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### **Caffeine Consumption**

Scientific Details

ffeine fanatics, while others go easy on the java? Genetic factors help explain how much caffeine people tend to consume.

Jamie, based on your genetics, you are likely to drink less caffeine than average, if you drink caffeine at all.

23andMe research participants with your genetic result who consume caffeine regularly tend to drink the equivalent of about a quarter of a cup of coffee (39 mg of caffeine) less than average per day. Of course, not everyone chooses to consume caffeine, but for those who do, their genetics may play a role in the amount they consume.



Jo Jamie 0 variant V



What you can do -

If you consume caffeine, current guidelines recommend that healthy adults drink no more than about three 12-oz cups of coffee or eight 8-oz cups of tea per day. And since caffeine hangs around in your system for several hours, consider avoiding caffeine starting mid-afternoon or earlier if you want a good night's sleep.

## Genetics and Caffeine

## M Genetics

This report is based on genetic <u>variants</u> near two genes that play a role in how your body handles caffeine. The first gene, CYP1A2, contains instructions for an <u>enzyme</u> that breaks down 95% of the caffeine you consume. The second gene, AHR, contains instructions for a <u>protein</u> that ramps up production of the CYP1A2 enzyme. Variants in these genes may affect how quickly the body breaks down and clears away caffeine.



# How does caffeine keep you awake? Caffeine interferes with the brain system that causes sleepiness. A molecule called adenosine acts as a signal between brain <u>cells</u> to bring on sleepiness. Caffeine blocks adenosine's signals, making you feel more alert. This is also why caffeine can make it hard to fall asleep and interfere with deep sleep.

Does caffeine enhance performance?



It can feel like coffee makes you smarter, but some research suggests this may be an illusion. People with a daily caffeine habit may actually perform worse than other people on mental and physical tasks – that is, until they get their morning fix. As caffeine is cleared from the body overnight, daily caffeine drinkers start to experience caffeine withdrawal. This leads to worse performance until they have their morning coffee or tea, which reverses the withdrawal. Meanwhile, for people who aren't used to consuming caffeine every day, caffeine may not improve performance much, if at all. How much is too much?



Moderate levels of daily caffeine consumption aren't associated with increased health risks and may even lower the risk for some diseases. If you consume caffeine regularly, current guidelines recommend that healthy adults limit themselves to 400 mg of caffeine per day or less. That's the equivalent of about three 12-oc ups of coffee or eight 8-oz cups of black tea. Keep in mind the exact amount of caffeine in coffee and tea—even decaf—can vary widely depending on how they're made. Other factors that affect caffeine consumption



The genetic variants in this report are associated with a difference of up to about two thirds of a cup of coffee per day. But there are other factors that also affect how much and what types of caffeine people choose to drink:

Culture and history: Caffeine has been consumed for thousands of years in the form of coffee, tea, chocolate, and mate. Coffee originally became popular in Africa and the Middle East, tea in China, and chocolate drinks and mate in Central and South America.



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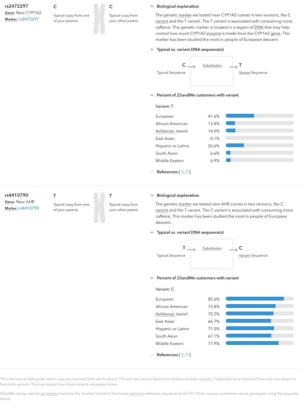
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sumption and metabolism are influenced by genetic ma near the CYP1A2 and AHR genes.





References

## Change Log

March 31, 2017

Oct. 21, 2015

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