

SWEETENED BEVERAGE TAX 6-MONTH EVALUATION: DOMAINS OF FOOD ACCESS AND FOOD SECURITY IN SEATTLE

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ABSTRACT

Issue: The Assessment, Policy Development, and Evaluation (APDE) Unit of Seattle-King County Public Health (SKCPH) is part of the evaluation activities for the Seattle Sweetened Beverage (SSB) Tax.

Objective: The purpose of this practicum was to contribute to the Domains of Food Access section of the evaluation, summarize federal, state and local programs addressing food access and their recent policy changes.

Main Findings: Healthy food access research is shifting away from the traditional "food desert" methodology to address additional domains of food access. Several federal, state and local programs addressing food insecurity, some of which face policy changes that may impact food access for Seattle residents.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose in writing "Domains of Food Access" of the 6-month SSB Tax Evaluation was to:

- Review the domains of food access
- Narrate how research of "food deserts" has evolved to address additional domains
- Assess the state of food access in the city of Seattle
- Revenue is intended to be used to address barriers to healthy food access in addition to evaluation activities

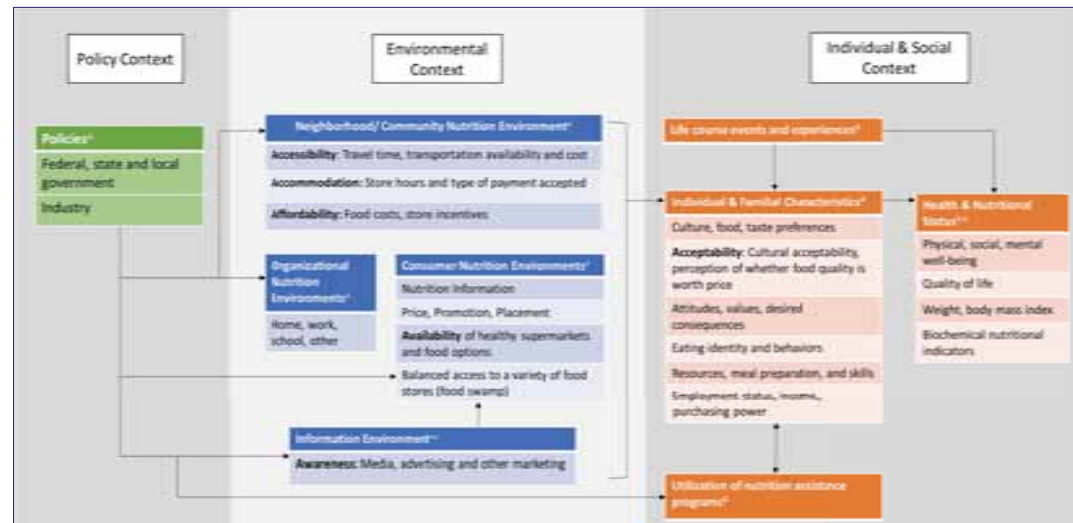
METHODS

Literature review: PubMed was queried to identify scientific articles reviewing domains of food access and narrate the shift of "food desert" methodology towards a more multi-dimensional model. Grey literature used to capture lived experiences in Seattle and King County. Literature was also identified by team members and experts in the field.

Preliminary data analysis: Stata was used to analyze food insecurity rates by council district and by race using 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data.

Framework: The created framework was adapted from Glaz et al, Broughton et al, Sourman, and Igoe

DOMAINS OF FOOD ACCESS IN POLICY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND INDIVIDUAL CONTEXTS



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MAIN FINDINGS

Healthy food access research is evolving from a focus on physical distance from supermarket chains to considering multiple dimensions of access.

Several frameworks illustrate only a few domains of access and do not capture the layered contexts in which these domains exist.

BRFSS data required suppression to estimate rates of food insecurity by race. In Seattle, 9.2% [CI: 7.6, 11.1] of white and 17.7% [CI: 14.5, 21.6] of non-White (including Hispanics), experienced trouble accessing food in 2013.

LESSONS LEARNED

Operations of the SBT evaluation process are vigorous, detail-oriented and multi-faceted. It requires the collaborative work and input of several experts, community members, and governmental officials.

There is significant value in both qualitative and quantitative data to inform the public and governmental officials. Quantitative data elevates the qualitative data, which provides a snapshot of lived experiences.

Writing for an audience of council members requires concision and precision. The purpose of the APDE is to present data for the community to make informed decisions.