

# Childhood obesity: a whole systems approach and sugar reduction

Dr Alison Tedstone Diet and Obesity Public Health England

# Public Health UK diet compared with recommendations

#### Nutrient Children Teenagers Adults (% food energy) Target 4-10 yrs 11-18 yrs 19-64 yrs **Total fat** ≤35% 33.4 34.2 33.6 Saturated fat 13.3 12.7 ≤11% 12.6 Trans fat 0.5 ≤2% 0.5 0.5 Total 51.2 51.7 48.5 ≥50% carbohydrate Sugars\* ≤11% 13.4 15.2 12.3 Fibre (g/day) \*\* 12.2 ≥18g 14.0 10.7 Salt (g/day) ≤6g \*\*\* 6.6 8.0 Fruit & veg 2.8 4.0 \*\*\*\* ≥5

\* Non milk extrinsic sugars including added sugars and sugars released from cell structure e.g. fruit juice

\*\* Fibre recommendations relate to adults only

\*\*\* Mean salt intake children 4-6 yrs 3.7g (recommendation ≤3g); children 7-10 yrs 5.0g (recommendation ≤5g)

\*\*\*\* Portions not presented for children under 11 years as 80g portion not appropriate for this age group

 $\geq$  = more than or equal to;  $\leq$  = less than or equal to

Sources: National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) years 5 & 6 (2012/13-2013/14)

Salt intakes: adults: NDNS: salt intakes in adults 19-64 years in England 2014; children: NDNS: years 1-4 (2008/09-2011/12)



# Scale of the challenge Excess weight and tooth decay

One in five children in Reception is overweight or obese



One in three children in Year 6 is overweight or obese



In 2013 31% of children aged 5 years had tooth decay 46% of children aged 8 years 34% of children aged 12 years 46% of children aged 15 years



#### Obesity prevalence by deprivation decile National Child Measurement Programme 2012/13



Child obesity:  $BMI \ge 95^{th}$  centile of the UK90 growth reference



### PHE's obesity work plan: five pillars for action

Where future generations live in an environment, which promotes healthy weight and wellbeing as the norm and makes it easier for people to choose healthier diets and active lifestyles

#### 1.Systems Leadership

- Influence local & national leaders
- raise the national debate
- influence political ambition
- maximise communication

#### 2.Community Engagement

- enable behaviour change through social marketing
- drive social investment through local action
- support communities with tools on healthy
- eating & getting active to help reduce health inequalities

#### 3.Monitoring & Evidence Base

- enhance surveillance, analysis
   & signposting of data
- tailor evidence to meet local needs – Public Health Outcomes Framework
- support effective commissioning & evaluation
- develop & communicate research to inform strategy
- promote evidence of good practice

## 4.Supporting Delivery

support the obesity care pathway
work with Directors of Public Health & Clinical

- Commissioning Groups
- •support
- commissioning
- practical tools to help deliver healthier places; enable active travel

#### 5.Obesogenic Environment

 develop long term, evidence based strategy to deliver a whole system approach to tackle the root causes of obesity and address health inequalities

Tackle obesity, address the inequalities associated with obesity and improve wellbeing



### PHE – universal and targeted approach

Public Health

#### Leading the debate

# Public Health England Sugar Reduction The evidence for action

#### **Supporting delivery**

HOW TO MAKE

WEIGHT-LOSS

FOR MEN

SERVICES WORK



#### **Evidence**

NHS choices



#### **Translating evidence**

#### Healthy place... healthier choices











Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

#### Carbohydrates and Health report





2015



#### **Conclusions on sugars:**

#### **Prospective cohort studies indicate:**

- higher consumption of sugar and sugar-containing foods drinks is associated with a greater risk of dental caries (10 studies)
- greater consumption of SSBs is associated with increased risk of type 2 diabetes (around a 20% increase in risk for each 330ml/day increase in SSB consumption) (5 studies)

#### Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) indicate:

- in adults, increasing or decreasing the percentage of total dietary energy as sugars when consuming an *ad libitum* diet leads to a corresponding increase or decrease in energy intake (11 studies)
- in children and adolescents, consumption of SSBs, as compared with non-calorically sweetened drinks, results in greater weight gain and increases in body mass index (3 studies)

#### **Recommendations on sugars:**



- The definition for 'free sugars'\* be adopted in the UK.
- Average population intake of free sugars should not exceed 5% of total dietary energy (for age groups from 2 years upwards)
- Consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) should be minimised (in children and adults)

\*Sugars added to food, and naturally present in honey, syrup and fruit juice



Assuming the SACN recommendations to reduce sugar intakes to 5% of energy intake are achieved within 10 years, **the cost saving to the NHS is estimated to be about £500M per annum** by year 10 (due to reductions in the costs associated with dental caries and consequences of obesity).



# What does SACN's advice mean?

#### Maximum sugar intake per day

	Grams	Sugar Cubes*	Teaspoons (4g – 6g in a teaspoon**)
4 to 6 years	19	5	3 - 5
7 to 10 years	24	6	4 - 6
11 years and above	30	7	5 - 7

<sup>\*</sup> The size and weight of sugar cubes varies; a 4g (Silver Spoon) sugar cube has been used.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Food Portion Sizes, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, HMSO, 1993.

What's the maximum daily amount of sugar we can have?





# Key Change4Life messages:

- Sugary drinks have no place in a child's daily diet.
- Swap to water, lower fat milks, sugar free, diet and no added sugar drinks instead.
- A typical 8 year old shouldn't have more than 6 sugar cubes a day

Continuation of Change4Life messaging to increase consumer awareness and improving diets towards achieving the recommendations





### The eatwell plate

Use the eatwell plate to help you get the balance right. It shows how much of what you eat should come from each food group.





Source: Public Health England in association with the Welsh Government, Food Standards Scotland and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

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WW Public Health England

# Sugar Reduction: The evidence for action (October 2015)

- PHE has carried out an extensive programme of work in order to provide a package of evidence to inform the government's thinking on sugar in the diet.
- Considers the need for action and draws conclusions about what drives our consumption. Advises on actions that could be implemented in these areas:
  - Influencers: marketing and advertising, price promotions and fiscal measures
  - Food supply: sugar content of food and drinks
  - Knowledge, education, training & local action



https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sugar-reduction-from-evidence-into-action

# Public Health Sugar reduction: the evidence England



#### 1) Influencers:

- Food retail **price promotions** are widespread in Britain; account for 40% of all food and drink expenditure; increase the amount people spend overall by 22% and the amount of sugar purchased by from higher sugar foods and drinks by 6%.
- Children are exposed to a high volume of **marketing and advertising** which, in all its forms, consistently influences food preference, choice and purchasing.
- **Price increase,** such as by taxation, can influence purchasing of sugar sweetened drinks and other high sugar products, at least in the short-term. The effect appears to be proportional to the size of the tax implemented.









# <sup>1</sup> Sugar reduction: the evidence

### 2) Food supply:

- A structured and universal programme of reformulation to reduce levels of sugar in food and drink would significantly lower sugar intakes, particularly if accompanied by reductions in portion size
- Better public sector food procurement at a national and local level would improve diets

#### 3) Knowledge, training and local action:

- Accredited training in diet and health is not routinely delivered to many who could influence others food choices but tools like competency frameworks can help change this
- Other consumer tools, such as the Change4Life campaign, can also help inform and educate
- Local action, when delivered well, can contribute to changing knowledge and also influence food environments and can improve diets

<u>AOX</u> England

# Public Health Sugar reduction: areas for action

#### PHE's analysis suggests a successful programme of measures could include:

- Reduce and rebalance the number and type of price promotions in all retail outlets 1)
- 2) Significantly reduce opportunities to market and advertise high sugar food and drink
- 3) The setting of a clear definition for high sugar foods (to aid with 1 & 2 above)
- Introduction of a broad, structured and transparently monitored programme of gradual 4) sugar reduction in everyday food and drink
- Introduction of a price increase of a minimum of 10-20% on high sugar products 5) through the use of a tax or levy such as on full sugar soft drinks
- 6) Adopt, implement and monitor the government buying standards for food and catering services across the public sector
- 7) Ensure that accredited training in diet and health is routinely delivered to all of those who have opportunities to influence food choices
- 8) Continue to raise awareness of concerns around sugar levels in the diet to the public as well as health professionals, employers, the food industry etc.



# It is unlikely that a single action alone would be effective in reducing sugar intakes

- The evidence suggests a broad, structured approach, involving restrictions on price promotions and marketing, product reformulation, portion size reduction and price increase on unhealthy products, implemented in parallel, is likely to have a more universal effect.
- Positive changes to the food environment (e.g. public sector food procurement, provision and sales of healthier foods) as well as information and education are also needed to help support people in making healthier choices.

#### Public Health New sugar levy on soft drinks England

😢 INDEPENDENT

**Budget 2016: George Osborne announces** 

sugar tax on soft drinks companies

@kashmiragander | 2 minutes ago | 🗇 0 comment



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Sugar tax - new UK levy on soft drinks to tackle childhood obesity on.ft.com/1RNVRHc #Budget2016



#### Budget 2016: George Osborne unveils sugar tax on soft drinks

③ 7 minutes ago UK Politics



## HM Government Childhood Obesity A Plan for Action

"We are confident that our approach will reduce childhood obesity while respecting consumer choice, economic realities and ultimately our need to eat.

Although we are clear in our goals and firm action we will take, the launch of this plan represents the start of a conversation rather than the final word.

Over the coming year, we will monitor action and assess progress and take further action where it is needed."





# Childhood Obesity Plan -Deliverables

- 1. Soft drinks industry levy
- 2. Taking out 20% of sugar in products, achieving salt targets (calories from 2017, & saturated fat considered post SACN)
- 3. Supporting innovation to help businesses to make their products healthier
- 4. Updating the nutrient profile model
- 5. Making healthy options available in the public sector
- 6. Continuing to provide support with the cost of healthy food for those who need it most
- 7. Helping all children to enjoy an hour of physical activity every day
- 8. Improving the co-ordination of quality sport and physical activity programmes for schools
- 9. Creating a new healthy rating scheme for primary schools
- 10. Making school food healthier
- 11. Clearer food labelling
- 12. Supporting early years settings
- 13. Harnessing the best new technology
- 14. Enabling health professionals to support families

PHE led actions in red PHE actively supporting blue Other actions in brown

## 2. Taking out 20% of sugar in products

- Challenge all sectors of the food industry to reduce the amount of sugar we consume by 20% by 2020 (5% reduction in year 1). The reductions should be accompanied by reductions in calories, where possible, and should not be compensated for by increases in saturated fat.
- Covers: food and drinks that contribute the most to children's sugar intakes, including those aimed at very young children. Initial focus on breakfast cereals, yoghurts, biscuits, cakes, confectionery, morning goods (e.g. pastries), puddings, ice cream and sweet spreads.
- Interim reports on progress every 6 months and provide an assessment at 18 & 36 months
- Work to achieve salt targets should continue alongside the sugar reduction programme. From 2017, the programme will be extended to include setting targets to reduce total calories. Work on saturated fat will be further reviewed in light of SACN recommendations due in 2017.





Source: Public Health England in association with the Welsh Government, Food Standards Scotland and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

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