

Setting the Scene: Barriers and Facilitators of Healthy Nutrition Policy

Martin O'Flaherty

Department of Public Health and Policy

University of Liverpool

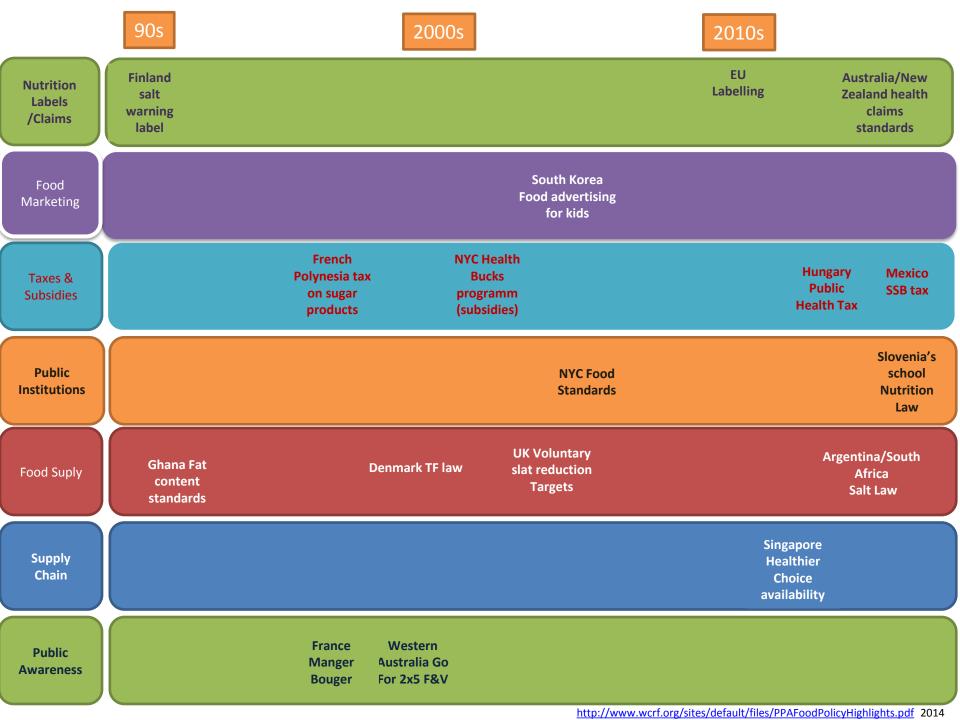
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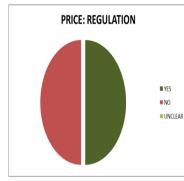
Prof Simon Capewell

 NCD Prevention and Food Policy Group, Dept. of Public Health, University of Liverpool

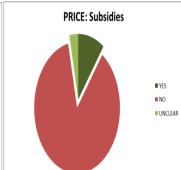
This Talk

- Do we have Nutrition Policies?
- A few Ss, 3As and some Ts
 - SUPPORT
 - -3As
 - SLEAZE
 - Treaties to improve our lives?
- The BIG WIN or The BIG LOSS
 - What is the reward for getting this right?

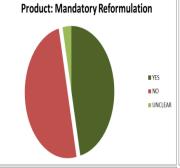


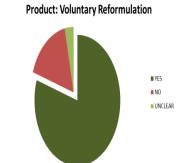


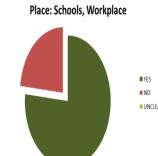




Smorgasbord or symphony?







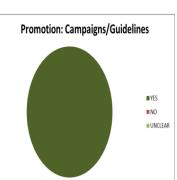




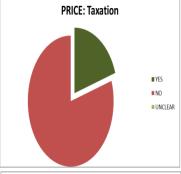


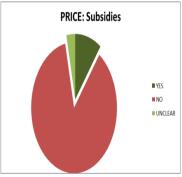




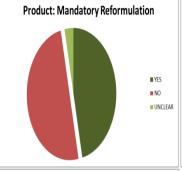






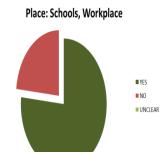


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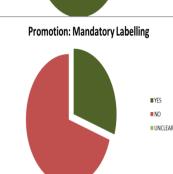


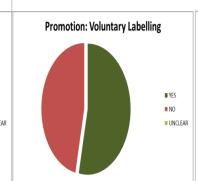


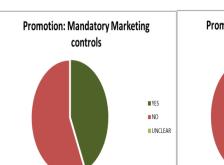
 UNDERUSE OF STRONG STRUCTURAL MANDATORY OPTIONS



 TOO MUCH RELIANCE ON VOLUNTARY APPROACHES?











Past history of public health triumphs - Lessons for today??

- Safe drinking water
- Sanitation
- Slavery abolition
- Immunisation
- Road safety
- Seat belts
- Air pollution control
- Tobacco advertising bans
- Smokefree legislation etc etc



SUPPORT: Implementation path for effective public health interventions

eg. clean water, sanitation, pollution, immunisation, seatbelts, smokefree etc

- S
- U
- P
- P
- O
- R
- T



SUPPORT: Implementation path for effective public health interventions

eg. clean water, sanitation, pollution, immunisation, seatbelts, smokefree etc

- SCIENTIFIC evidence emerges
- UNDERSTANDING spreads
- PROFESSIONALS accept paradigm
- PUBLIC & POLITICIANS become aware, then supportive
- OPPOSITION from vested interests is slowly Overcome
- REGULATION is introduced, often strengthened by
- TAXATION to reinforce regulations (eg Tobacco & alcohol control)

Is Sugar the New Tobacco? Generic lessons

Tobacco control successes:

"3 As"



Is Sugar the New Tobacco? Generic lessons

Tobacco control successes:

"3 As"

Affordability

Acceptability

Availability



Tobacco Control

3As": Reduce

Affordability

↑ Tax, ↑ Price, Stop smuggling

Acceptability

Advertising bans, SmokeFree Laws

Availability

Licensing retailers, Age checks



Calorie Control

3As": Reduce
Affordability

↑ Tax, ↑ Price, Subsidise healthy options
Acceptability

Advertising bans, JunkFree Schools

Availability

Licensing retailers, Tax breaks/subsidies for healthy options





Margaret Chan WHO

"It is not just **Big Tobacco** anymore.

Public health must also contend with **Big Food**, **Big Soda**, & **Big Alcohol**. **All of these industries fear regulation**,

and protect themselves by using the same tactics.

Research has documented these tactics well. They include **front groups**, **lobbies**, **promises of self-regulation**, **lawsuits**, **and industry-funded research** that **confuses the evidence** and **keeps the public in doubt**."

June 2013~

Tobacco, alcohol & food companies typically deny scientific evidence of harm by using SLEAZE tactics:

sleaze

/sli:z/ •0

noun BRITISH

immoral, sordid, and corrupt behaviour or activities.
 "political campaigns that are long on sleaze and short on substance"

verb informal

 behave in an immoral, corrupt, or sordid way. "you're the last person who has to sleaze around bars"

Tobacco, alcohol & food companies typically deny scientific evidence of harm by using SLEAZE tactics:

- S Scientific conspiracies
- L Logical flaws
- E Evidence selected
- A Absolute perfection demanded
- Z any arguments & distractions
- E Experts bought by industry

S

L

Evidence Manipulated

A

Z

E



by Marion Nestle



Five more industry-funded studies with expected results. The score: 55:3

Here's the latest collection of 5 studies funded by food companies or trade associations, all with results that favor the sponsor's interests. I've just reviewed them and found a couple of duplicates, so this is a corrected score. The correct score is 55 industry–funded studies with positive results vs. 3 with results unfavorable to industry—since mid–March.

I'm particularly interested in the unfavorable category. If you run across any, please send.

Jejunal Casein Feeding Is Followed by More Rapid Protein Digestion and Amino Acid Absorption When Compared with Gastric Feeding in Healthy Young Men. Joanna Luttikhold, Klaske van Norren, Nikki Buijs, Marjolein Ankersmit, Annemieke C Heijboer, Jeannette Gootjes, Herman Rijna, Paul AM van Leeuwen, and Luc JC van Loon. J. Nutr. 2015; 145:2033–2038 doi:10.3945/jn.115.211615.

E **Z**any arguments



A lot of choice of the same stuff....

The New york Times



Preventing Cramps During Exercise



Women With Essure Contraceptive Implant Needed More Surgeries...



Jeb Bush Offers Health Plan That Would Undo Affordable Care Act

Experts Bought



FITNESS

Coca-Cola Funds Scientists Who Shift Blame for Obesity Away From Bad Diets

By ANAHAD O'CONNOR AUGUST 9, 2015 5:25 PM



An image from a video by the Coca-Cola Foundation. In November 2012, the foundation announced a \$3 million grant to Chicago's Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance. The grant was intended to establish a wellness program.



Coca-Cola, the world's largest producer of sugary beverages, is backing a new "science-based" solution to the obesity crisis: To

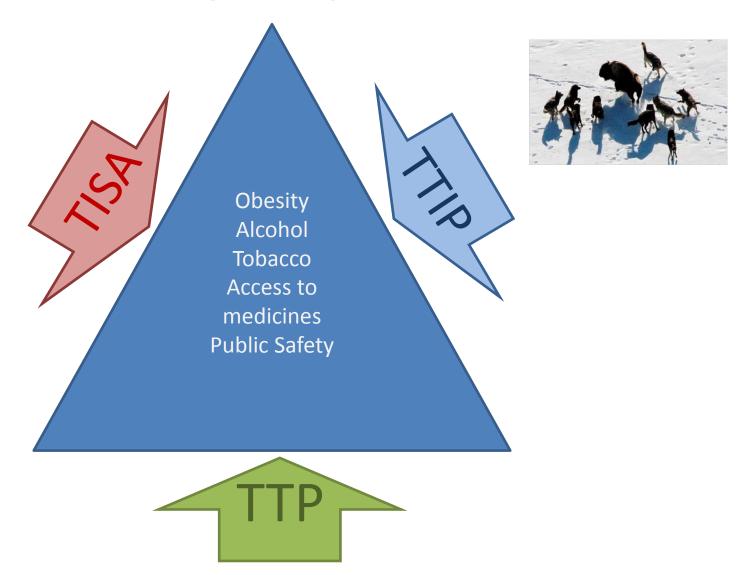
Profit & Pandemics

Moodie et al Lancet 2013, 381:670

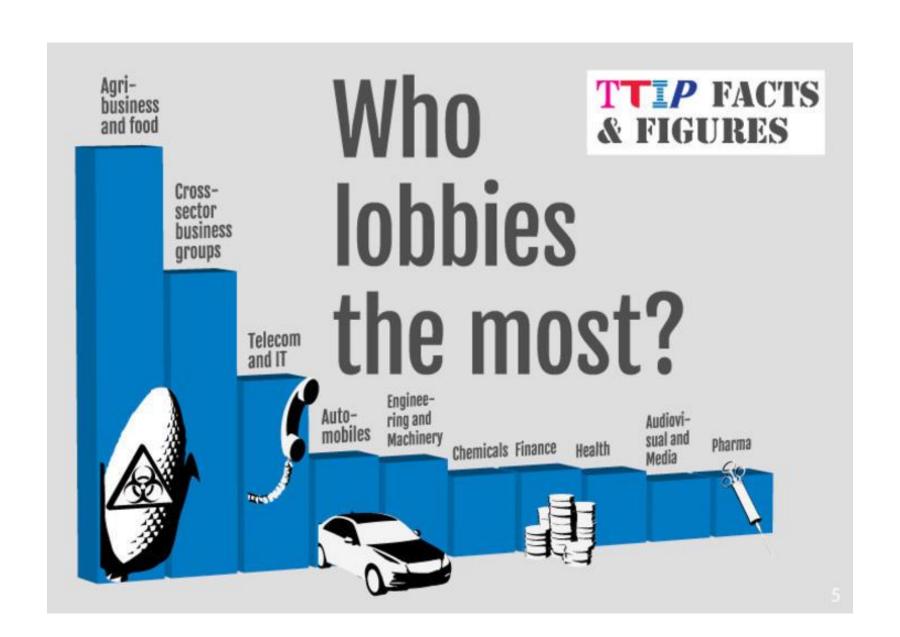


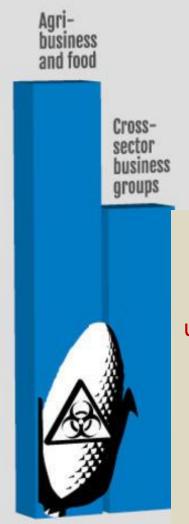
Alcohol & ultra-processed food & drink industries use similar strategies to tobacco industry to undermine effective public health policies & programmes

TRADE WAR ON PUBLIC HEALTH



http://www.fph.org.uk/ttip_'threat_to_people's_health_in_uk_and_across_europe'





Who lobbies



We assess the effectiveness of self-regulation, public—private partnerships, and public regulation models of interaction with these industries and conclude that unhealthy commodity industries should have no role in the formation of national or international NCD policy.

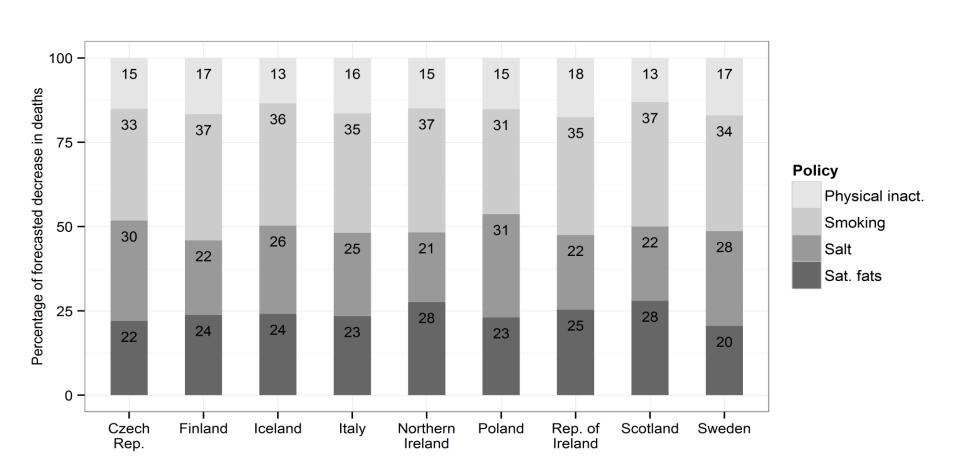
Public regulation and market intervention are the only evidence-based mechanisms to prevent harm caused by the unhealthy commodity industries

Moodie et al Lancet 2013 "Profits & Pandemics"

BIG WIN OR BIG LOSS?

BIG WIN OR BIG LOSS?

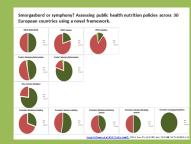
11,000 fewer CHD deaths in 9 EU countries by 2020 **30%** mortality reduction



Conclusions

We need a food policy symphony





We did this before:

- SUPPORT,
- Tobacco's As & Food Policy

SUPPORT

Is Sugar the New Tobacco?
Generic lessons
Tobacco control successes:
"3 As"



Beware of SLEAZE tactics: Our winnings or losses are counted in lives



BIG WIN OR BIG LOSS?

Thank You

Email: moflaher@liv.ac.uk



@moflaher

https://www.liv.ac.uk/psychology-health-andsociety/research/ncd-prevention-and-foodpolicy/

Learning from the slavery abolitionists

R Smith BMJ 2012 345 e8301 A Hochschild 2005. Bury the chains: the British struggle to end slavery

VISION STRATEGY ACTION

FROME,

January the 24th, 1825.

We, whose names are hereunder signed, request a Meeting of such Inhabitants of this Town and Neighbourhood as are Friendly to the Mitigation and gradual

Abolition

SLAVERY

THROUGHOUT THE

BRITISH DOMINIONS,

To be holden on Thursday, the 3rd day or rebruary next, at eleven o'clock, at the George Inn, in Frome.

J. A. WICKHAM, SAMUEL SAUNDERS, J. W. LITTLE, JOHN SHEPPARD, CHARLES SMITH, JOHN KINGDON, T. H. SHEPPARD, GEORGE KINGDON, THOMAS BUNN, W. H. MURCH, T. W. SQUANCE, FRANCIS ALLEN, JAMES H. BYRON, JOHN OLIVE.

CROCKERS, PRINTERS, FROME.

DIVIJ 2012 343 e8301

Learning from the slavery abolitionists

R Smith BMJ 2012 345 e8301 A Hochschild 2005. Bury the chains: the British struggle to end slavery

VISION

- What seems impossible can be done & rapidly
- The course of the movement is unlikely to be smooth (two steps forward, one step back...)
- Leaders & followers need deep belief in the cause
- Successful movements have different sorts of leaders with different skills, but they must work together
- A champion can be very useful (An important person, perhaps a politician needing an issue for their own advancement)

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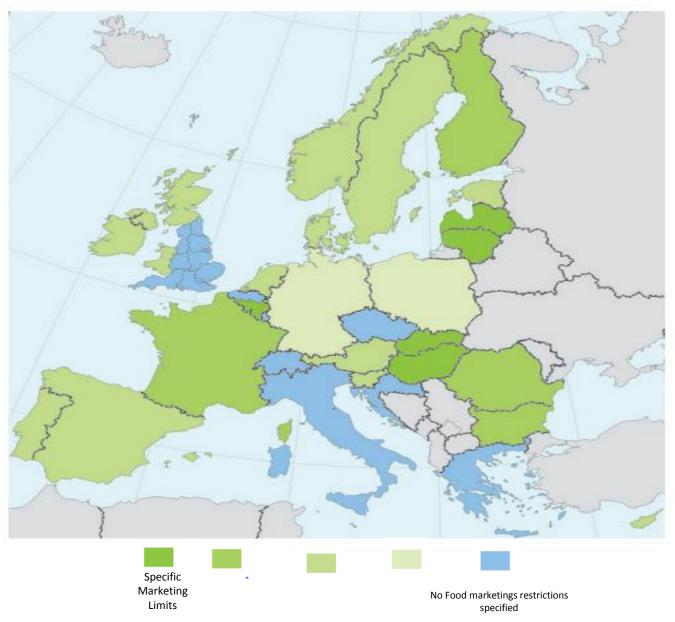
VISION
STRATEGY
ACTION

"GOOD COPS" & "BAD COPS" VISIONARIES & REALISTS

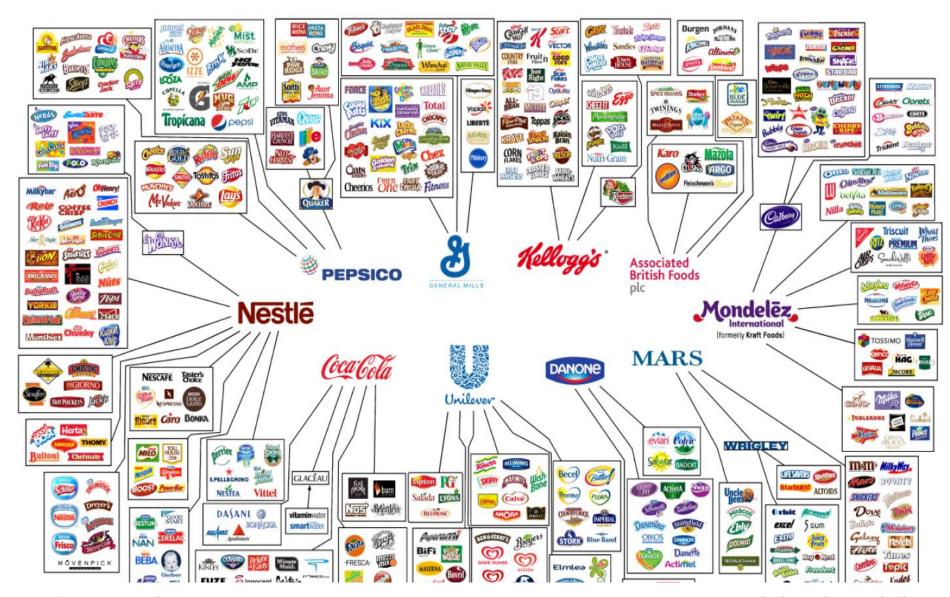
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are all ESSENTIAL

Food Marketing Restrictions in Schools across Europe



These 10 Corporations Control Almost Everything We Buy

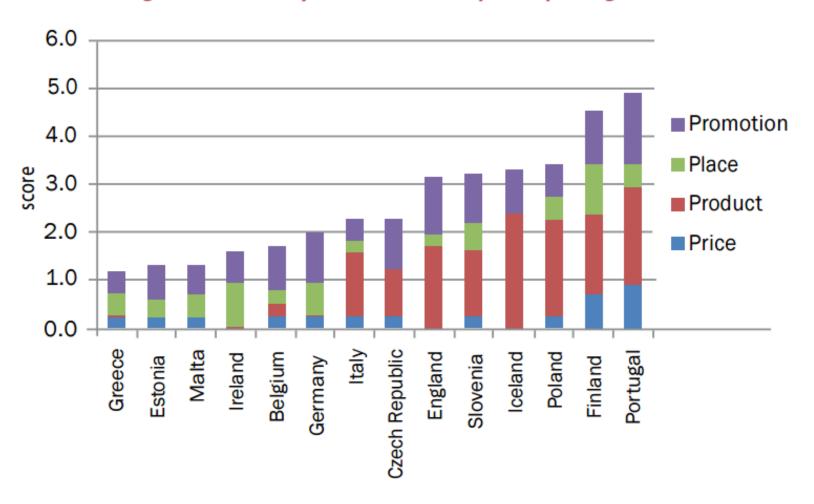


Industrial Corporations prioritise PROFIT, not public health

Tobacco, alcohol & food companies typically deny scientific evidence of harm by using SLEAZE tactics:

- Scientific conspiracies are alleged (rather than admitting this is a solid scientific consensus);
- <u>L</u> Logical flaws in their arguments (but which may initially sound plausible);
- <u>E</u> Evidence severely selected to suit their case, (all conflicting facts ignored);
- A Absolute perfection demanded of the public health advocates, (eg "why no RCT for passive smoking and cancer?");
- Zany arguments. Distractions, to take attention away from the main issue, (& use scarce public health resources to refute);
- <u>E</u> Experts bought by the rich industries, to undermine good science, or publish conveniently contradictory findings. (see Google)

Figure M2: Policy scores for the participating countries



Who lobbied hardest for TTIP?

CORPORATE LOBBY GROUPS WITH THE MOST CONTACT WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S TRADE DEPARTMENT IN THE EARLY PHASES OF TTIP NEGOTIATIONS



PHRI Research Rounds

Science or showbiz? Using the media to support your public health interventions

This talk

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Sunny uplands?

PHRI Research Rounds

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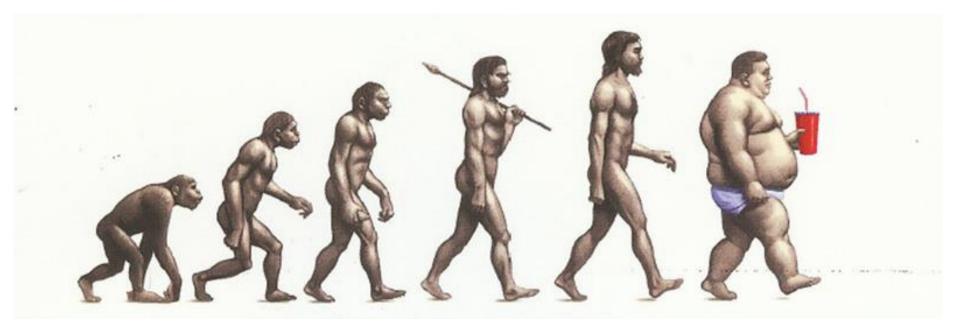
Science
Strategy
Showtime
Sinister shadows....
Sunny uplands?



PHRI Research Rounds

Science or showbiz? Using the media to support your public health interventions

Science SUGAR → Obesity



PHRI Research Rounds

Science or showbiz? Using the media to support your public health interventions

Science SUGAR →

Obesity
Diabetes
Common Cancers
Coronary Heart Disease



Non Communicable Disease (NCDs)



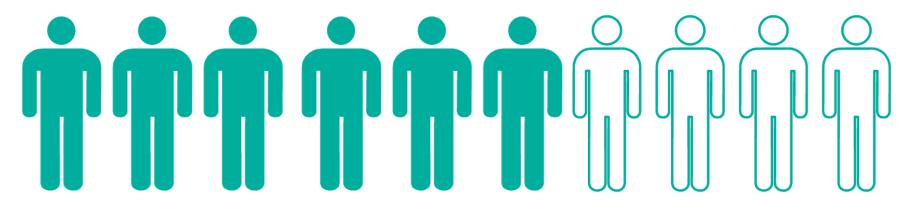


The obesogenic environment 个个Portion sizes over time

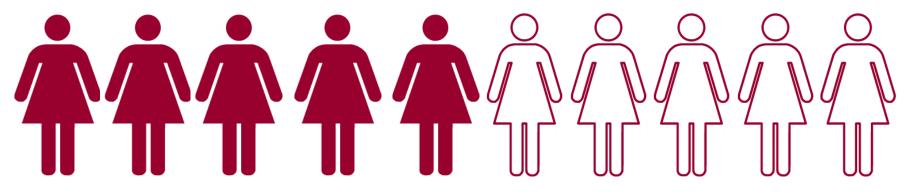


††Overweight and obesity in UK adults

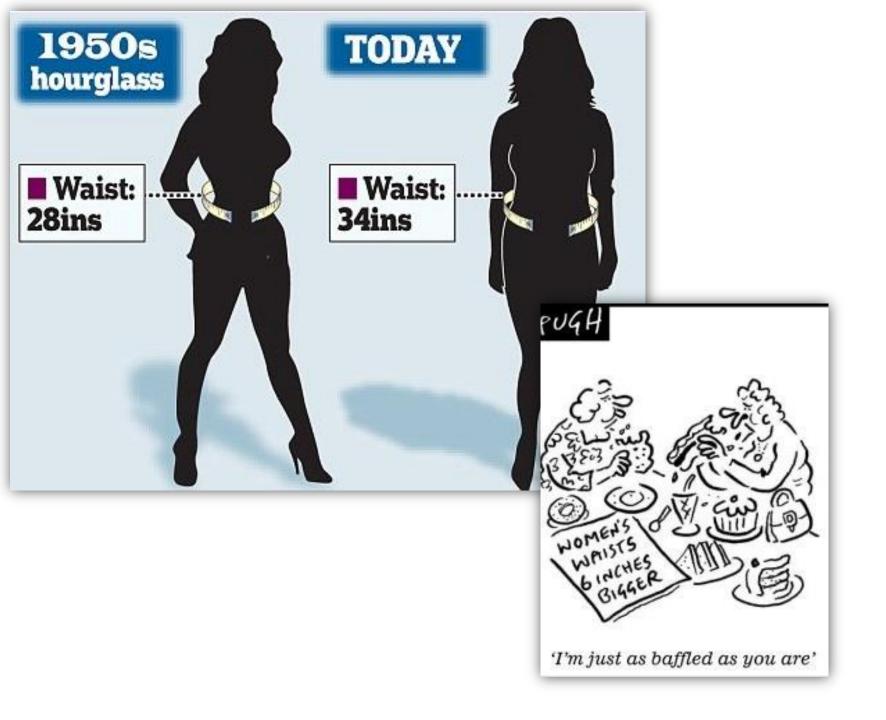
More than 6 out of 10 men are overweight or obese (66%)



And 6 out of 10 women are overweight or obese (60%)



Adult (aged 16+) overweight and obesity: BMI ≥ 25kg/m²



Is Sugar the New Tobacco? Sugar Strategy



Sugar Control ~ brief history

Early days, then recent acceleration

Yudkin: Pure, White And Deadly: How sugar is killing

us and what we can do to stop it (1972, recently republished)

Lustig "Sugar: The Bitter Truth" (YouTube 2009)

Sugar Tax proposals:

UK Health Forum (2012), Sustain, AoMRC (2013)

UK Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Sally Davies (April 2014)

Guardian & Telegraph sugar articles (2013)

Credit Suisse Report: Sugar at the Crossroads

BMJ: health warning labels for sugary drinks? (28 May 2014)

Margaret Chan World Health Organisation







Setting up the launch

Pre-launch (late 2013)

Professional network

Website www.actiononsugar.org

Press release

Preparation for interviews

Action on Sugar

Press release: key points

- 'Action On Sugar' launched by leading experts uniting in call to tackle & reverse the obesity & diabetes epidemic.
- Initially targeting huge & unnecessary amounts of sugar currently being added to our food & soft drinks.



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- 'Action On Sugar' launched by leading experts uniting in call to tackle & reverse the obesity & diabetes epidemic.
- Initially targeting huge & unnecessary amounts of sugar currently being added to our food & soft drinks.
- eg Cola has staggering 9 tea spoons of added sugar Large amounts of sugars hidden in everyday foods: *yoghurts, ketchup, ready meals & bread, vitamin waters, sports drinks*
- Children particularly vulnerable



Thursday 9th January 2014



SUGAR IS 'THE NEW TOBACCO'

Health chiefs tell food giants to slash levels by a third

Action on Sugar

Press release: quotes from 6 members:

Bottom of list:

Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Liverpool, UK, <u>Simon Capewell</u> says:

"Sugar is the new tobacco"



Action on Sugar

Press release: quotes from members:

Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Liverpool, UK, <u>Simon Capewell</u> says:

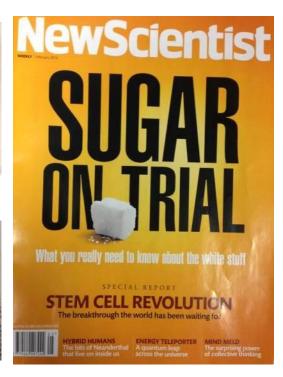
"Sugar is the new tobacco. Everywhere, sugary drinks and junk foods are now <u>pressed</u> on <u>unsuspecting</u> parents and children by a <u>cynical industry</u> focussed on <u>profit</u> not health."

Showtime: January 9th!

Press coverage excellent
Page 1 in Daily Mail, and Mail on line











Obesity link to fast food 'free-for-all'





Is Sugar the New Tobacco? **Showtime!**

Press coverage excellent
Page 1 in Daily Mailand Mail on line
Paper reviews~BBC website & Radio 4
(Paper coverage convinces John Humphries)
"Perfect" interviews on
Today Programme, Sky News, ITN etc
Supportive Public comments on BBC & Mail websites

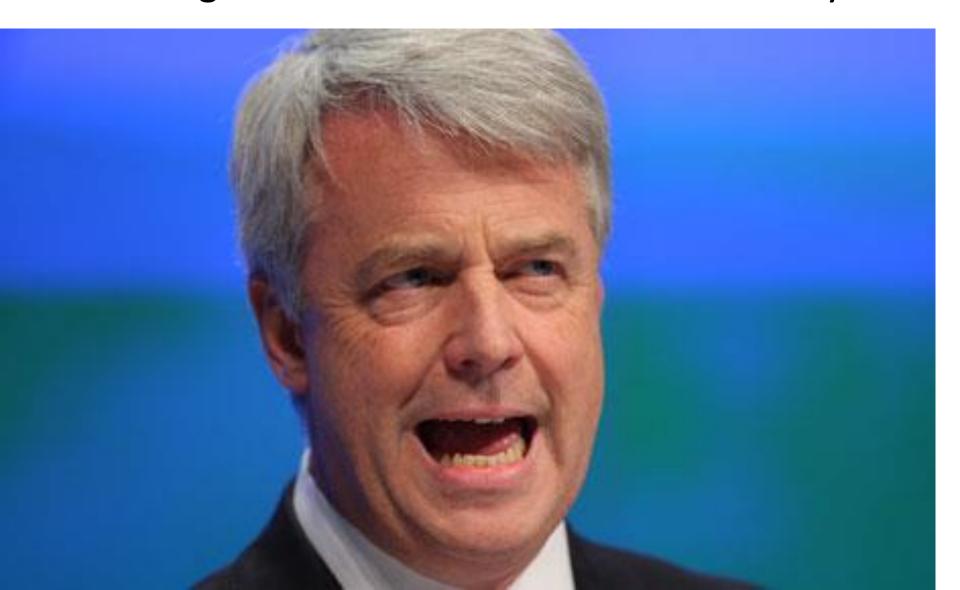
Is Sugar the New Tobacco? **Showtime!**

Press coverage excellent Page 1 in Daily Mail Paper reviews~BBC website & Radio 4 (Paper coverage persuades John Humphries) "Perfect" interviews on Today Programme, Sky News, ITN etc. **Supportive Public comments on BBC & Mail websites BUT** coverage fading away by midday then...

The Empire Strikes Back!



The Empire Strikes Back! UK government minister Andrew Lansley



The Empire Strikes back!

Parliament: Keith Vaz Early Day Motion Lansley attempts to contemptuously dismiss

"analogy between sugar and tobacco was not appropriate...."

The Empire Strikes back!

Parliament: Keith Vaz Early Day Motion Lansley attempts to contemptuously dismiss

"analogy between sugar and tobacco was not appropriate...."

but this generated CONTROVERSY...

"Lansley backs food sector on sugar"

↑↑media interest...

UK Coverage → international coverage!

→ 2'media: Teen, TV, Womens journals etc then...

Rapid Impacts

Lidl ban confectionary at checkouts

UK government "Obesity Czar" suggested cutting fruit juice from "5 a Day" quota

Offers of help from public & professionals

Is Sugar the New Tobacco? Subsequent Impacts

Grudging praise from PR & Food press
Investment media: FT -thoughtful reactions
Action on Sugar (AoS) consolidates
AoS Obtains meeting with Jeremy Hunt

Is Sugar the New Tobacco? **Subsequent Impacts**

Grudging praise from PR & Food press Investment media: FT -thoughtful reactions Action on Sugar (AoS) consolidates AoS Obtains meeting with Jeremy Hunt "Sugar watchdog works for Coca-Cola & Mars"

19 Jan 2014, Sunday Times, UK

"The sugar tsars 'in bed' with confectionery giants:
Five of eight members of committee tasked with battling
obesity epidemic have 'worryingly close' ties" (MailOnline)

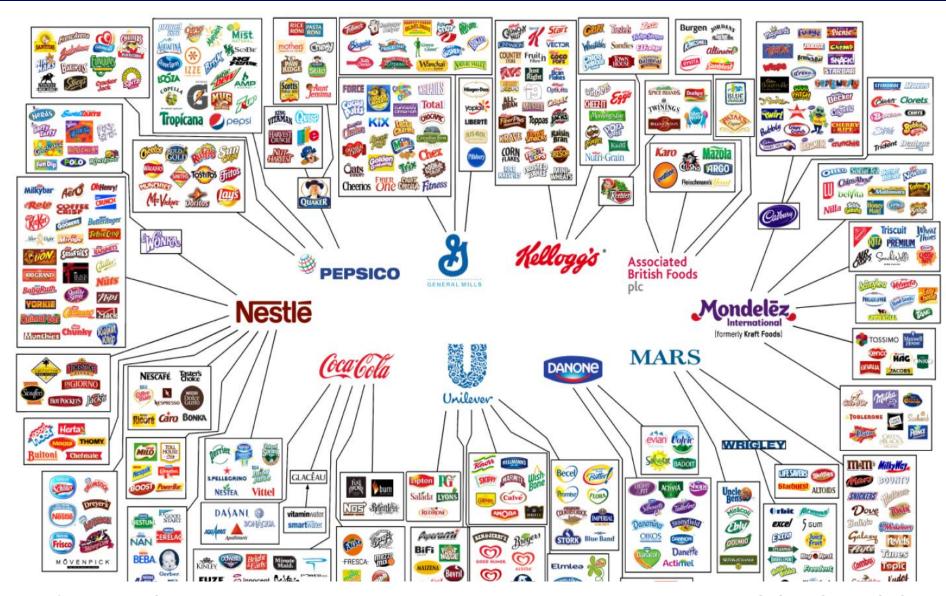


4. Opposition from powerful vested interests

- Inevitable?? Surmountable??



These 10 Corporations Control Almost Everything We Buy



Industrial Corporations prioritise PROFIT, not public health

Lancet February 2013 Non-Communicable Diseases 4

Profits & Pandemics: prevention of harmful effects of tobacco, alcohol, & ultra-processed food & drink industries

Rob Moodie, David Stuckler, Carlos Monteiro, Nick Sheron, Bruce Neal, Thaksaphon Thamarangsi, Paul Lincoln, Sally Casswell,

on behalf of The Lancet NCD Action Group



Lancet February 2013 Non-Communicable Diseases 4

Profits & Pandemics: prevention of harmful effects of tobacco, alcohol, & ultra-processed food & drink industries

Transnational corporations

- major drivers of non-communicable disease (NCD) epidemics
- profit from

 consumption of tobacco, alcohol, processed food & drink

Alcohol & ultra-processed food & drink industries

use similar strategies to tobacco industry
 to undermine effective public health policies & programmes



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Unhealthy commodity industries deserve NO role in NCD prevention policies

• Current fashion for industry self-regulation & public-private partnerships is foolish, not effective & does NOT improve public health

The only **evidence-based mechanisms**

to prevent harm caused by unhealthy commodity industries

are public regulation & market intervention

Rob Moodie, David Stuckler, Carlos Monteiro, Nick Sheron, Bruce Neal, Thaksaphon Thamarangsi, Paul Lincoln, Sally Casswell, on behalf of **The Lancet NCD Action Group**

How the growth of denialism undermines public health

McKee & Diethelm

BMJ 2010; 341:c6950

Tobacco, alcohol & food companies typically **deny** scientific evidence of harm by using **SLEAZE** tactics:

- Scientific conspiracies
- L Logical flaws
- **E** Evidence selected
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- **E Experts** bought by industry

"It is not sufficient to <u>pull</u> drowning individuals out of the water, you need to go upstream, and <u>challenge</u> the people pushing them in"

Desmond Tutu

5. Past history of public health successes

- Lessons for today?
- Safe drinking water
- Sanitation
- Slavery abolition
- Immunisation
- Road safety
- Seat belts
- Air pollution control
- Tobacco advertising bans
- Smokefree legislation etc etc



JMW Turner, 1840; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Oil on canvas, 90.8 x 122.6 cm



R Smith BMJ 2012 345 e8301 A Hochschild 2005. Bury the chains: the British struggle to end slavery

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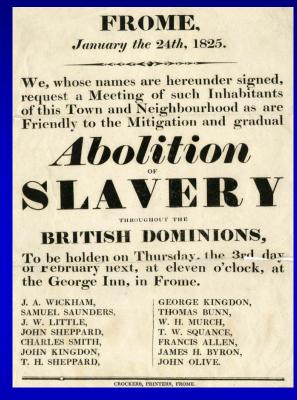
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STRATEGY

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"GOOD COPS" & "BAD COPS"
VISIONARIES & REALISTS
are all ESSENTIAL

BMJ 2012 <u>345</u> e8301



SUPPORT: Implementation path for effective public health interventions

eg. clean water, sanitation, pollution, slavery, immunisation, seatbelts, smokefree etc

- SCIENTIFIC evidence emerges
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STRATEGY

- Pick an achievable aim, & be business-like
- Must connect the issues with peoples' everyday lives
- Need shrewd tactics
- Need continuous actions on many fronts
- Boycotts can be powerful
- Success is unlikely to be complete

R Smith BMJ 2012 345 e8301 A Hochschild 2005. Bury the chains: the British struggle to end slavery

ACTION

- Performance using stories & props is crucial (TV & social media)
- Clear Evidence ++ strong, substantial, self-evident, high quality, high impact, multifaceted,
- Cases that shock & capture the public's attention crucial (even if dismissed by authorities or vested interests)
- Powerful first hand accounts are invaluable
- Iconic pictures can be stunningly effective

TABLE 1. MAPPING OF EXISTING AND PLANNED ACTION BY POLICY ACTION WITHIN ALL 14 COUNTRIES PROFILED

Country	Legislation/ Regulation	Taxation	Subsi- dies ^a	Reformulation (V/M)*	Labelling (V/M)*	Guidelinesb	Advertising Controls to children (V/M)*	Campaigns
Belgium	V ¹	Х	Х	V/M	v	٧	м	٧
Czech Republic	χ2	х	Х	v	v	٧	v	٧
England	V 16	Х	Х	v	M ¹⁷	٧	м	٧
Estonia	√3	Х	Х	v	v	Х	V⁴	٧
Finland	√ s	√ 6	Х	√ v	v	٧	v	٧
Germany	х	Х	Х	X?	V¹	٧	v	٧
Greece	√,	Х	Х	v	Х	٧	v	٧
Iceland	√8	Х	Х	v	VI	٧	М	٧
Ireland	Х	χ9	Х	v	V ¹⁰	٧	M ¹¹	٧
Italy	Х	Х	Х	v	Х	٧	v	٧
Malta	Х	Х	Х	v	o	٧	o	٧
Poland	Х	Х	Х	v	v	٧	X12	٧
Portugal	٧	V 13	Х	٧	v	٧	v	٧
Slovenia	V 14	Х	Х	V/M	v	٧	V/M ¹⁵	٧

 $\sqrt{\ }$ = Yes X = No o = Unclear V = Voluntary M = Mandatory

TABLE 2. MAPPING OF EXISTING AND PLANNED LEGISLATION BY NUTRIENT AND FOODS WITHIN ALL 14 COUNTRIES PROFILED

Country	Salt	Saturated Fat	Trans Fats	Sugar	Fruit and Vegetables
Belgium	٧	х	х	Х	Х
Czech Republic	X	x	Х	Х	Х
England	٧	X	Х	Х	Х
Estonia	X	X	Х	Х	Х
Finland	٧	X	Х	٧	Х
Germany	Х	X	Х	Х	Х
Greece	X	X	Х	Х	Х
Iceland	X	X	٧	х	Х
Ireland	X	X	Х	Х	Х
Italy	X	x	Х	Х	Х
Malta	X	x	Х	х	х
Poland	X	X	Х	х	Х
Portugal	٧	•	Х	•	х
Slovenia	٧	x	Х	х	х

V = Yes X = No • = Being prepared



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