Food environments in Canada: research and monitoring to support policy decisions

CNS Annual Meeting 2021
April 29, 2021 12:45 pm EST

Chairs: Lana Vanderlee, Mary L’Abbé
Speakers: Veronique Provencher, Monique Potvin Kent, Jane Polsky
“The collective **physical, economic, policy and sociocultural** surroundings, opportunities and conditions that influence people’s food and beverage choices and nutritional status”

International Network for Food and Obesity/non-communicable diseases Research, Monitoring and Action Support

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Monitoring...

Food policies

Food Environments

Food-related Outcomes

Developing a set of indicators to track over time
• **85 institutions in 58 countries**
• **Consistent methods** across countries (adapted to context)
• Contextualized to each country

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INFORMAS Framework and modules

Government policies
How much progress have (international, national, state and local) governments made towards good practice in improving food environments?

Food industry policies
How are private sector organisations affecting food environments and influencing obesity/NCDs prevention efforts?

Lana Vanderlee
Université Laval
## INFORMAS Framework and modules

### Government policies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food composition</th>
<th>What is the nutrient composition of foods and non-alcoholic beverages?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food labelling</td>
<td>What health-related labelling is present on foods and non-alcoholic beverages?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food marketing</td>
<td>What is the exposure and power of promotion of unhealthy foods and non-alcoholic beverages to different population groups?</td>
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<td>Food provision</td>
<td>What is the nutritional quality of foods and non-alcoholic beverages provided in gov’t funded settings?</td>
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<td>Food retail</td>
<td>What is the availability of healthy and unhealthy foods and non-alcoholic beverages in communities and within retail outlets?</td>
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<td>Food prices</td>
<td>What is the relative price and affordability of ‘less healthy’ compared with ‘healthy’ diets, meals &amp; foods?</td>
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<td>Food trade</td>
<td>What are the impacts of trade and investment agreements on the healthiness of food environments?</td>
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### Food industry policies

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<th>Veronique Provencher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mary L’Abbé</td>
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<td>U Ottawa</td>
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<td>Sara Kirk</td>
<td>Dalhousie U</td>
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<td>Cathy Mah</td>
<td>Dalhousie U</td>
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<td>Leia Minaker</td>
<td>U Waterloo</td>
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<td>Marie-Eve Labonté</td>
<td>Université Laval</td>
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<td>Ashley Schram</td>
<td>Australia National University</td>
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Population diet
What is the quality of the diet of different population groups?

Physiological and metabolic risk factors
What are the burdens of obesity and other risk factors?

Health outcomes
What are burdens of NCD morbidity and mortality?

Jean-Claude Moubarac
U Montreal

Linda Greene-Finestone
PHAC
What are the differential impacts of food environment policies between population subgroups?

Dana Olstad
U Calgary
Exploring Canadian food environments...

Across policies
- Composition
- Labelling
- Marketing
- Provision
- Retail
- Prices
- Trade

Across settings
- Stores
- Restaurants
- Schools
- Neighbourhoods / Parks
- Recreation Centres
- Hospitals

Across geographies
- Multiple provinces
- Rural/urban
- Different neighbourhoods within jurisdictions

2021/2022/2023
International INFORMAS comparisons

A comparison of the healthiness of packaged foods and beverages from 12 countries using the Health Star Rating nutrient profiling system, 2013-2018

Elizabeth K. Dunford, Cliona Ni Mhurchu, Leping Huang, Stefanie Vandevijvere, Boyd Swinburn, Igor Pravst, Lizbeth Tolentino-Mayo, Marcela Reyes, Mary L’Abbé, Bruce C. Neal

First published: 22 July 2019 | https://doi.org/10.1111/obr.12879 | Citations: 8

An 11-country study to benchmark the implementation of recommended nutrition policies by national governments using the Healthy Food Environment Policy Index, 2015-2018

Stefanie Vandevijvere, Simon Barquera, Gabriela Caceres, Camila Corvalan, Tilakavati Karupaiyah, Maria Fernanda Kroker-Lobos, Mary L’Abbé, See Hoe Ng, Sirinya Phukerd... See all authors


Global benchmarking of children’s exposure to television advertising of unhealthy foods and beverages across 22 countries

Bridget Kelly, Stefanie Vandevijvere, SeeHoe Ng, Jean Adams, Lorena Allemandi, Liliana Bahena-Espin, Simon Barquera, Emma Boyland, Paul Calleja... See all authors

First published: 11 April 2019 | https://doi.org/10.1111/obr.12840 | Citations: 32