children’s Hospital, New Orleans	Yes	Louisiana	18.30
Arkansas Children’s Hospital	Yes	Arkansas	17.60
Children’s Hospital of Alabama	Yes	Alabama	17.50
University of Southern Alabama Children's and Women's Hospital	No	Alabama	17.50
Children’s Hospital at OU Medical Center	Yes	Oklahoma	17.30
Norton Children’s Hospital	No	Kentucky	16.80
Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital	Yes	Tennessee	16.40
Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital	Yes	Tennessee	16.40
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital	Yes	Tennessee	16.40
Akron Children’s Hospital	Yes	Ohio	16.10
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center	Yes	Ohio	16.10
Nationwide Children’s Hospital	Yes	Ohio	16.10
Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital	Yes	Ohio	16.10

\*State Colorectal Cancer Death Rates per 100,000, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/statistics/state.htm>

WHO declared processed meats, including hot dogs, “carcinogenic to humans” in 2015, classifying them in the same category as asbestos and tobacco products. The WHO report, published in [Lancet Oncology](#), is based on research from more than 800 studies looking at the cancer-causing properties of processed meats. The authors highlighted a meta-analysis that found each 50 gram portion of processed meat—approximately the size of a typical hot dog—eaten daily increases the risk of colorectal cancer by 18 percent.

“Particularly worrisome is the role of processed meats in children’s diets,” says [Mariana C. Stern, Ph.D.](#), a co-author of the WHO report. “Parents should know the risks associated with processed meats and learn to make alternative choices.”

A [review](#) published in the *Journal of Internal Medicine* in 2016 found that 50 grams of processed meat per day increases the risk for colorectal cancer, pancreatic cancer, death from heart disease, and diabetes by 18, 19, 24, and 32 percent, respectively. According to a recent study published in [JAMA Surgery](#), colon cancer is increasing in young people (ages 20 to 34 years).

“There are many benefits associated with increasing fruits and vegetables and reducing red meats—and clear benefits from reducing processed meats, given their salt, fat, and carcinogen content,” says Dr. Stern. “A healthy diet should be part of the conversation between a physician and a patient.”

## Conclusion

As evidence continues to link processed meats, including hot dogs, to cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, hospitals should re-evaluate their food environments to remove these products and provide patients, staff, and visitors more disease-fighting fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes.

### Appendix A – Surveyed hospitals that serve hot dogs

	Name	City	State	<a href="#">Colorectal Cancer Death Rates per 100,000*</a>
1.	Children's Hospital	New Orleans	La.	18.30
2.	Arkansas Children's Hospital	Little Rock	Ark.	17.60
3.	Children's Hospital of Alabama at UAB	Birmingham	Ala.	17.50
4.	Children's Hospital at Oklahoma University Medical Center	Oklahoma City	Okla.	17.30
5.	Renown Children's Hospital Renown Regional Medical Center	Reno	Nev.	16.80
6.	Sanford Children's Hospital	Sioux Falls	S.D.	16.60
7.	The Children's Hospital at Providence, Providence Alaska Medical Center	Anchorage	Alaska	16.60
8.	Le Bonheur Children's Hospital	Memphis	Tenn.	16.40
9.	Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt	Nashville	Tenn.	16.40
10.	St. Jude Children's Research Hospital	Memphis	Tenn.	16.40
11.	Akron Children's Hospital	Akron	Ohio	16.10
12.	Cincinnati Children's Hospital	Cincinnati	Ohio	16.10
13.	Nationwide Children's Hospital	Columbus	Ohio	16.10
14.	Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital	Cleveland	Ohio	16.10
15.	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Pa.	15.80
16.	Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of University of Pittsburgh Medical Center	Pittsburgh	Pa.	15.80
17.	Penn State Children's Hospital	Hershey	Pa.	15.80
18.	Advocate Children's Hospital	Oak Lawn	Ill.	15.70
19.	Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital	Chicago	Ill.	15.70
20.	Sanford Children's Hospital	Fargo	N.D.	15.70
21.	Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics	Kansas City	Mo.	15.50
22.	Saint Louis Children's Hospital	Saint Louis	Mo.	15.50
23.	SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center	Saint Louis	Mo.	15.50
24.	Children's Mercy Hospital	Wichita	Kan.	15.30
25.	Riley Children's Hospital	Indianapolis	Ind.	15.30
26.	Children's Hospital and Medical Center	Omaha	Neb.	15.00
27.	Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital	Charleston	S.C.	14.90
28.	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta	Atlanta	Ga.	14.80
29.	Children's Hospital of Georgia	Augusta	Ga.	14.80

30.	Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at RWJ University Hospital	New Brunswick	N.J.	14.60
31.	C.S. Mott Children's Hospital	Ann Arbor	Mich.	14.60
32.	Children's Medical Center of Dallas	Dallas	Texas	14.60
33.	Cook Children's Medical Center	Fort Worth	Texas	14.60
34.	Driscoll Children's Hospital	Corpus Christi	Texas	14.60
35.	Spectrum Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital	Grand Rapids	Mich.	14.60
36.	Texas Children's Hospital	Houston	Texas	14.60
37.	Children's National Medical Center	Washington	D.C.	14.20
38.	Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children	Honolulu	Hawaii	14.20
39.	University of New Mexico Children's Hospital	Albuquerque	N.M.	14.20
40.	Doernbecher Children's Hospital	Portland	Ore.	14.10
41.	American Family Children's Hospital	Madison	Wis.	14.00
42.	Children's Hospital of Wisconsin	Milwaukee	Wis.	14.00
43.	Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children	Wilmington	Del.	13.80
44.	Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital	New York	N.Y.	13.80
45.	Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center	New Hyde Park	N.Y.	13.80
46.	Upstate University Golisano Children's Hospital	Syracuse	N.Y.	13.80
47.	University of Virginia Children's Hospital	Charlottesville	Va.	13.60
48.	All Children's Hospital	St. Petersburg	Fla.	13.40
49.	Holtz Children's Hospital at UM Jackson Memorial Medical Center	Miami	Fla.	13.40
50.	UF Health Shands Children's Hospital	Gainesville	Fla.	13.40
51.	Wolfson Children's Hospital	Jacksonville	Fla.	13.40
52.	St. Luke's Children's Hospital at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center	Boise	Idaho	13.20
53.	Children's Hospital Los Angeles	Los Angeles	Calif.	13.10
54.	Children's Hospital of Orange County	Orange	Calif.	13.10
55.	Duke Children's Hospital and Health Center	Durham	N.C.	13.10
56.	Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford	Palo Alto	Calif.	13.10
57.	Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA	Los Angeles	Calif.	13.10
58.	Miller Children's Hospital	Long Beach	Calif.	13.10
59.	North Carolina Children's Hospital at UNC	Chapel Hill	N.C.	13.10
60.	Rady Children's Hospital	San Diego	Calif.	13.10
61.	UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals	San Francisco and Oakland	Calif.	13.10
62.	Valley Children's Hospital	Madera	Calif.	13.10
63.	Children's Hospital at Dartmouth	Lebanon	N.H.	13.00
64.	Phoenix Children's Hospital	Phoenix	Ariz.	13.00
65.	Boston Children's Hospital	Boston	Mass.	12.90
66.	Dana-Farber Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center	Boston	Mass.	12.90
67.	Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota	St. Paul/Minneapolis	Minn.	12.80
68.	Mayo Clinic Children's Center	Rochester	Minn.	12.80

69.	Seattle Children's	Seattle	Wash.	12.70
70.	The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center	Portland	Maine	12.50
71.	Yale New Haven Children's Hospital	New Haven	Conn.	11.80
72.	Primary Children's Medical Center	Salt Lake City	Utah	10.90

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/statistics/state.htm>

## Appendix B – Surveyed hospitals that don't serve hot dogs

	Name	City	State	<a href="#">Colorectal Cancer Death Rates per 100,000*</a>
1.	West Virginia University Children's Hospital	Morgantown	W.Va.	19.70
2.	Batson Children's Hospital at University of Mississippi Medical Center	Jackson	Miss.	18.60
3.	University of Southern Alabama Children and Women's Hospital	Mobile	Ala.	17.50
4.	Norton Children's Hospital	Louisville	Ky.	16.80
5.	Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital	Cleveland	Ohio	16.10
6.	Children's Hospital of Illinois	Peoria	Ill.	15.70
7.	University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital	Iowa City	Iowa	15.50
8.	The Children's Hospital Navicent Health	Macon	Ga.	14.80
9.	Children's Hospital of Michigan	Detroit	Mich.	14.60
10.	Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital	Houston	Texas	14.60
11.	Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas	Austin	Texas	14.60
12.	Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children	Dallas	Texas	14.60
13.	University of Vermont Children's Hospital	Burlington	Vt.	14.20
14.	Johns Hopkins Children's Center	Baltimore	Md.	14.00
15.	Children's Hospital at Montefiore	Bronx	N.Y.	13.80
16.	Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center	Valhalla	N.Y.	13.80
17.	New York Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Komansky Children's Hospital	New York	N.Y.	13.80
18.	Winthrop University Hospital Children's Medical Center	Mineola	N.Y.	13.80
19.	INOVA Children's Hospital	Falls Church	Va.	13.60
20.	Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital	Orlando	Fla.	13.40
21.	Joe Dimaggio Children's Hospital	Hollywood	Fla.	13.40
22.	Nicklaus Children's Hospital (Formerly Miami Children's Hospital)	Miami	Fla.	13.40
23.	Levine Children's Hospital at Carolinas Medical Center	Charlotte	N.C.	13.10
24.	UC Davis Children's Hospital	Sacramento	Calif.	13.10
25.	UC Davis Children's Hospital/Shriner's Hospitals for Children Northern California	Sacramento	Calif.	13.10
26.	Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island	Providence	R.I.	13.00

27.	MassGeneral Hospital for Children	Boston	Mass.	12.90
28.	University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital	Minneapolis	Minn.	12.80
29.	Shodair Children's Hospital	Helena	Mont.	12.30
30.	Children's Hospital of Colorado	Aurora	Colo.	12.10

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/statistics/state.htm>