Examination of a Statewide Law Banning Junk Food and Beverage Marketing In Maine Schools

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Presenter Disclosures

Michele Polacsek

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

Advisory group

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Background: Food and Beverage Marketing to Children at School

 Labeling and signage at school has been shown to affect students food choices at school

Children are more vulnerable to marketing than adults

School based marketing is especially powerful

Legislation History

- 2003 LD 471 Resolve to study Obesity
 - Commission to study public health (obesity)
 - 28 recommendations including advertising ban
- 2005 public opinion poll demonstrated broad support for advertising ban in schools -60% support

- 2006 Focus Groups confirmed support
- 2007 ban on advertising in schools passed

Legislation - 2007

An Act To Protect Children's Health on School Grounds (LD184)

Food and beverage advertising

- Brand-specific advertising of food or beverages is prohibited in school buildings or on school grounds **except for food and beverages meeting standards** for sale or distribution on school grounds in accordance with rules adopted under subsection 2.
- For the purposes of this subsection, "advertising" does not include advertising on broadcast media or in print media such as newspapers and magazines, clothing with brand images worn on school grounds or advertising on product packaging.

Nutrition Standards

- The US Department of Agriculture Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value standard was adopted as a rule (Chapter 51) for all Maine schools 24/7
- Foods must exceed FMNV standard
- Excludes: Food which provides <5% of one of the eight specified nutrients per serving: protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, niacin, riboflavin, thiamine, calcium and iron
- Also excludes all candy
- Exemptions possible: Teacher's lounge

Study Aims

- Aim 1: To assess compliance with Chapter 156, Maine's statewide policy banning brand-specific junk food and beverage marketing in Maine schools.
- <u>Sub-aim 1a</u>: To adapt and improve the Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools Assessment (FBMS) developed by *Samuels and Associates*
- <u>Sub-aim 1b</u>: To assess the nature and extent of food and beverage marketing in Maine high schools.
- <u>Sub-aim 1c</u>: To identify areas for improvement and ways to strengthen existing legislation limiting food marketing in schools
- <u>Sub-aim 1d</u>: To review findings from other marketing assessments completed to date and compare results to Maine findings.

Types of In-School Marketing

• Product sales of foods and beverages

• Direct advertising

Indirect advertising



Direct Advertising

 Posters, Signs, Vending machine exteriors, Inschool television ads such as on Channel One, Ads in school newspapers, yearbooks, and on school radio stations, Announcements on the public announcement (PA) system, Computer banner ads and screensavers



Indirect Advertising

 includes logos, brand names, spokes-characters, or product names on or in conjunction with: Curricula and educational materials, Textbook covers, Books and notebooks, Pencils, Sports equipment, Uniforms, Scoreboards, Buses, Tastetests, Scholarships, Coupons and free samples, Sports team sponsorships, Food or beverage cups and containers, Educational incentive programs that provide food as a reward, Incentive programs that provide schools with supplies when families buy food products, Corporate-sponsored educational programs



Study Methods

• Cross sectional observations and interviews

20 randomly selected Maine High Schools
 – Schools were paid \$300 each for participation

 2 RA's completed Food and Beverage Marketing Survey

1RA completed interview with principal and food service director

FBMS Observations

- Location
- Total number of posters/signs (on <u>one vending</u> <u>machine</u> the total number of different products or logos)
- Product name or logo
- If present on Art, Packaging, Equipment or
 Supplies
- Number of *instances* product or logo shown
- Compliant with Chapter 156
- Counter-marketing



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Results

- Describe food and beverage marketing (location, type and extent)
- Describe not compliant food and beverage marketing (location, type and extent)
- Administrators' knowledge and attitudes about Chapter 156
- Changes reported since Chapter 156
- Administrators' perceived need for additional resources to implement Chapter 156
- Administrators' awareness of Chapter 156

Location of Marketing: Posters and Signs



Location of Marketing: Vending Exteriors



Nature and Extent of Marketing

Location	Average No. of posters/signs on walls & APES*	Average No. of products/logos on vending	Totals
Cafeteria	22.5	3	25.5
Athletics	6.3	1.7	8.0
Entrance and hallways	2.7	4.8	7.5
Teachers lounge	1.5	3.3	4.8
Snack bar	1.1	0	1.1
Nurse's area	.6	0	.6
Maine office	.6	0	.6
Guidance	.5	0	.5
Library	.2	0	.2
Bathroom	0	0	0
Courtyard	0	0	0
TOTALS	36	12.8	48.8

* Art, Packaging, Equipment, Supplies

10 Most Frequent Products Marketed: Posters/Signs and Vending

Percent of Total Marketing



10 Most Frequent Products Marketed

Posters & Signs and Vending

* Coca-Cola; ** Pepsi-Cola

(Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola comprise 45% of all marketing found)

Product	Frequency	Percent of All Marketing
Dasani*	210	10%
Coke*	183	9%
Gatorade**	169	8%
Aquafina**	144	7%
Vitamin Water*	106	5%
Snapple	72	3%
Body by Milk	67	3%
Pepsi**	62	3%
Odwalla*	56	3%
Green Mountain Coffee	48	2%

Approximately **17%** of all marketing observed was not-compliant

10 Most Frequent Compliant Products Posters and Signs

Product	Frequency	Percent of Compliant Marketing Posters/Signs
Gatorade	109	9%
Body By Milk	65	5%
Odwalla	56	4%
Dasani	55	4%
Aquafina	51	4%
Green Mountain Coffee	48	4%
Nutrigrain	48	4%
Vitamin Water	45	4%
Water Plus	45	4%
Snapple	44	4%

10 Most Frequent Compliant Products Vending

Product	Frequency	Percent of Compliant Marketing Vending Exteriors
Dasani	155	27%
Aquafina	93	16%
Vitamin Water	61	11%
Gatorade	60	10%
Poland Spring	37	6%
Snapple	28	5%
Aquafina Flavor Splash	22	4%
Dole Juice	19	3%
Tropicana	17	3%
Hawaian Punch	16	3%







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Location of <u>Not-Compliant</u> Marketing: Posters and Signs



Location of <u>Not-Compliant</u> Marketing: Vending Exteriors


Not-Compliant Marketing

Location	Average No. of posters/signs on walls & APES*	Average No. of products/logos on vending	Totals
Athletics	2.7	.7	3.4
Teachers lounge	1.2	2.0	3.2
Cafeteria	1.6	.6	2.2
Entrance and hallways	.7	1.4	2.1
Snack bar	.4	0	.4
Maine office	.3	0	.3
Guidance	.3	0	.3
Nurse's area	.1	0	.1
Library	.1	0	.1
Bathroom	0	0	0
Courtyard	0	0	0
TOTALS	7.4	4.7	12.1

* Art, Packaging, Equipment, Supplies

10 Most Frequent <u>Not-Compliant</u> Products Marketed: Posters/Signs

Percent of Not Compliant Marketing on Posters and Signs



10 Most Frequent <u>Not-Compliant</u> Products Marketed: Vending

Percent of Not Compliant Marketing on Vending Exteriors

























- 17/19 (89%) of schools had marketing on score boards (only 19 schools had scoreboards)
- 12/19 (63%) had not-compliant marketing on score boards

• 32 not-compliant score boards in all





Product	Frequency	Percent
Aquafina	17	30%
Coke	15	26%
Pepsi	11	19%
Dasani	6	11%
Mountain Dew	3	5%
Diet Coke	2	4%
Diet Pepsi	1	2%
Powerade	1	2%
Allsport	1	2%

Score

Board

Products

Summaries from FBMS Observations

- <u>Every school had food and beverage marketing</u> (posters/signs around school and on vending, one was on a school sign)
- <u>Mean was 49</u> posters or signs (range = 4 to 309 instances)
- Approximately <u>1/3 of marketing found on vending machines</u>
- <u>17/20 (85%) schools had not-compliant marketing</u> (posters/signs or vending)
 - 20% had 10 or more posters/signs
 - 1 had 20 or more posters/signs
 - approximately 17% of all marketing observed was not-compliant

School Marketing: From interview questions

- Media outlets (television, radio, newsletter, newspaper, yearbook)
- Equipment and supplies (including athletic uniforms, etc.)
- Activities, sponsorships, scholarships and fundraising

Media From Interviews



Percent of schools reporting food and beverage marketing

Equipment and Supplies From Interviews



Percent of schools reporting food and beverage marketing











Activities, Sponsorships, and Scholarships: From Interviews



Percent of schools reporting food and beverage marketing



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School administrators' policy knowledge and attitudes

- In 65% (n=13) an administrator knew about Chapter 156
- In 15% (n=3) both administrators knew about Chapter 156
- In 95% (n=19) of schools, an administrator agreed banning food and beverage marketing was **important**;
 in 85% (n=17) of schools, both administrators agreed
- In 45% (n=9) of schools, an administrator agreed it was a HIGH priority to reduce junk food and beverage marketing in schools

Changes reported since Chapter 156

- 45% (n=9) of schools said they made changes since Chapter 156 in effect
 - 25% (n=5) schools **reviewed marketing** in schools
 - 20% (n=4) schools identified alternatives to existing marketing
 - 15% (n=3) schools **developed new rules**
 - 10% (n=2) schools reduced marketing
 - 10% (n=2) schools reported "other activities"
 - One school initially removed all vending; another made changes to products sold

Resources

- 15% (n=3) schools reported lower revenues (may be confusing with Chapter 51)
- 80% (n=16) schools said they want more resources to help implement law
 - 70% (n=14) want more information about Chapter
 156 including what is banned
 - 55% (n=11) want TA on implementation
 - 30% (n=6) want a clear enforcement process
 - 30% (n=6) want more **staff time** to devote
 - 30% (n=6) want **funding** to help implement
 - 20% (n=5) want better cooperation from vendors/ability to change contracts

Summary, from observations

 Most marketing (compliant and notcompliant) found in this order:

- Cafeteria
- Athletic areas
- Entrance/hallways
- Teachers Lounge
- Snack bars

Summary, from observations

 <u>43%</u> of compliant vending marketing is <u>plain</u> <u>bottled water</u>

 <u>76%</u> of not-compliant <u>posters and signs</u> is COKE (58%) and PEPSI (18%)

 <u>57%</u> of not-compliant <u>vending</u> is COKE (41%) and PEPSI (16%)

Summary, from Interviews

- Most Marketing reported (in order):
 - Yearbooks (85%)
 - Coolers and equipment (70%)
 - Fund raising activities (70%)
 - School discount nights (70%)
 - Receipt or proof of purchase (55%)
 - Product giveaways (50%)
 - Sponsorship of school events (45%)
 - Meal Supplies (30%)

Summary, from interviews

 School administrators feel banning food and beverage marketing in schools is important but need more information, technical assistance and resources to help implement policy.

Summary

And finally.....

Clearly, there is widespread marketing of nonnutritious foods and beverages in Maine high schools despite the statewide ban.

Questions?

Comments?